

長期留学・海外インターンシップチャレンジ奨学金報告書

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留学先：香港大学

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Introduction:

This report presents my experience of a one-year exchange at the University of Hong Kong and is divided into three parts: academic experience, life as an exchange student, and experiences of Hong Kong beyond the university.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the faculty and staff of the Faculty of Global Management for providing me with this precious opportunity, as well as to everyone who supported me throughout this long-term study abroad experience.

1.0 Academics

1.1 Academic System & Course Structure

Firstly, I would like to briefly introduce the academic system of the University of Hong Kong. There are two semesters in an academic year; in each semester, students are allowed to choose 1 to 7 courses. Each course runs for 2 hours and 50 minutes a week, and most courses also include tutorial sections.

HKU places a strong emphasis on in-class participation and group work. Almost all the courses include group work projects covering 25% of the final score and 25% of the score as participation.

To illustrate this learning environment, I will introduce specific courses completed during my exchange.

1.2 Course Introduction

During the year, I have taken seven courses in total, which are Happiness, Business Law, Company Law, the Life and Death of Languages, Marketing Strategy, Introduction to Business Analytics, and Decision and Risk Analysis I. The most impressive courses I have taken are

introduced as follows.

1.2.1 Business Law

Business Law was one of the most engaging courses I have taken, which provided a comprehensive introduction to the legal system of Hong Kong and the fundamental legal regulations and cases, including tort law, contract law, and compliance law.

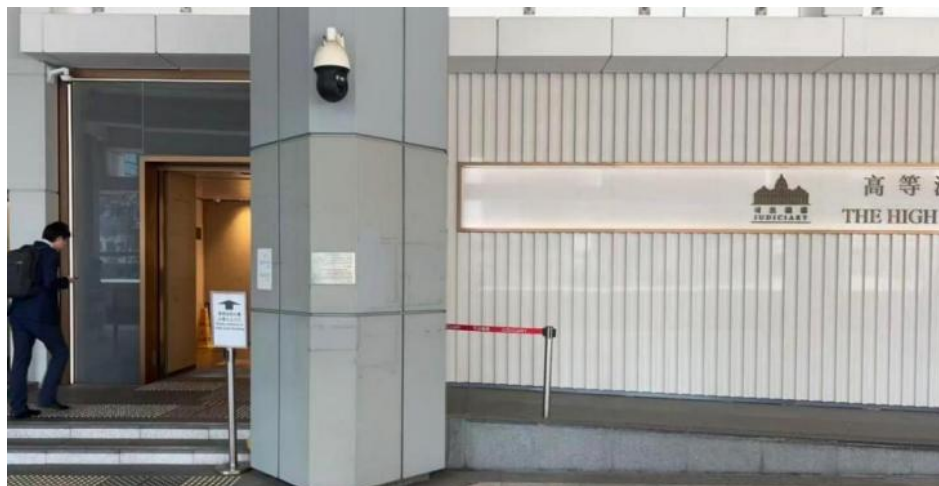
Emphasizing active brainstorming and practical application, this course dedicated 25% of the total grade to class participation, encouraging dynamic debate. Before each course, the professor assigned readings related to the class content for us to review and have a brief understanding of the course content, covering the statutory frameworks and core argumentative logic for both plaintiffs and defendants. Adopting a case-based teaching method, the professor often presented 3-5 cases for us to discuss per class. In small groups, we discussed the potential judicial rulings and the arguments from both the plaintiff's and defendant's perspectives. After that, the professor would lead an open discussion in which everyone could express ideas freely.

Additionally, the course emphasizes practical exercises through a mandatory mock trial. There would be two teams, one being the plaintiff and the other acting as the defendant, each given 10 minutes to present its case, followed by a short rebuttal session to address counterarguments.

My group represented the plaintiff against a defense team in a wrongful death scenario involving a defendant, Mr. Chan, who operated an AquaJet without attaching the required safety tether under hazardous ocean conditions, leading to a fatal collision with a swimmer, Jenny. By proving a breach of duty of care, our team effectively persuaded the randomly selected student jury to find the defendant liable.

Beyond class, there was also a mandatory court visit, where everyone was required to attend live hearings in the High Court of Hong Kong and finish a reflective observation report subsequently. Furthermore, the course trained my legal analysis skills.

