

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Hong Kong



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GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
Sub-degree programs	Associate degrees (AD) or Higher Diplomas (HD) fall under this degree category. This sort of (usually two year) degree can help you get employed at the entry level in administrative or management positions in Hong Kong, or you can choose to pursue further studies instead. Click on this link for more information.
JUPAS	Joint University Programmes Admissions System. This is the system used by local students to submit applications to universities. It cannot be used by international applicants.

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hong Kong is a former British colony and is now a Special Administrative Unit of China. Its vibrancy, safety and reputable education system attract a number of international students to apply to its universities. The official languages of Hong Kong are Chinese (including dialects such as Cantonese and Putonghua) and English. Note that the English spoken in Hong Kong will likely be of a particular dialect.

As of 2018, Hong Kong has 21 degree-awarding institutions, with all universities being English-medium. Out of these, eight are funded publicly by the University Grants Committee (UGC) of Hong Kong, and one specialized institution that is also publicly funded. The rest of the universities are self-financed. At present, the 9 universities funded publicly are more developed than the universities in the self-financed sector (something that Hong Kong has previously acknowledged), although Hong Kong has been working to improve the quality of self-financed universities simultaneously.

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO HONG KONG

1. **Scholarships and funding opportunities** have been improved, as part of Hong Kong's internationalization policy. Various scholarships and funds have been developed, including the HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund amongst others (mentioned in the 'Scholarship and Grants' section).
2. **Increased quota of non-local students studying at publicly-funded institutions** in Hong Kong, from 10% to 20%. Though this does not mean you will definitely get into such institutions, it means you may have better chances of acceptance.
3. In recent years, a number of publicly funded Hong Kong institutions are appearing on **world university rankings** for different fields, and according to these rankings some of Asia's best universities are housed in Hong Kong. Note that rankings should be read with care.
4. It is often ranked as **one of the best cities for international students to study and live in**. Students cite a mix of Western and Eastern culture socially and academically.

Job Prospects

In the Hong Kong job market, there tends to be a bias for domestic workers who are bilingual. However there may still be opportunities in certain sectors, such as Accounting & Finance and Sales & Marketing. Locals who can speak Mandarin, Chinese and/or Cantonese tend to be preferred. As a foreigner, knowledge of Mandarin and English usually puts you at an advantage in the job market (this is highly recommended), though there may be some sectors require English more than Mandarin -- it can be useful to find out about these sectors or work options through your university or career service office during your studies.

Ramsha Patel (BS Accounting and Finance from LUMs, currently working in Hong Kong at HSBC) comments that the job competition levels in Hong Kong are relatively high. When it comes to studying

in Hong Kong, she posits that Hong Kong is a good place to study -- after which it is likely that you will come back to Pakistan (or your home country) for work (i.e. it is better for people who plan on returning home after completing their degrees).

Check out the information on working in Hong Kong in the Visa section for more details.

OVERVIEW OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

There are four types of higher education institutions in Hong Kong, as of 2019 The table below outlines these.

Information taken from [this](#) source.

Type of University	Description
Publicly Funded Universities	The eight public universities funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) each offer associates, bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees, and some provide sub-degree programmes. Most programmes are taught in English. These are the most popular institutions for international students.
Self-financing Institutions	At the moment (May 2019), there are twelve self-financing institutions that offer both sub-degree and degree level programmes. The government has recently been developing this sector, including a HK\$3.5 billion education fund for scholarships and quality enhancement efforts.
Vocational Training Council (VTC) Institutions	These institutions offer vocational and undergraduate technical programmes that are focused on applied skills in general fields such as arts and sciences. Member institutions can be found here .
Specialized Institutions	There are a number of public and independent institutions that offer specialized instruction areas, such as the publicly funded Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

COMMON PROBLEMS WHEN SWITCHING SCHOOLING SYSTEMS

The education environment in Hong Kong tends to be competitive. Ramsha Patel comments the following, based on her exposure to the education system there:

- The school/university environment tends to be competitive.
- It is recommended that you go talk to the professor if you are having any issues.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES

