
Asian Business & Global Economy

Winter 2018

Hong Kong & China



Study Abroad Program Guide

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DESTINATION: Hong Kong & Shenzhen

HONG KONG

Hong Kong, officially the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China**, is an autonomous territory south to Mainland China and east to Macao in East Asia. With around 7.2 million Hong Kongers of various nationalities in a territory of 1,104 km², Hong Kong is the world's fourth most densely populated country or territory.

Hong Kong used to be a British colony with the perpetual cession of Hong Kong Island from the Qing Empire after the First Opium War (1839–1842). The colony expanded to the Kowloon Peninsula in 1860 and acquired a 99-year lease of the New Territories from 1898. Hong Kong was later occupied by Japan during the Second World War until British control resumed in 1945. The Sino-British Joint Declaration signed between the United Kingdom and China in 1984 paved way for the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong in 1997, when it became a special administrative region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China with a high degree of autonomy.

Under the principle of "one country, two systems", Hong Kong maintains a separate political and economic system from China. Except in military defense and foreign affairs, Hong Kong maintains its independent executive, legislative and judiciary powers. In addition, Hong Kong develops relations directly with foreign states and international organizations in a broad range of "appropriate fields". Hong Kong involves in international organizations, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), actively and independently.

Hong Kong is one of the world's most significant financial centers, with the highest Financial Development Index score and consistently ranks as the world's most competitive and freest economic entity. Known to be "Asia's World City", Hong Kong is the world's most popular international traveler destination, and the home to the world's most frequently travelled citizens. As the world's 8th largest trading entity, its legal tender, Hong Kong dollar, is the world's 13th most traded currency. Hong Kong's tertiary sector dominated economy is characterized by competitive simple taxation and supported by its independent judiciary system. Even with one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, it suffers from severe income inequality.

Nicknamed "Pearl of the Orient", Hong Kong is renowned for its deep natural harbor, which boasts the world's fifth busiest port with ready access by cargo ships and its impressive skyline, with the most skyscrapers in the world. It has a very high Human Development Index ranking and the world's longest life expectancy. Over 90% of the population makes use of well-developed public transportation. Seasonal air pollution with origins from neighboring industrial areas of Mainland China, which adopts loose emissions standards, has resulted in a high level of atmospheric particulates in winter.

As one of the world's leading international financial centers, Hong Kong has a major capitalist service economy characterized by low taxation and free trade. From the second half of the 19th century and continuing into the first half of the 20th century, Hong Kong operated as a key command centre for the allocation of Asian capital in its broadest form. Hong Kong stature as an International Financial centre (IFC), gradually developed from the 1950s to become a key component of the island's economy. It is an important centre for international finance and trade, with one of the greatest concentrations of corporate headquarters in the Asia-Pacific region. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange is the seventh largest in the world and has a market capitalization of US\$3.2 trillion as of December 2016. In 2009, Hong Kong raised 22 percent of worldwide initial public offering (IPO) capital, making it the largest centre of IPOs in the world and the easiest place to raise capital. In the 2017 Global Financial Centers Index, Hong Kong was ranked as having the fourth most competitive financial center in the world (alongside cities such as London, New York City, Tokyo, San Francisco, Chicago, Sydney, Boston, and Toronto in the top 10), and second most competitive in Asia after Singapore. (Source: Wikipedia)

SHENZHEN

Shenzhen, in southeastern China, is a modern metropolis that links Hong Kong to China's mainland. It's known for its shopping destinations, including Luohu Commercial City, a massive mall with a vast array of

wares, from tailors' custom clothing to faux designer bags. The city also features contemporary buildings, such as the 600m-tall skyscraper Ping An International Finance Centre, and a number of amusement parks.

Students participating in this program will travel to Shenzhen from Hong Kong by local subway train from Hung Hom Station in Hong Kong to Lok Ma Chau Station on January 14 and will spend 3 days and 3 nights in Shenzhen visiting local and international companies on January 15 and 16 and will depart Shenzhen on January 17.

