China, Hong Kong
Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
SPRING 2013 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in partnership with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Throughout the course of your study abroad experience you will be communicating with both IAP and CUHK staff. It is essential that you pay close attention to all information provided to you from both institutions. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from CUHK as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your Host University or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.

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Contact Information

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION
Your primary contact will be:

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Project Coordinator
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
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Email: louiswong@cuhk.edu.hk

UW-MADISON INFORMATION
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 265 6329
(608) 262 6998 fax
www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Lauren Worth
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
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IAP Enrollment Specialist Advisor
(608) 262-9684
Smelin2@studyabroad.wisc.edu

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265 6329 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516 9440.

U.S. EMBASSY REGISTRATION
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

United States Embassy in Hong Kong
26 Garden Road
Hong Kong
Main Tel: (852) 2523-9011
American Citizens Services Tel: (852) 2841-2211
Fax: (852) 2845-1598
Email: acskh@state.gov
Program Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2013 (Tentative)</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suggested arrival in Hong Kong</td>
<td>January 8 or 9, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>January 10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes</td>
<td>January 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class ends</td>
<td>April 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exams</td>
<td>May 3-23, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparation Before Leaving

**IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS**

**Passport:** A passport is needed to travel to Hong Kong and to obtain your visa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website [http://travel.state.gov/passport/](http://travel.state.gov/passport/). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa:** All students must obtain a student visa in the United States prior to departure. You should not enter Hong Kong without the student visa. Once abroad, it is impossible to obtain the necessary student visa without leaving Hong Kong (at your own expense). The Office of Academic Links (OAL) will send you a welcome package shortly after your official registration. A set of application forms for the student visa will be included in the package. Students are expected to complete and return the forms to the OAL who will then submit the visa application for the students. For more information, see this site: [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oal/study_at_cuhk/intending_students/visa.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oal/study_at_cuhk/intending_students/visa.htm)

Travel and Arrival

Students must make their own travel arrangements. It is suggested that every student arrive no later than January 9, 2013.

Students can work with CUHK to arrange airport pick up and transportation directly to CUHK. For those students who choose to arrive on their own, CUHK can be reached from the Hong Kong International Airport by taxi or by a combination of bus and train.

**By Taxi:**
The trip from the airport to the University is about 45 minutes. The fare is about HK$260. Most taxi drivers in Hong Kong understand some English, however; CUHK will provide you with directions in Chinese that you can show your taxi driver. This information will be included in your Welcome Packet.

**By Airport Bus and MTR Train:**
- Take airport bus route number A41 from the airport to the Shatin MTR Station. The bus runs from 6:00am to midnight at 20-minute intervals. The Shatin MTR Station is not the terminal stop for the bus, so ask the driver where to get off. The bus ride takes 50-70 minutes depending on
traffic conditions (fare: HK$21; payable on boarding the bus in exact change or by the Octopus card).

- From the Shatin MTR Station, you can take a taxi to the University (fare about HK$50). It will take about 15 minutes.
- Alternatively, from the Shatin MTR Station, you can take the train to the University MTR Station (second stop from Shatin). The train runs every 5 to 10 minutes from 6:00am to midnight. The train ride from Shatin MTR Station to the University MTR Station takes about 8 minutes (fare: HK$4).
- There are two exits at the University MTR Station – one to the CUHK campus and the other to the public bus terminus and taxi stand. The CUHK exit will lead to the University campus. A map showing the University MTR Station and the University campus is accessible on-line at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/osp/cumap.pdf.
- Upon exiting the MTR Station, you should turn right. There is a University shuttle bus stop on the right hand side of the MTR station exit. The shuttle bus stops at several locations within the campus. To come to the Office of Academic Links, it is best to get off at the stop opposite to Y.C. Liang Hall in the Main Campus and walk downhill towards the direction of the University MTR Station. On seeing the Clinic Road, turn left to walk down the road, the Office of Academic Links is situated in the white-colored two-storey building at the mouth of Clinic Road (marked as “H12 Lady Ho Tung Hall” on the campus map).

Check-in:
Upon arrival in CUHK, please check-in directly at the reception of the student hostel in New Asia College (Details will be sent to you via email). After you have settled into the hostel, please go to the Office of Academic Links (OAL) during office hours (Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:30pm). You will be able to collect your orientation package, student card and obtain your password to the University computer system and electronic mail system.

Housing
Students will live on-campus in the student dormitories, referred to as hostels. Students will share double or triple occupancy rooms with other students. Hostel facilities and amenities include:
- Modestly furnished bedrooms each installed with a direct phone line and high-speed internet connection
- Air-conditioning
- Blankets and bed linens
- Laundry facilities: washing and drying machines and clothes lines
- Public kitchens equipped with water boilers, refrigerators, unit stoves, sinks and microwave ovens (in some hostels)
- Shared bathrooms with showers on each floor
- Student-operated shops (in some hostels) which are open on designated evenings and sell toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothpaste and edibles such as cookies, fruit, Chinese beans and rice. For additional shopping there is a small supermarket located in the John Fulton Centre within the campus.