Types of Undergraduate Degrees	Duration (Full time programs)
<p>Associate Degree. These are two year degrees for students who do not want to commit to a 4 year degree (perhaps because they want to work after 2 years, or strengthen their academics before transferring to a more reputable institution). In Hong Kong, Associate Degrees are usually offered in broader and generalized fields, such as the Physical Sciences.</p>	<p>2 years in length</p>
<p>Bachelor degrees. These are offered in a host of different fields and subjects. The different types of Bachelor's degrees offered are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) ● Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) ● Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (B.A.Sc.) ● Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA.) ● Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.) ● Bachelor of Economics and Finance (B.Econ. & Fin.) ● Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA.) ● Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.) ● Bachelor of Economics and Finance (B.Econ. & Fin.) ● Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA.) ● Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.) ● Bachelor of Economics and Finance (B.Econ. & Fin.) ● Bachelor of Social Sciences (B.S.S.) ● Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) ● Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) ● Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) 	<p>Typically 4 years (double degrees may take 5 years in some universities)</p>
<p>Medical Bachelor's degrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S.) ● Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) 	<p>Typically 6 years</p>

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS (CERTIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMAS)

Higher Diplomas are offered at the many VTC institutions that exist within Hong Kong. These diplomas often emphasize on specialization fields and job training, such as hotel management, maritime services, and culinary services. If you are interested in fields like this, you can explore the member institutes of the VTC through their official website [here](#).

These diplomas are at the same level as a 2 year Associate's Degree, and are categorized under "Sub-degrees" in Hong Kong. It is possible to land an entry level position in the specialized field you study, but it is also sometimes possible to continue towards a Bachelor's degree after completing your Diploma, just like an Associate Degree.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

You can apply to most universities in Hong Kong with either your A Level qualification, or with a Higher Secondary School Certificate (see below for details). Each university will have different requirements for their undergraduate program, so make sure to check these before you start your application.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels) OR International Baccalaureate

If you are completing your A Levels or International Baccalaureate, you are typically eligible to apply directly for an undergraduate degree in Hong Kong. You will be subject to university-specific and program-specific requirements, such as how many subjects you have to take at what level, and what grades you need to get. Make sure to view these requirements very carefully on the relevant university websites.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

A large number of universities in Hong Kong will let you apply directly for an undergraduate degree if you have completed your HSSC and passed it. Some universities may demand you get 50% or higher grades, while some could ask for 70%, 80% and so on. Note that you may have to provide an official explanation of your transcript and the grading system in some universities. Make sure to view these requirements clearly on the university website, or contact the university you wish to apply to directly.

On websites where the HSSC is not explicitly stated as an acceptable certification, make sure to contact the university to confirm their criteria.

You will usually have to fulfill English language requirements, depending on which university you are applying to. In this case you will have to do either the IELTS or TOEFL, or pass English at O or A Level before applying. Once again, make sure to check specific university requirements timely to see what is required of you.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Universities have high levels of autonomy and so policies for admission will vary according to institutions. You should consult the admission pages of your chosen universities during every step of your application process. Additionally, you should read the program details carefully and contact the admission office of relevant universities to clear up any confusions or queries.

Local students can apply through the centralized Hong Kong admission's system called JUPAS, but if you are applying as an international student, you **cannot** do this. Make sure you do not send your application through JUPAS, because it will not be considered! You will have to send your application through the Non-JUPAS pathway i.e. individually through each university's website.

When searching for programs and institutions, the following resources may be useful:

- [Program List](#)
 - This includes a list of institutions and the programs available at them.
 - Note that this may not be an exhaustive list.
 - Also, note that it is better to check university sites to get an up-to-date list of programs offered)

Application Components

- Certificate of Secondary School education or its equivalent
- English Proficiency Tests
 - TOEFL
 - IELTS
- Resume and Transcripts
- Essays
- Recommendations
- Interviews (sometimes required)

Application Cycle

The application deadlines vary across institutions/faculties/programs.

Note for Fall Semester (September-late December): Dates and deadlines vary between institutions, but applications are usually accepted from September to April for the following academic year. In most cases you should be prepared to apply by the end of December. Some universities also have mid-year intake rounds. (From [IBO](#))

Some universities may have several application seasons, others may also offer later application dates for particular programs. Additionally, fast-track applications may exist for competent students who chose the particular institution as their first choice.