SPECIAL NOTES ON HONG KONG

Climate

Winters are mild and usually start sunny, becoming cloudier towards February; the occasional cold front brings strong, cooling winds from the north. The most temperate seasons are spring, which can be changeable, and autumn, which is generally sunny and dry. Snowfall is extremely rare, and usually occurs in areas of high elevation.

Local Transportation

Hong Kong's transportation network is highly developed. Over 90% of daily travels (11 million) are on public transport, the highest such percentage in the world. Payment can be made using the Octopus card, a stored value system introduced by the MTR (Mass Transit Railway), which is widely accepted on railways, buses and ferries, and accepted like cash at other outlets.

The MTR rapid transit system has 152 stations which serve 3.4 million people a day. Hong Kong Tramways, which has served the territory since 1904, covers the northern parts of Hong Kong Island.

Hong Kong's bus service is franchised and run by private operators. Five privately owned companies provide franchised bus service across the territory, together operating more than 700 routes as of 2014. The largest are Kowloon Motor Bus, providing 402 routes in Kowloon and New Territories, and Citybus, operating 154 routes on Hong Kong Island; both run cross-harbor services. Double-decker buses were introduced to Hong Kong in 1949, and are now almost exclusively used; single-decker buses remain in use for routes with lower demand or roads with lower load capacity. Public light buses serve most parts of Hong Kong, particularly areas where standard bus lines cannot reach or do not reach as frequently, quickly, or directly.

There are taxi cabs that you can hail from the streets. Do take note that some taxis do not cross harbor, meaning they will only stay on the Kowloon side or the Hong Kong side. However, UBER has become really popular as a means of transportation.

Rules and Regulations

Alcohol

The legal drinking age is 18 years old in Hong Kong. Although most of the participants will be of legal drinking age, please bear in mind that you are representing UB and your country, thus you should be more responsible for your behavior and act appropriately.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in public service vehicles, bus-stops, subway stations, museums, libraries, lifts, theatres, cinemas, air-conditioned restaurants, hair salons, supermarkets, department stores and government offices - generally most indoor places. Offenders can be fined up to HK\$5,000. There is strictly no smoking at the hostel. Please note that Hong Kong Polytechnic University is a smoke free campus. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on campus grounds.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program will be conducted at Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HK PolyU.), School of Professional Education and Executive Development, (SPEED), one of the leading universities in Hong Kong. It is located in Kowloon. **Address:** Room S1201, 12/F, South Tower, PolyU West Kowloon Campus, 9 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon, Hong Kong. **Phone:**+852 3400 2828

This program has an International Business focus that brings together students from different countries at a comparable stage in their undergraduate studies to undertake coursework at HK PolyU. The program also includes site visits to companies or government agencies, and activities that will enhance your understanding of the business and cultural environment in Asia. Students will stay together in the same accommodation, which will enable you to live, work and learn together, and establish strong friendships.

The Coursework

GEO 403 – China and Hong Kong Business Environment (3 credits)

This management course provides practical perspectives required to manage operations in Asia, with a focus on Hong Kong and China. The course also provides an assessment of how to enter the Chinese market, and an understanding of their roles in the global economy. It will be taught entirely in English and will focus on the business environment of Hong Kong and China.

Topics covered are:

- Political and economic environment of China and Hong Kong
- Consumer Behavior in China
- Financial market in Hong Kong
- Healthcare Business/Startup in Hong Kong and China
- Hong Kong as an educational hub
- Business Culture in Hong Kong and China
- Branding in Hong Kong
- High-level Executives from industry as speakers

Note: There will be assignments due before the start of the program. This is to ease your workload while you are there. More information about the assignments will be emailed to you after the Pre-Departure Orientation.

Company Visits

A series of visits to multinational companies from different industries and government agencies are arranged to give students the opportunity to see how multinational companies do business in Asia and learn about their strategies for success in the Asian market. You will have the opportunity to visit around eight companies during the course of the program and have the chance to network with high level officers in those companies.

