



Reuben on a hike in Hong Kong.

Reuben Lim

University of Hong Kong

Why did you choose to go on exchange in Hong Kong, specifically at the University of Hong Kong (HKU)?

One of the reasons that I decided to go to Hong Kong was because of the cost. Given that Hong Kong is much closer to Singapore than the United States and Europe, I saved a lot of money on flights. On top of that, it was easy for friends and family to come visit me in Hong Kong. The visa into Hong Kong was also easy to obtain. It did not require much money or for me to jump through a lot of administrative hoops.

Hong Kong is also centrally located near China, Macao, and Taiwan and not too far from Japan and Korea. I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to all these countries from Hong Kong. Travelling to these places was not as expensive especially compared to if I had departed from Singapore. In terms of distance, travelling to Shenzhen was akin to travelling to Johor Bahru from Singapore.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) was also ideal for me to clear my second major modules in Business Analytics, as several students had already mapped Business Analytics modules from HKU to NUS in the past.

Tell us about an unforgettable experience during your exchange abroad.

The most unforgettable experience was getting to live together in a house with three other people. Even though it was only for a short period of time, it was a kind of responsibility and independence that I had not really experienced before. Things like deciding who would cook dinner that day and who would complete which chores that week were things that had to be on our minds regularly. I also had to pay electricity and gas bills for the first time.

What advice would you give to students who are going on exchange?

Start searching for your course mapping early! While some courses may have been shown to be mapped in the past, this will not be the case for all the courses you want to take. For some courses, you will have to scour your partner university's website to get the relevant information in order to map to your NUS course.

Find out what kind of discounts you can get as a student

in your exchange city. In Hong Kong, some universities let you apply for concession cards for public transport, which is a big money saver. Ocean Park, which is a local theme park in Hong Kong, lets students buy cheaper annual passes. University students are still students so make the most of it!

What's one thing you learned on exchange that you foresee yourself using in the future?

Eating out regularly is not the cheapest in Hong Kong. Because of that, my housemates and I tried our hands at cooking. It was a process of learning what dishes took less expensive ingredients, what was fast and easy to make on a school night, what dishes could be kept in the fridge if we could not finish it and obviously trying to follow the recipe and not create an abomination of a dish. Since coming home, I have to admit I have cooked way less (not even once), but I am definitely more confident in the kitchen if there comes

a time when I need to prepare a meal for myself.

What food recommendations do you have for someone who's never been to Hong Kong before?

Though it's quite touristy, I feel that a must-try when you are in Hong Kong is *yat lok* roasted goose. It is the kind of meal you can only have at most once a month because of how fatty the meat is, but it is a kind of artery-clogging delicious that you must check out. This is probably quite obvious but when in Hong Kong, you have to try their *dim sum*. If possible, head to an authentic "push-cart" style *dim sum* for the best experience — but be warned, it can be quite loud and chaotic. My last recommendation would be to try beef brisket noodles. Something about the way they prepare their beef makes it so beautifully tender, and when cooked in their flavourful and delicious broth, it makes for a simple but hearty and satisfying meal.



Reuben (right) with his housemates at Lantau Peak.