The Academic Program

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Office of Academic Links (OAL)
Chinese University of Hong Kong

Founded in 1963, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is a forward looking comprehensive research university with a global vision. Its mission is to combine tradition with modernity, and to bring China and the West together. CUHK teachers and students hail from all over the world, and the quality of its research and teaching enjoys global recognition. With its rich blend of Western approaches and Chinese culture, CUHK is the ideal university for international students to gain an academically challenging and culturally stimulating experience.

The campus:
The CUHK campus is on the side of a hill at three levels. The University central administration, main library and central activities buildings are located at the middle level. Chung Chi College is nestled at the base of the hill adjacent to the University MTR Station. United and New Asia Colleges share the uppermost level. Shaw College is situated on the northwestern slope of the campus.

Students and staff of the University can use various sports facilities on campus. These include two outdoor stadiums, three indoor gymnasiums, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, tennis, squash courts, weight training rooms and a water sports center.

CUHK boasts many tree and bamboo-lined pathways that make for ideal hiking excursions or short study breaks. Some of these paths provide views of an on-campus lake, Tolo Harbour, and a lively brook that cascades down the hillside.

ORIENTATION
Once students arrive at CUHK they will participate in a mandatory orientation session that will include a campus tour, descriptions of services provides to students, and other important information for your time on campus. A detailed schedule of orientation will be sent in your Welcome Packet and can also be found online at: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/osp/ISSRundown.pdf.

COURSE INFORMATION
Students may select courses from the list of courses taught in English found online at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oal/study_at_cuhk/intending_students/course_info.htm.

Registration: Students register for classes following the instructions provided in their Welcome Packets.

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF): Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF). Information on the UW course equivalent process is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT
CUHK does not allow students to take courses pass/fail.
CREDITS

Conversions: Most credits at CUHK are equivalent to UW-Madison; so three credits at CUHK will be equivalent to 3 credits at UW-Madison.

Limits and Load: Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 credits per semester.

GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS

It is not possible to receive an "Incomplete" for course work abroad. Failure to complete a course will result in an "F" grade. Grades will be converted according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CUKH Grade</th>
<th>CUKH Standard</th>
<th>CUKH Sub-Division Grade</th>
<th>UW-Madison Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>AB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>BC</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Living Abroad

LIVING IN HONG KONG

Politics

Only July 1, 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People’s Republic of China. There are almost 7 million residents experiencing the implementation of the Basic Law and the “One country, Two systems” policy. International students at CUHK have the privilege to study firsthand how the Hong Kong society is responding to and adapting to the new conditions.

Geography

Hong Kong is made up of three quite distinct areas: Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories as well as some 260 islands.

Culture

Hong Kong, as a gateway to China, is a fascinating place to study China and Chinese culture. It is a major crossroad in Asia and serves as an international hub for trade and finance. You will spot traditional Chinese and international elements in this diversified city.

Popular Culture

You will be astonished by the sight of stores stocking American, European and Japanese products everywhere. Mickey Mouse, Hello Kitty or Pokemon character goods are common. Western, Japanese and lately Korean influence prevails in the entertainment business and pop culture. There are as many
non-Chinese movies as Chinese ones. Two of the four TV stations broadcast in English. A number of channels of Cable TV, Satellite TV as well as radio stations also broadcast in English and some even in Japanese and Korean. Western, Japanese and Korean songs, soap operas, books and cuisines are loved by many. There are also English theatrical performances and concerts of Western and Japanese music. Fashion trends are dominated by European and Japanese trends, with Japanese fashion especially popular among the younger generation.

**People**
In Hong Kong, almost 95% of the population is ethnic Chinese. The international community consists of various nationalities, with the Filipinos as the biggest foreign population.

**Language**
Cantonese is the most widely spoken dialect in Hong Kong, but Putonghua (Mandarin) is increasingly popular. The traditional Chinese characters are commonly used in writing in Hong Kong, while simplified Chinese characters are used in Mainland China. English is the language of business and service industries. Most shops and service personnel speak it to some degree. However, life on the streets of Hong Kong is not truly bilingual because most residents do not use both Cantonese and English with equal ease. At CUHK, international students will observe the perplexed feeling that local students have for English. Some students dislike English but reluctantly accept its necessity; others enjoy learning English but have had little chances to practice and advance in secondary schools. As international students, you are encouraged to interact with the local students in both English and their spoken dialect.