Please note that the company visits are **MANDATORY** for all students.

The names of the companies that you will be visiting will be released closer to the date of departure or when you get there.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The final program schedule will be distributed upon arrival or on the first day of class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

For Winter 2018, students will stay in a hotel/Hostel style accommodation located about 30 minutes by train or bus from the campus. Participants will mostly share double rooms and have access to shared bathrooms, kitchen areas, laundry facilities, and recreational spaces.

1) YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel (Hong Kong)

Address: Block 41, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

(Sham Shui Po MTR Station Exit B2) Tel: (852) 3728 3500

<http://www.yha.org.hk/eng/meihohouse/>

LOCATION

Centrally located on Hong Kong's exceptional transport network, YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel is just a few minutes' walk from Sham Shui Po Mass Transit Railway (MTR) Station. Hostel guests can conveniently travel around Hong Kong to major attractions such as the Avenue of Stars, the Ladies' Market, Hong Kong Disneyland, Ocean Park, The Peak and the Big Buddha, not to mention the endless shopping and culinary hotspots Hong Kong is justly famous for. It is approximately 35 mins from the Hong Kong International Airport.

Please check the following website for directions from the airport:

<https://www.yha.org.hk/en/hostel/yha-mei-ho-house-youth-hostel/>

Easiest way is to take the Airport Express train to Kowloon Station, and then take a taxi to the hostel from the station.

Facilities include:

- Approximately 25 m² / 269 ft²
- Air-conditioned
- Private Bathroom
- 2 Single Beds (0.9 m X 2 m / 3 ft X 6.5 ft)
- Walk-in Wardrobe
- HD Television | IP Phone | Radio Clock | Hair Dryer | Electric Boiler & Mugs
- Broadband Connection or Wi-Fi
- Duvets | Bath Towels & Hand Towels

***IMPORTANT: Your reservation for the hostel in Hong Kong is from 4pm on Jan 3rd to Jan 14th, 2018. You will then move to the hotel in Shenzhen on Jan 14th till 17th, 2018.**

PASSPORTS, VISA AND IMMIGRATION

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the necessary travel documents needed to travel to Hong Kong and China. You are responsible to apply for a visa, if necessary, and have a valid passport. Some students are required to apply for a visa to study in Hong Kong, China and Macau. Make sure you get your visa in advance so that you will not miss the arrival date. Lastly, you are advised to make photocopies of your passport and carry that with you at all times in case your passport gets stolen or lost.

TRAVEL TO HONG KONG AND CHINA

Buying the airline ticket:

- a. There is no official group ticket/travel to Hong Kong, and all participants are responsible for arranging their own airline ticket to Hong Kong. **However, please send Mr. Paul Yong, Program Director (pyong@buffalo.edu) a copy of your itinerary for approval, before you purchase/pay for your ticket!** Participants are welcome, but not required, to arrange to travel together on the same flights. This may be particularly attractive for those participants traveling abroad for the first time. Please do not buy your ticket until you have received confirmation that the program is a go.
- b. All participants, as soon as you have your ticket, **MUST UPLOAD your flight details** (airline, flight numbers, arrival time, and arrival terminal) **online**.
- c. If you want to arrive in Hong Kong before the official arrival date (Jan 3rd), please inform Mr. Yong, and notify him which hotel/address you will be staying in. It is recommended that you consult with Mr. Yong about hotel you would like to stay in. You will be responsible for the cost of the hotel outside the program dates.
- d. Make sure you check with your airline about luggage allowance information before departure.
- e. There will be a bus that takes you from Hong Kong to China, which is included, so you do not have to book any ticket to go to China.

If you need help shopping for an air ticket, you can contact the following travel agent who has helped our students in the past. He usually can get a pretty good deal. Please see his contact information below:

Mr. Nishi or Mr. Atsushi
Travel Dept. Inc.

Phone: 1-847-818-9066 / (866) 540-9066

You can mention that you were referred by Mr. Paul Yong from University at Buffalo.