In the midterm, we were required to submit a case analysis report, selecting a pending court case and forecasting its judicial ruling using relevant legal codes we learned in class. Through this process, I mastered the IRAC (issue, rules, analysis, conclusion) framework for case analysis, which was highly intellectually stimulating, significantly trained my logical structuring, and evidence-based reasoning skills.



(Entrance of the High Court of Hong Kong; taking photos inside is not allowed)

1.2.2 Marketing Strategy

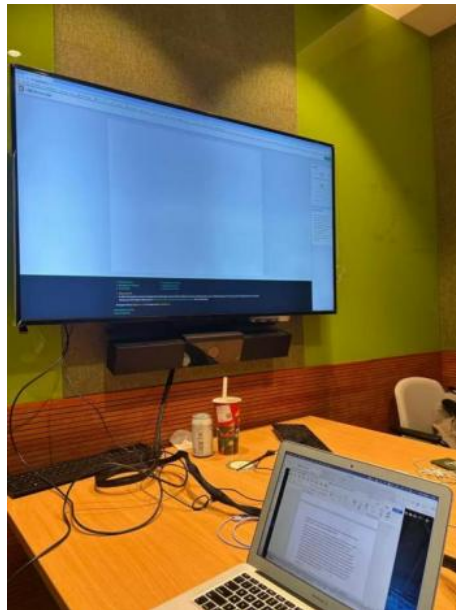
Another class that impressed me deeply was marketing strategy, which offered an experiential learning experience different from the traditional lecture-based format through a simulation game called Markstrat.

In the game, the class was divided into six groups, each acting as a firm. Every week, after two and a half hours' guidance on marketing strategy theories, we had group meetings to discuss pricing, product design, advertising, and distribution for our product, working to achieve more market share. The evaluation of our performance is based on the company's share price, which accounted for 50% of the final grade, which made these business decisions consequential. The marketing theories taught in the course were quickly transferred into practical application. Our first week was a particularly memorable experience, and we made a relatively hasty decision. With some teams choosing to maximize their products' functional attributes and others pursuing an aggressive low-price strategy, our product was so weak that we sold hardly any products. Consequently, we went broke in the first week.

This failure became a serious turning point for our team. After that, we had at least one group meeting per week. In the meetings, we had vigorous debate on the business plans, such as whether to invest more in advertising or whether to put out a new product immediately to get the greatest market share.

Another particularly valuable aspect of the experience was working within a truly international team, which comprised two local Hong Kong students, two from South Korea, and one each from Taiwan, India, Spain, and mainland China (myself). Conducting strategic debates entirely in English with peers from diverse backgrounds was challenging, as we often had significantly different opinions about which strategy to pursue. This required me to articulate and defend my own ideas in English clearly, listen to ideas with different perspectives, and hold my own

position when appropriate. Through this process, I gained practical experience in cross-cultural communication and developed greater confidence in handling constructive disagreement within a global team.



(discussion room in Chi Wah Building, which I booked for a group meeting)

1.2.3 Happiness (Tutorial Experience)

Regarding tutorial experience, I would like to talk about the tutorials of Happiness, which was a philosophy course discussing the leading contemporary theories of the nature of happiness, as well as the concept of well-being. Tutorials in HKU typically lasted for 50 minutes and were led by a teaching assistant to discuss the course contents or homework questions.

In Happiness, our teaching assistant, Miss Yan, often gave us three open-ended questions to discuss in small groups. For example, one was to identify the differences, such as conceptual, methodological, ethical, or epistemic, between the Cantril Ladder and the Satisfaction with Life Scale.

The discussions were highly interactive. Students were encouraged to express personal ideas freely, grounding the reasoning in class materials and personal experience. Some students even reference their ideas with related papers they searched. An argument raised by one student might be supported or developed by another, while someone else might challenge the underlying assumptions or offer an alternative perspective. The purpose of the discussion was not simply trying to find a single correct answer but to learn how to formulate a personal position, explain the reasoning behind it, respond to different opinions, and reconsider or refine the ideas when necessary.



(The lecture on Happiness)

2.0 Life as an Exchange Student

2.1 Accommodation

Accommodation at HKU was highly competitive, as places in the halls of residence were limited and required an application and interview. My application was placed on the waiting list at last, and as there was no guarantee that I would eventually receive a place, I ultimately decided to accommodation independently.