**Climate**
Summer (late May to mid-September) is hot, humid and rainy. Temperatures rise to 33°C (92°F) or higher, with humidity around 90%. The temperatures sometimes remain sweltering at night. It can be chilly indoors, as air conditioners are usually going full blast. Typhoons can often affect Hong Kong during these months. They bring heavy rain and very strong winds and can cause serious damage to life and property. During the height of serious typhoons, public transportation shuts down, stores and offices close, and everyone stays indoors. You may visit the Hong Kong Observatory (www.hko.gov.hk) for current weather or detail information.

**Electricity**
Electricity mains supply voltage is 220 Volts/frequency of 50 Hz AC.

**FOOD**
Hong Kong is as much as an eating paradise as a shopping paradise. Streets are lined with restaurants of cuisines from all over the world. Japanese, Italian, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese and American food are popular and easily accessible, and so is Chinese food. The Chinese food in Hong Kong is likely to be very different from those you have in your home country. In fact, the term “Chinese food” is not very useful in Hong Kong since there are many regional varieties of Chinese cuisines. For those who know their Chinese cuisine, Hong Kong is heaven. For those who don’t, initial dining experiences can be a little disconcerting, especially if your roommate starts you right off with chicken feet and pig intestine. But don’t just run off to the nearest McDonald’s or Kentucky Fried Chicken store. Instead, try to learn more about Chinese dishes. It won’t be long before you discover many things that you like.

**Tipping**
Most restaurants add a 10% service charge automatically.
What to Bring
There is virtually nothing that you cannot buy in Hong Kong. So you should try to limit yourself to the amount of baggage that your airline will allow you to take. The following list may help you decide what to include when packing your luggage.

Things to bring
1. Casual wear such as jeans, sneakers for class;
2. Dresses or coats and ties for formal occasions;
3. Athletic wear for sport activities;
4. Extra pairs of shoes if your shoe size is larger than 10;
5. Extra clothing if you are above average size or height;
6. Warm sweaters for it can be chilly indoors, as air conditioners may go full blast;
7. Momentos of home (pictures, favorite books or music, etc);
8. National costumes for cultural activities at CUHK;
9. Your favorite dictionary to help you with your language class;
10. An electricity transformer if you are bringing electrical appliances from America or Japan since Hong Kong’s electrical system operates on 220V;
11. Regular medication (if necessary) and a copy of your prescription.

Things that you may need but can be purchased at reasonable prices in Hong Kong:
1. Raincoats, slickers or umbrellas;
2. Additional blankets for it can be chilly indoors, as air conditioners may go full blast;
3. Books and stationery;
4. Cameras, watches, stereos and electrical appliances (e.g. hair-dryers, fans, etc.).

MONEY AND BANKING
Hong Kong dollar notes are in denominations of $1,000, $500, $100, $50, $20 and $10. There are also $10, $5, $2, $1, 50¢, 20¢ and 10¢ coins. The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US dollar at a rate of approximately HK$7.75 to US$1 as of 9/25/2012. Most foreign currencies and traveler’s checks can be exchanged at banks, hotels or money-changers (check how much you will get in return before handing over your money). American Express, Visa and Master Card holders can withdraw local currency from some automated teller machines (ATM) but of course the handling charges are hefty. There are ATMs on campus.

As in all big cities, avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Traveler’s checks or credit cards are preferred. Personal checks are rarely accepted. It is advisable to bring approximately the equivalent of HK$12,000 in travelers’ checks for use during your first few weeks in Hong Kong. Cashier’s checks and bank drafts made out in your name may take local banks up to one month to clear.

The Hang Seng Bank, a major local bank in Hong Kong, and the Bank of East Asia each has a branch office at CUHK. If you open an account at the Hang Seng Bank, you can have money remitted directly into your account through the Hang Seng Bank in New York or through Hang Seng Bank’s correspondents, the HSBC in California or the HSBC in Canada. While the Hang Seng Bank will not provide cash advance against international credit cards, there are several banks in central business districts that do. If you intend to transfer funds to Hong Kong through credit card accounts, you will need to bank off-campus.

The quickest ways to transfer money to Hong Kong are:
1. Carry travelers’ checks to Hong Kong; cash and deposit them into your local account upon arrival.
2. Have your family transfer money electronically from your own bank to your bank account in Hong
Kong. This may take a few days to a week.
3. Use a debit card to withdraw cash through an ATM. To avoid high interest fee for cash advance, you should first deposit money into your account which can be accessible overseas, e.g. Master, Visa, Maestro, Cirrus, Plus, JETCO, ETC, etc., and then draw from it while you are in Hong Kong.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Hong Kong boasts one of the world’s most efficient, safe, affordable and frequent public transport systems. Different modes of public transport operate on Hong Kong Island, and across the Victoria Harbour in Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories, carrying millions of people to different destinations every day. Navigating through different districts is easy with the Octopus card, a hi-tech debit card acceptable in almost all modes of public transport and some fast food outlets.