Application Process and Timeline

Since the deadlines and application seasons vary significantly, a rough timeline can't be made. A timeline even for a particular institution may not be possible due to varying deadlines for various programs. It is better to check out university sites and the program pages to get a better idea and develop an appropriate timeline for. A general process of applying can be viewed [here](#).

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

Please note that all costs and figures are according to the rates of 2018.

FEES

Your tuition fees will depend highly on what type of program or subject you go for in your undergraduate degree. Typically, you will have to pay within the range of **90,000 HKD (Hong Kong Dollars) - 265,000 HKD**. This is \$11,478 - \$33,768 in USD according to early 2019 exchange rates. If you do a degree in the Social Sciences, you will pay on the lower side of the range. If you opt for something like medicine, you should expect to pay a figure at the higher end of the scale.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Scholarships are offered by the Government of Hong Kong, post-secondary institutions, public organizations, and private organizations. Some scholarships target **all** students (locals and non-locals) based on competency of students, while others specifically target international students. The following are scholarships you can apply for:

<u>The Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund</u>	This is offered to all students (locals and non-locals). It is applicable to students applying to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-time locally-accredited programs, which are self-financed• A sub-degree or Bachelor's degree
<u>HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund</u>	This is offered to local and non-local students. More information can be found in the link provided.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

DEGREE TYPES

Level of Education	Types of Degrees	Duration and Structure (Full time programs)
Master's	Taught	1-2 years
	Research based	1-2 years
	A Taught Master's will follow a delivery style similar to that of your undergraduate degree: you will have seminars and lectures, and will have to work in groups. A Research-based Master's, on the other hand, will involve more self-directed study. It will also be narrower in terms of focus. You may have some classes and will be expected to spend time with your supervisor, but most of your work will be independent.	
Doctoral	Doctorate (PhD)	3-4 years

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

In order to be eligible for a graduate degree in Hong Kong, you must have an undergraduate or graduate degree. For more specific requirements on Master's and PhD program, read on to the next sections.

For degrees taught in English, you will typically be required to submit your TOEFL or IELTS scores. Each university may have different requirements in terms of your scores in these tests, so make sure to confirm these before applying.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S

To gain admission into a Master's program, you will typically need a Bachelor's degree in a relevant subject. A lot of universities require you to have at least the equivalent of a B grade or 3.0 GPA in your undergraduate degree, although some universities may ask for higher grades.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

To gain admission into a PhD program, you will typically need at least a Bachelor's degree in a relevant subject. Some universities may not accept a Bachelor's degree and ask that you have a Master's degree before applying, so make sure to confirm this with your desired university.

Subject Specialization

Subject specialization can be extremely important for postgraduate admission. If you are applying for a PhD, you need to have relevant experience and previous enrollment in a course that is related to the subject you wish to study at a doctoral level. For Master's, it depends on the degree and field you are

going for. If you wish to study Chemistry at the Master's level for example, you will find it extremely difficult to gain admission into a university if you have completed your Bachelor's degree in Creative Writing. In general, you should try to have a similar Bachelor's degree to what you want to study later or, or study relevant courses at the undergraduate level. Sometimes, you can make up for a lack of relevant courses or not having the relevant undergraduate degree by working directly in the field you wish to pursue at the postgraduate level for at least a year.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Universities have high levels of autonomy and so policies for admission will vary according to institutions. You should consult the admission pages of your chosen universities during every step of your application process. Additionally, you should read the program details carefully and contact the admission office of relevant universities to clear up and confusions or queries.

When searching for programs and institutions, the following resources may be useful:

- [Program List](#)
 - This includes a list of institutions and the programs available at them.
 - Note that this may not be an exhaustive list.
 - Also, note that it is better to check university sites to get an up-to-date list of programs offered)
- [PostGrad Studies in Hong Kong](#)

Application Components

- Undergraduate Degree Diploma/Certificate or equivalent
- English Proficiency Tests
 - TOEFL
 - IELTS
- Resume and Transcripts
- Interviews (sometimes required)
- Personal Statement/Essays (These will most likely not be required for STEM programs)

For Research based Master's and PhD programs, you will usually be required to submit a Research Statement/Proposal with your application. There is a high chance that this will be the most important part of your application (besides prior research experience).