I found a roommate who was a student pursuing a master's degree in HKU Business School, and we rented an apartment together in Sheung Wan, which was a two-story traditional Chinese tenement building known as a 'tong lau' (唐樓), which is a traditional type of low-rise Chinese tenement building, commonly found in older parts of Hong Kong, where people traditionally lived above street-level shops.

However, because of the building's age, we occasionally encountered mice and geckos. The building was also located halfway up a hillside, so we had to walk up a staircase equivalent to roughly ten stories to reach it from the underground station.



(My private bedroom)



(the shared kitchen & living room)



(The front door of our flat and the stairs I climbed every day on my way to school, nearby is also a filming location for the Hong Kong film Echoes of the Rainbow (歲月神偷))

2.2 Campus Environment

HKU has a unique campus environment. It is built on a hillside, so getting to class often involves climbing stairs. Alternatively, students could come from the MTR station, taking several levels of escalators to reach the campus.



(A Night View of HKU Campus from the MTR Station)



(HKU Lotus Pond — A Popular Spot for Students to Eat and Chat)

HKU has also been jokingly called the “Queueing University” by students because there is often a long queue at the MTR entrance every morning and evening.



(The Morning Queue at HKU MTR Station)



(the queue of people leaving school in the evening)

2.3 Food

HKU has several canteens offering different types of cuisine, including Korean food, Italian pasta at Alfalfa, sandwiches and light meals, Chinese-style fast food and rice noodles at Swire Hall, and Thai food in the Asian restaurant, as well as Taiwanese food and milk tea. Maxim's also offers teppanyaki. HKU also has a dedicated vegan restaurant, BIJAS Vegetarian.

What I found particularly interesting was how academic achievement was also reflected in everyday campus culture. During finals, the canteens distributed free apples to students through the “SuperPass Apple” campaign, with the message “Ace your exam” to wish students’ good luck. Even some student club recruitment emails would end with “過三爆四,” a blessing for students to achieve a GPA above 3.0, or ideally above 4.0 on the 4.3 scale.



(one “superpass apple” delivers spot)

2.4 Campus Facilities

HKU has a strong study culture. The Main Library and Chi Wah Learning Commons were both popular study spaces, where it was often difficult to find an empty seat, especially during the examination period. The university also provided overnight and 24-hour study facilities, especially in the Chi Wah Learning Commons, which was often fully packed even at midnight.

Through the booking system in the school app, students could book the seats they want or a discussion room for online meetings or group meetings in advance. Most of the time, to have a discussion room for group meetings, we often need to book a room one day in advance.



(The Main Library)



(The Coffee Academics — A Popular Study and Meeting Spot)

The campus also has many informal spaces for studying and socializing. The school café, The Coffee Academics, was often full of students studying, working on group projects, or having meetings. Some professors even gave coffee vouchers to students who actively participated in class, which sometimes became a small motivation for students to speak up and engage in discussions.

3.0 Experiencing Hong Kong

3.1 Cultural Events & Exchange Activities

HKU also occasionally organized campus events to encourage international students to engage more actively with the local community and gain a better understanding of Hong Kong culture.

For example, during the Mid-Autumn Festival, HKU organized a cultural gathering for exchange students, where we tasted Hong Kong-style mooncakes with different flavors and made traditional lanterns together.

While making the lanterns, I had the opportunity to chat with and meet exchange students from UCL, the University of Edinburgh, Pompeu Fabra University, and Keio University. We later became good friends, staying in touch throughout our time in Hong Kong.



(Tasting Hong Kong-style mooncakes with fellow exchange students)



