Overview

Semesters Available: Fall and Spring  
GPA Requirement: 3.0  
Language of Instruction: English  
Academic Calendar: Early September – late December  
Late January/early February – late May

Areas of Study

HKUST is a publicly funded university that opened in 1991. Comprised of one division and three departments in life science, chemistry, mathematics and physics, the School offers a wide spectrum of programs and opportunities in these four core disciplines. The School is also home to the interdisciplinary Environmental Science Program.

Campuses

HKUST occupies a stunning 150-acre site overlooking the pristine Clearwater Bay, located on the Sai Kung Peninsula. The area is often considered as one of Hong Kong’s havens for outdoor lovers.

Language Classes

The HKUST Language Center offers Putonghua courses for students from non-Chinese backgrounds. Exchange students are welcome to enroll in these credit-bearing courses. Enrollment is free as the course form part of HKUST’s academic programs.

Alternately, you can enroll in one of the non-credit bearing Cantonese or Putonghua course offered by the Language Center on a fee-paying basis. These courses are meant for students who wish to pick up the local

Assessments & Grading Classes

Science exchange students will have priority in taking science courses, including chemistry, environmental sciences, life science, mathematics and physics. For courses offered in other schools, it will be subject to the availability of seats and approval of the course instructor. Science exchange students are allowed to take postgraduate science courses if the fulfill the course pre-requisites and if they obtain approval from the course instructor. Please be flexible in designing your study plan since class rosters are normally finalized until late July for Fall term and late December for Spring term.

Minimum credit per term is 12 and maximum credit load is 18. A course normally carries 3 or 4 credits.

A two-week final examination period takes place at the end of the Fall and Spring terms. Exam schedules are normally announced in the middle of the term. The format of the exams will vary from course to course. HKUST uses a 4.3 grading scale, with letter grades, with Grad D being a marginal pass. The typical course assessment is based on a combination of items, which may include class participation, projects, labs, min-terms and final exams.
Accommodations

Students are guaranteed accommodation in on-campus housing. There are nine halls for undergraduate students. Housing check-in for exchange students is usually in the week before the start of the school term. Students have to apply for on-campus housing.

Working

Exchange students are not permitted to work on or off campus throughout the entire period of study in Hong Kong.

Student Visa

The Hong Kong Immigration Department requires all overseas students to obtain a proper Student visa to study in Hong Kong.

The Global Student Programs Office of HKUST will assist all exchange students in applying for a student visa. Applications usually take 8-10 weeks after all requested documents are received.

Transportation

Hong Kong has a first-rate public transport system that puts every corner of the city within an easy reach.

Program Costs

Students are billed their regular CALS tuition, with no added administrative fees. Students purchase plane tickets and pay remaining costs such as housing, meals, student visa application fees, local travel, and personal expenses. Some partner institutions charge student activity fees and/or health insurance plans which students are also responsible for.

Financial aid travels with students going abroad. Students must complete with grades equivalent to a Cornell “C” or better. Financial aid for study abroad is need-based, consistent with university and government policies and covers all costs relevant to study abroad, including tuition, all mandatory program fees, housing, meals, books, personal expenses, and round-trip airfare. If you are currently receiving financial aid, your aid package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your study abroad program. University grant aid and loan awards may be either increased or decreased to meet other study abroad needs. The normal work-study component of aid packages will be converted to student loans.

How to Apply

You will apply to the exchange online after meeting with the CALS study abroad and exchange advisor in 140 Roberts Hall.