The program will officially end on **January 17th**, so you can buy your return air ticket to depart on January 17th. There will be a bus that will take a group back to Hong Kong (timing depends on when majority leaves) on the 17th, so you could book your return flight from Hong Kong as well. However, if you wish to stay a few more days in Hong Kong or explore other parts of China, you may do so at your own cost. I encourage you to do so since you are already there, and have the time to see more and explore around.

FLIGHTS AND ARRIVAL

You should plan to arrive in Hong Kong on **Wednesday, Jan 3rd, 2018** as **orientation and classes starts on Thursday, Jan 4th**. Check-in time at the dormitory is from **Wednesday, Jan 3rd, 2018 4:00 p.m. onwards** (Hong Kong Time). **If you arrive before, Jan 3rd**, you have to make arrangement for your own accommodation until the check-in time. **It is recommended that submit a copy of your itinerary to Mr. Yong to check through before you purchase your air ticket.** Again, if you plan to arrive in Hong Kong before the check-in date, you have to arrange for your own accommodation.

You MUST submit your confirmed flight itinerary to ONLINE by Friday, Oct 27th, 2017,
If your flight is delayed or cancelled, please call Dr. Vanessa Liu in Hong Kong at (852) 9416-4253.

Upon arrival, please go to the **Currency Exchange Counters** to exchange for some Hong Kong Dollars. You should exchange at least about \$300 Hong Kong dollars to last you a few days. **You will be responsible for the cost of your own transportation from the airport to the hostel.**

You should also get the **“Octopus Card”** at the transportation counter to use the Subway, Bus, Taxi, etc.

For your departure, you will be responsible for your own transportation to the airport.

PACKING

Things to Bring:

- Business wear for company visits – i.e. Business suit/shirt & tie
- Business Cards (if available) – You can have them made on campus
- Summer clothes and some nice evening wear
- Laptop
- Camera
- Some souvenirs from Buffalo / UB / US
- Prescription medication
- Photos of your family and friends
- An open mind
- A definite MUST: A Positive Attitude!

Things NOT to Bring:

- Too much clothing (don't pack more than you can carry; remember you may be shopping there!)
- Expensive jewelry
- Recreational drugs (death penalty)

MONEY

You will be able to use almost any ATMs in most places. However, some charges may apply. If you use your own bank's ATM (e.g. HSBC or CitiBank), there may be no charge. Most ATMs are available in shopping malls and subway stations.

Most places accept credit cards. BUT, it is always a good idea to carry some cash on you. You could also carry traveler's checks and exchange them for cash at the currency exchanges. The best places for currency exchanges are in the town area of Hong Kong. You should also exchange for Chinese currency in Hong Kong before you go to Shenzhen.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

The standard electrical voltage in Hong Kong is 220 and 240 volts. This is twice the standard voltage than in North America. The kind of socket that is prevalent in Hong Kong is the British Style socket (3 flat prongs). So you may need a travel adapter the electrical appliances that you bring with you.

When using electrical appliances brought from home to Hong Kong, be sure to check what kind of voltage your devices use. If they do not run on 220-240, you will need an electrical converter.

Some electronic devices, including laptop computers, are dual voltage, so you may not need a converter. Check your owner's manual to be sure. Converters are available at most electrical stores and typically cost \$15-\$30 depending on the wattage capacity. Regardless of whether or not your appliances need a voltage converter, you will need a special adapter plug to fit into the wall sockets. Many converters include the plug adaptor, but they are also available separately and the adaptors only can be quite inexpensive.

CELL PHONES / INTERNATIONAL CALLS

It is recommended to have a cell phone in Hong Kong because almost everyone has one there. You can purchase a pre-paid SIM card to put in your phone, but make sure it is unlocked. Or you can rent a portable Wifi devices at the airport.

FOOD

There are plenty of places to eat in Hong Kong. There are so many different cuisines, including American food, that are available. There are also many vegetarian restaurants around Hong Kong.