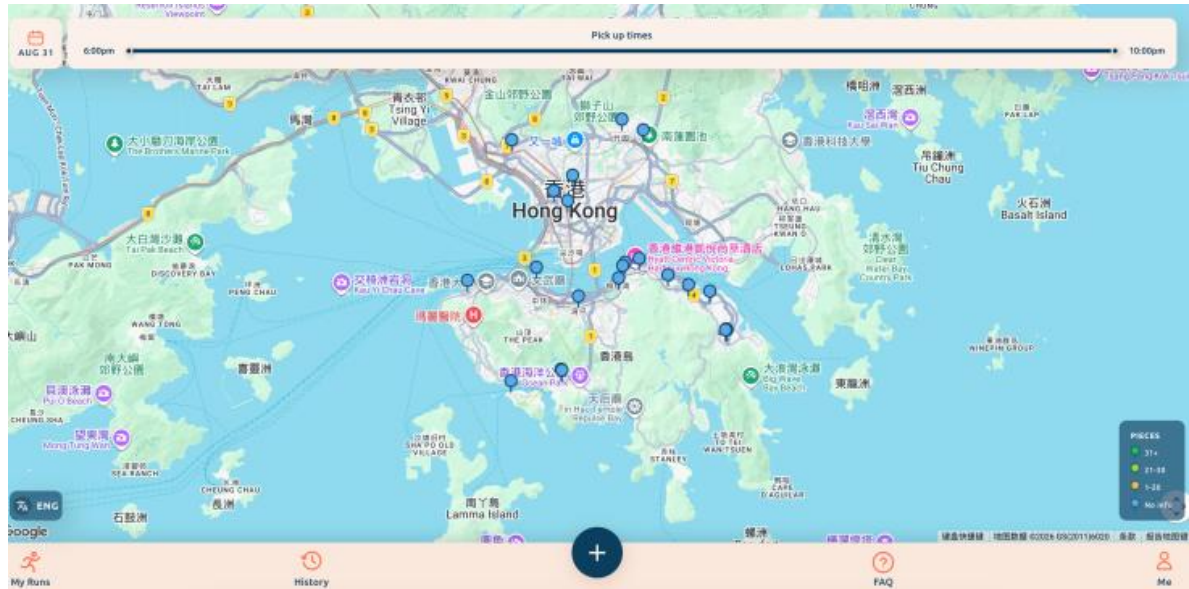
(Making Lanterns Together at the Mid-Autumn Festival Gathering)

3.2 Volunteer Work

There are also many opportunities to participate in local volunteer activities in Hong Kong. There were various volunteering platforms and organizations, such as HandsOn Hong Kong and Breadline. My friend and I participated in the food rescue activities organized by Breadline.

Breadline is a food rescue initiative that connects volunteers with convenience stores and bakeries that have surplus bread. After registering, volunteers can see participating stores on a map and choose the stores to help with (official advice: choose 2-3 stores). For first-time volunteers, there were also experienced volunteers who would contact us through WhatsApp, provide practical advice, and encourage us before our first run. Shortly before the stores close, the platform shows whether there are any surplus bread and the estimated quantity. We can then decide whether a pickup is necessary. If the reported surplus was zero, we did not need to go. Otherwise, we would go to the store before closing time to collect the bread. Finally, we brought the collected bread to designated collection points, where other volunteers took over the redistribution process.

What I found interesting was that some locals treated these evening bread runs as part of their daily exercise, combining volunteering with their daily workout. This made me realize that volunteering could be naturally integrated into daily life.



(Breadline map showing pickup locations across Hong Kong)



(My first Breadline run with my friend in Tsim Sha Tsui)

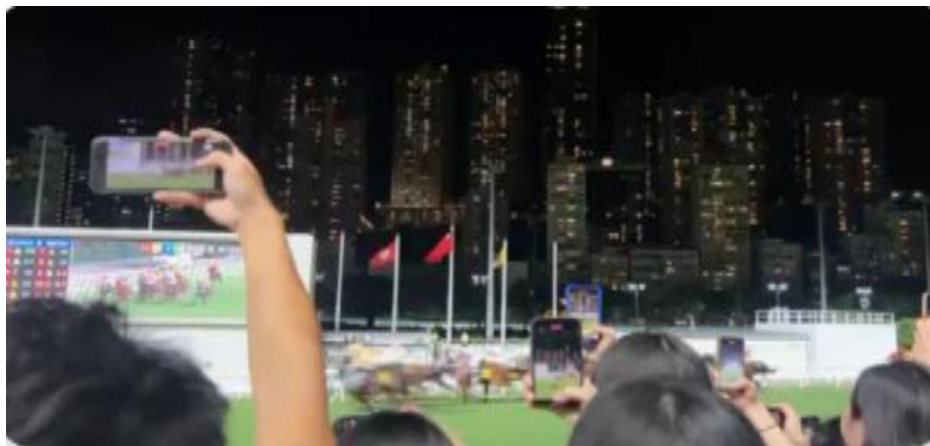
3.3 Leisure and Outdoor Activities

3.3.1 Horse-Racing Culture

Horse racing is an important part of Hong Kong's local culture, with a long history and a strong

connection to the community. The Hong Kong Jockey Club has also supported the university community, including sponsoring student residences and academic buildings at HKU.