Application Cycle

The application deadlines vary across institutions/faculties/programs.

Note for Fall Semester (September-late December): Applications usually open during the spring semester (January-May) before the fall-semester starting date. Some may even open in December, the year before. This means that if you are applying for Fall 2019, applications usually open in January 2019, or may even open in December 2018.

Some universities may have several application seasons, others may also offer later application dates for particular programs. Additionally, fast-track applications may exist for competent students who chose the particular institution as their first choice.

Application Process and Timeline

Since the deadlines and application seasons vary significantly, a rough timeline can't be made. A timeline even for a particular institution may not be possible due to varying deadlines for various programs. It is always better to check out university sites and the program pages to get a better idea and develop an appropriate timeline for yourself. A general process of applying can be viewed [here](#).

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

Please note that all costs and figures are according to the rates of 2018.

FEES

The tuition fees for postgraduate programs can be a lot cheaper or a lot more expensive than undergraduate programs depending on the subject you go for. If you go for an Arts/Social Sciences degree, you will likely have to pay between **75,000 HKD - 100,000 HKD per year (\$9,600 - \$12,800 according to early 2019 exchange rates)**. A degree in Engineering, Business or Medicine could cost much higher than this. Some MBAs in Hong Kong for example, can cost up to **500,000 HKD** per year (just under \$65,000, according to early 2019 exchange rates) per year, so make sure to check the specific program fees for your subjects.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Scholarship/Scheme	Who is eligible
Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)	<p>If you are seeking admission as a PhD student at any one of the following eight universities, you are eligible to apply for this fellowship scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- City University of Hong Kong,- Hong Kong Baptist University,- Lingnan University,- Chinese University of Hong Kong,- Education University of Hong Kong,- Hong Kong Polytechnic University,- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology,- and the University of Hong Kong. <p>The Fellowship provides an annual stipend of HK\$301,200 and a conference/research-related travel of HK\$12,600 per year (for up to 3 years).</p> <p>For more information on the scheme and its selection criteria, click here.</p>
University-Specific Scholarships	<p>For more information on university-specific scholarships, you may click here.</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

How applications to Hong Kong are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for Hong Kong compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

TRANSLATABILITY KEY	Are they required?	Compare importance to UK/USA
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	<p>For Master's: For some STEM based Master's programs, personal statements are not a requirement. For Social Sciences/Liberal Arts programs however, they are usually required.</p> <p>For PhDs: Typically, a research statement/proposal is required.</p>	<p>For Bachelor's: The importance of the SOP is comparable to the importance of the SOP in UK admissions. The SOP in Hong Kong is a less important component than in the USA.</p> <p>For Master's: For many STEM programs this is not an important part of the application.</p> <p>For Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Master's, the SOP holds similar importance as in UK admissions. The SOP in Hong Kong is a less important component than in the USA.</p> <p>For PhDs and Research Based Master's: The research statement/proposal is one of the most important parts of the application. It holds similar importance to UK/USA applications, and sometimes may even exceed in importance.</p>
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	Typically, two to three references are required in your application, similar to the USA, but the format of these	The importance of Letters of Recommendation is comparable to the importance of them in UK admissions. The

	<p>references can be different. Instead of your referee writing a letter like they would for the US or UK, referees are often asked to fill out a “referee report” where they are asked questions about your abilities and sometimes asked to rank you amongst their other students.</p> <p>For Master’s and PhD: Often, in STEM based degrees, your referees are sent a “form” which they have to fill out.</p>	<p>Letters of Recommendation in Hong Kong are a less important component than in the USA.</p>
<p>STANDARDIZED TESTS</p>	<p>English proficiency tests are usually required by most universities with similar score requirements as the USA and UK.</p> <p>Some fields/universities may have some entry-tests/other standardized tests that you may be required to take.</p> <p>Some schools and programs will require you to do the GRE and/or GMAT in order to gain admission just like the USA.</p>	<p>Having the required English proficiency proof is equally as important in Hong Kong as it is in the UK and USA. You will not be granted admission without this.</p> <p>Entry tests (whether those are field-specific or general aptitude tests) are important when required. How you score in these can affect your admission.</p>
<p>TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)</p>	<p>Many universities will accept the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) like the USA (depending on your grade). If your qualifications are not listed as acceptable on your university website, you should reach out to your prospective university’s admissions counselors.</p>	<p>Very important — in many programs, this will be one of the most important parts of your application. Transcripts can sometimes be more important for Hong Kong universities than for universities in the USA and UK. Note that the admission process in Hong Kong is more objective and focused on academics than admission in the USA and UK.</p>