Food in Hong Kong is relatively inexpensive with a wide variety to choose from. There are a many restaurants near the campus. Most restaurants close around 9:30 – 10:00pm (like the malls), but there are some places that are open very late or even 24hrs. Make sure you make some local friends and they will tell you the best places to eat and hang out!

TRANSPORTATION

You are responsible to get to the HK PolyU West Kowloon campus yourself for classes. However, there will be a chartered bus that will take you to company visits. Make sure you arrive at the pick-up point 10 minutes before departure time for the company visits. The bus will leave on the dot, because we cannot be late for the company visits, since the companies are doing us sacrificing their precious time to host us. If you miss the chartered bus, you will not be able to attend the company visits.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Hong Kong's medical facilities are among the finest in the world, with well-qualified doctors and dental surgeons. Health care in Hong Kong is relatively inexpensive. For information about insurance coverage, please check with your health insurance company. In most cases, you may need to pay upfront and get reimbursed after you return to the US.

There are a few clinics near your accommodation. Please be sure to check with reception counter at the hostel for the nearest clinics. Medication will be dispensed at the doctor's clinic so you do not need to go to a pharmacy to get your medication. Pharmacies are also available at supermarkets, department stores, and shopping centers.

You **MUST** contact Mr. Paul Yong immediately if you are not feeling well or need medical attention. He will try to help you the best he can.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. NOTES for your stay in HONG KONG
 - a. No smoking in the hostel and on campus (penalty: USD200 or more).
 - b. Service charge of 10% typically applies for restaurants. No extra tip is necessary.
 - c. Napkins/ tissue are typically not provided in local restaurants/ restrooms.
 - d. Some local restaurants do not allow prolong hanging around. You will be expected to finish eating and go to give seats to the people in line.
 - e. Traffic in Hong Kong could be unpredictable. Always allow extra time.
 - f. On the escalators, stand on the right and walk on the left.

- g. January weather is typically wet and cloudy. Please bring an umbrella, a windbreaker or even a jacket, and allergy medicine if necessary.
 - h. Tap water is not drinkable.
 - i. Extensive walking is involved in many visits. Please bring flats for all activities.
 - j. Subway in HK does not run 24 hours. Please watch out for last train times.
 - k. The common instant messaging used in HK includes Whatsapp, WeChat, Line, Facebook and IG. You may consider installing these for easy communication with local HK student ambassadors later.
 - l. Ambulance service is free in Hong Kong and could be called by dialing 999.
 - m. Restrooms are usually not in a hygienic and usable condition for most small restaurants.
 - n. When getting a Taxi, please note whether the taxi cross harbor, if you are going from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon or vice versa.
2. NOTES for your stay in CHINA
- a. Local Chinese people do not speak much English, including taxi drivers and waitress and shopkeepers.
 - b. Credit cards are generally not accepted in local stores. More commonly used in major shopping malls and restaurants.
 - c. Certain websites, such as Google and Facebook, will be not accessible in China.
 - d. Only bottled water is safe to drink.
 - e. Street food hygiene is questionable and is not encouraged to consume.
 - f. Napkins/ tissue are NOT provided in local restaurants/ restrooms.
 - g. Most restrooms are squatting type except in major shopping malls or facilities.
 - h. Please DO NOT respond to any elicitation for taxi deals. Always line up in a proper taxi stand for taxis.
 - i. Please be careful of fake currencies in exchange and daily transactions.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

- 1) Mr. Paul Yong, Program Director, Asian Business Program
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Fax: 716-645-6197
E-mail: maryodrz@buffalo.edu
or studyabroad@buffalo.edu
- 3) Dr. Vanessa Liu, Senior Lecturer
SPEED, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
12/F SPEED Counter, PolyU West Kowloon Campus
9 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Phone: (852) 3746 0077
Email: vanliu@speed-polyu.edu.hk
- 4) **Emergency Numbers:**
Hong Kong (Ambulance, Fire, Police): **999**
China: **120** (Ambulance), **119** (Fire), **110** (Police), **122** (Police - Traffic Accident)