During my exchange, I visited the Happy Valley Racecourse with my friends in Chuo and watched a horse race. It was a Friday night. The atmosphere was incredibly lively, with a large crowd cheering for the horses. We even tried placing a small bet of HK\$20, which gave me a more direct experience of this distinctive aspect of Hong Kong's local culture. There were also live performances during the breaks between races, adding to the cheerful atmosphere.

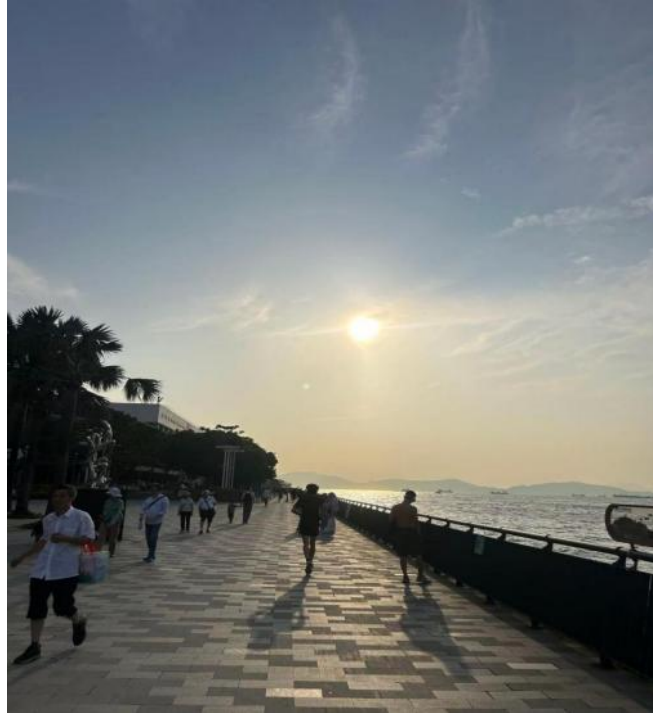


(The Lively Atmosphere at Happy Valley Racecourse)

3.3.2 Running at Sai Ying Pun Waterfront

One of the things I really enjoyed about living in Hong Kong was how accessible the waterfront was. It was only around 600 meters from my apartment in Sheung Wan to the waterfront, so I could easily reach the waterfront and go running there almost every day. There was a waterfront route approximately 13 kilometers long connecting Kennedy Town to Shau Kei Wan along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island, providing a long and accessible route for walking and jogging.

Hong Kong has a vibrant outdoor culture. Almost every evening, people of all ages can be seen running, walking, or enjoying the sunset along the waterfront. While preparing for the GRE, I developed a habit of running by the sea after studying. This small routine helped me clear my mind and feel refreshed before returning to my studies.



(My Daily Running Route — Sai Ying Pun Waterfront)

3.3.3 Hiking

Hiking is also one of the most popular outdoor activities in Hong Kong. One of the most enjoyable aspects of campus life at HKU is its unique connection to nature. Hiking trails leading towards Victoria Peak can be accessed directly from Ming Wah Complex on campus. The trails were popular with runners and hikers on weekends, while the surrounding greenery offered a refreshing contrast to Hong Kong's dense urban environment. Wild boars could also occasionally be spotted along the trails.



(Panoramic view of Hong Kong from Victoria Peak)

Speaking of wild boars, on rare occasions, they could even be spotted wandering onto campus at night. They were generally not aggressive towards people, just wandering around the campus and fetching something to eat.



(An Unexpected Visitor on Campus; Photo Retrieved from the Internet)

Reflections & Gratitude

Looking back, I feel truly grateful for everything I experienced at HKU. Beyond what I learned in the classroom, this exchange taught me how to communicate and adapt in a new environment. Through case studies, simulation projects, and conversations with peers from around the world, I was exposed to different perspectives. More importantly, I learned to reconsider my old assumptions, remained open to new perspectives, and recognized possibilities for ways of life which I would never encounter if I had only stayed in the same environment.

Additionally, living independently in Hong Kong gave me opportunities to deeply engage with the city, from participating in local volunteer activities to exploring its food, outdoor spaces, and everyday culture.

I am very grateful to the GLOMAC faculty and everyone who supported me throughout this journey. The year at HKU has become a very important part of my youth and university life, and I will carry the knowledge, perspectives, and friendships I gained from this experience into the next stage of my life.