TIMELINE - The timeline to apply to universities is relatively similar to that of the USA i.e. applications open around August-September and can usually be submitted with deadlines being in November - December. Note that you cannot apply through a common application system and you must apply through specific universities (only local students can apply through the centralized JUPAS system).

FINAL COMMENTS - The education system for universities in Hong Kong has mostly been modeled after the UK system, although a few years ago undergraduate degree length changed from 3 years to 4 years. In essence, undergraduate programs in Hong Kong are a mix of American and British systems. Despite this, academic culture is highly influenced by traditional Chinese culture, with value placed on hard work, meritocracy, and examinations.

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees.

These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

Overall, you should keep around **4,200 HKD per month** (just under \$540 per month, according to exchange rates in May 2019) for living expenses.

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

If you have gained admission into a post-secondary institution in Hong Kong, you will need to apply for a visa/entry permit. In order to be eligible to apply, you will have to meet the conditions stated [here](#).

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

Visa processing typically takes 6 weeks, after all the required documents have been submitted. The Immigration Department will not begin processing your application until all documents have been received.

The approval of applications is at the discretion of the Immigration Department, and may be subject to changes in government policy.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

The Ordinary Visa will cost \$190. (2019)

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN HONG KONG

Generally, international students will be allowed to stay in Hong Kong for the duration of their study program (maximum period of six years). For short courses, students will be given permission to stay for 12 months upon entry or for the duration of their course (whichever is shorter).

If you want to extend your stay in Hong Kong, you will have to apply 4 weeks in advance of the expiration date (or as specified by the Immigration Department). Your application to extend your stay will only be approved if you still meet the eligibility criteria for entry for study. For more information, click [here](#).

APPLYING

This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit [this link](#) in case the process has changed.

You will be required to submit the filled application forms and all supporting documents to the embassy in Pakistan. Some universities also ask students to share all relevant documents, and then apply on the student's behalf.

COMMON PROBLEMS

How to avoid problems during visa application?

- Make sure you submit all the required documents (as stated on the Immigration website/specified by your university). Your application cannot be processed until all documents have been submitted. It is also advised that you do avoid making enquiries about the progress

of the application, unless it is absolutely necessary -- as that may delay the process. (To find out more about how to make an enquiry, click [here](#)).

VISAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDENTS

Applicants who have been admitted for study (in full-time undergraduate programs or postgraduate local degree-awarding institutions) can apply to bring their spouse and unmarried dependent children under the age of 18 to Hong Kong.

There should be reasonable proof of a genuine relationship between the dependant and sponsor (i.e. you), and the sponsor should also be able to support the dependant's living in Hong Kong.

WORKING IN HONG KONG

Working while studying

Note that this information was taken from [Study in Hong Kong](#), a website that is marketing studying in Hong Kong, and therefore should be read with scrutiny

Previously, international students were not allowed to take up any sort of part-time or internship work, whether it was paid or not. In recent times, however, in an attempt to attract students, these policies have been relaxed.

The following table provides details on such work opportunities: (information is applicable to students at an undergraduate level or above).

Internships	
Full-time Degree	<p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be studying at a full-time locally-accredited local or non-local programs in Hong Kong. • Students must be studying in such an academic institution for at least one academic year.
	<p>Clauses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The internship should be directly related to the study and curriculum students are currently doing or the internship must be directly endorsed by the educational institution students are studying at. 2. The internship shouldn't last longer than one academic year or it should last one-third of the duration of your full-time academic program - whichever option is shorter. <p>No restrictions are placed on the location, salary, employer, nature of work, and number of working hours.</p>
Sub-Degree	<p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be studying at a full-time, locally accredited sub-degree local programs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must be studying such a program for at least 2 years.
	<p>Clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internship should be mandatory, related to the study/curriculum the student is following and must also be endorsed by the institution they are studying at. • The internship duration is up till a maximum of 6 months.
Part-time work (on-campus and summer jobs)	
<p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be studying at a full-time, locally accredited local program. • Students must be studying at such an institution for at least one academic year. 	
<p>Clauses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Part-time On-Campus work: Students are allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours per week for the year. • For Summer Jobs: Here there are no limits on working hours or location of work. 	