**Mass Transit Railway Corporation – above ground and underground railway**

The MTR has been providing a safe, reliable and efficient way to get around Hong Kong since 1979. In December 2007, the operations of MTR and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation merged to form one of the most efficient and far-reaching railway networks in Asia. The newly expanded system extends all the way from the heart of Central and Causeway Bay to the New Territories and Lantau Island. Its 168.1km of track covers 80 stations on the Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan, Island, Tung Chung, Tseung Kwan O, East Rail, West Rail, Ma On Shan and Disneyland Resort lines. The MTR now also operates a 35.2km Airport Express and 36.2km Light Rail networks which can take you to Hong Kong Airport and 68 stops in the North West New Territories. It also provides speedy train services to major cities across Mainland China.

The MTR provides the most convenient method of commuting between the University and downtown Kowloon. All MTR trains are clean and well-kept, but can be crowded during rush hours (8:00—10:00a.m. and 5:00—7:00p.m.). Fares are based on distance traveled. The system is exceedingly simple to use and train fares can be paid for through the Octopus Card at the turnstiles.

**Buses**

Buses serve the entire territory and there are cross-harbour buses which connect various parts of Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories. Most buses are double-deckers and air-conditioned, with their final destinations marked in English and Chinese on the front top panel. Bus fares are usually low, costing as little as HK$3.00. Exact change is required but the Octopus Card can be used.

**Minibuses**

Minibuses are small passenger vans that supplement bus and train services. There are two types of minibuses. The ones with a red stripe have unfixed routes. Passengers may get on and off anywhere and usually pay when alighting. Exact fare is not required and small change can be given. The ones with a green stripe travel on specific routes at fixed prices. Exact payment is required when boarding. Fares of minibuses range from HK$3 to HK$22.5 and in most cases the Octopus Card can be used.

**Ferries**

In the Victoria Harbour between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula, ferries serve as a supplementary mode of transport to cross-harbour buses and the MTR. The most notable of all is the humble but legendary Star Ferry service between Central and Tsim Sha Tsui. There are also ferries serving the outlying islands, Macau and destinations on the coast of Mainland China, which are all popular recreational spots.

**Taxis**
Taxis in Hong Kong are among the worlds most inexpensive. Different types of taxis operate in different parts of Hong Kong. Red taxis may operate in all parts of Hong Kong while green taxis can only operate within a defined area of the New Territories. The fare of green taxis is relatively lower than that of red taxis. Blue taxis are confined to running on Lantau Island only. All three go to the Hong Kong International Airport.

You can order a taxi to pick you up on campus. It will take about 15 minutes for the taxi to come and you will have to pay a surcharge. Since telephone operations at the taxi companies are usually very busy and only speak Cantonese, you may find it easier to just flag down a taxi on Tai Po Road outside the University.

Many drivers understand some English, but it is wise to have your destinations written in Chinese characters to show to the driver. If you want to take a taxi from the University to Shatin or to some places in Kowloon, you will have to hire a red taxi.

**Trams**

Trams run along the east-west corridor on Hong Kong Island and follow the same tracks they have traveled since 1904. Much more than just a cheap and convenient way of getting around town, the upper decks of the trams offer magnificent views as they weave through busy city districts. Trams run from early morning until after midnight. The flat fare is HK$2. Exact change is required and the Octopus Card can be used.

**Communication**

**Telephone:** When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online ([www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html)). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

**Mail:** Hong Kong postal services generally take a week for shipments made out of country and a few days within Hong Kong. Be sure that you check in advance about any goods that are un-shippable by law. For more information about Hong Kong postal services available visit: [http://www.hongkongpost.com/eng/index.htm](http://www.hongkongpost.com/eng/index.htm).

**Email:** Computer facilities are available at several 24-hour labs run by the Information Technology Services Centre and in the dormitories. The dormitories have fast and easy network connections.

**Websites of Interest:**

UW-Madison International Academic Programs (IAP):  
[http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

CUHK Office of Academic Links (OAL) website:  
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oal/home.html](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oal/home.html)

For more general travel information:  
[http://www.worldwide.edu](http://www.worldwide.edu)
U.S. State Department information:
http://studentsabroad.state.gov/

Center for Disease Control (CDC):
http://www.cdc.gov/travel/

Lonely Planet Guidebook:
http://www.lonelyplanet.com

Useful Travel Books:

Fodor’s Guides
Frommer’s Travel Guides
Let’s Go
Lonely Planet
Michelin Guides
Rough Guide

*International Travel Health Guide* by Stuart R. Rose, MD.