Note that:

- Some institutions offer offshore internships, in order to provide students with good work experience. If you wish to participate in such internship opportunities, you will need to contact the international office or career office.
- If opportunities of Part-time work or internships arise, you will be sent a 'No Objection Letter' (NOL) when one of the three following conditions exists:
 - You have successfully applied to enter the country
 - You have extended your stay in the country
 - The institution you are studying at has requested the NOL
- If you have received an NOL, make sure to read the terms and conditions carefully to find out what kind of work you are eligible for.

Working in Hong Kong after graduation

Students who have graduated with an undergraduate degree or above, from a full-time, locally accredited institution, can stay in Hong Kong for up to 12 months post-graduation. There are no conditions applied for this extended stay; if you apply within six months after graduation, you do not need a job offer to be granted this extension. This is all part of the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates ([IANG](#)). If during this time you secure a job, then you must apply for an extension of stay at least 4 weeks before this one year period is over. Additionally, the job and associated salary/wage/income that you get must be aligned with the degree/qualifications you have. More information on this can be viewed [here](#).

Required forms/guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

OTHER INFORMATION

The Immigration Department may reject some applications at their discretion, and not disclose their reason for doing so.

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

International students can opt for on-campus or off-campus accommodation, in Hong Kong. After you have gained admission, you should contact the Residence Office or Office of Student Affairs at your university to find out which accommodation options are available for you. You can find some information about on-campus and off-campus accommodation below.

On-Campus Accommodation

Some universities offer undergraduate students hostel accommodation for at least two years of their study; others offer it for the entire duration of study. Unless you request a single room, most universities will have international students and local students sharing rooms. The cost of on-campus accommodation varies from university to university but is usually within HK\$5000-HK\$15000 (\$637-\$1920 according to May 2019 exchange rates) per semester.

Things to remember

- Arrange for on-campus accommodation as early as possible (since the demand for student hostels is very high).
- Most hostels do not provide bed sheets or pillows, so make necessary arrangements in advance.

Off-Campus Accommodation

If you are not able to secure a hostel place, you should look for private rental accommodation options. The cost of off-campus accommodation will be significantly higher than the cost of on-campus accommodation; although it will be dependent on the size, location and type of accommodation, it will typically be in the range of HK\$8000-HK\$15000.

Things to remember

- Accommodation options that are in the vicinity, i.e. close to your university campus, will generally be more expensive than those which are farther away.
- If you want to try and save money, you should consider sharing your house/apartment with some roommates.

- If you know you will be living off-campus, start your search for a suitable place well in advance, i.e. before your arrival in Hong Kong. Many universities will also be willing to provide support in this regard -- and will be able to offer information about off-campus accommodation options etc.

For more information regarding accommodation options, visit your prospective university website(s).

Transportation

- Hong Kong has a an MTR (Mass Transit Railway) system which has stations all over the country (including all major population centres, the airport, and even some parts of Mainland China).
- The public bus system is also a popular travel option in Hong Kong: some buses operate 24 hours a day.
- There are also other options you can avail, such as taxis or the double-decker tram system (but these are more expensive).
- Octopus Card: you can use this card for most public transportation (it works like a debit card, subtracting money every time to use it, and is accepted all over Hong Kong). For more information, click [here](#).

CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. The contributors to this tip-sheet include the following people:

- [Ramsha Patel - HSBC, Hong Kong](#)

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile. We encourage you to consult these sources for additional information and guidance.

Study in Hong Kong [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#) [\(3\)](#) [\(4\)](#) [\(5\)](#) [\(6\)](#), [Guide for IB Students Considering higher education in Hong Kong SAR](#), [GOVHK](#), [Immigration Department of Hong Kong](#), [CSPE](#), [Top Universities](#), [Scholaro](#).