

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Shaw College Exchange Programmes 2020/21 General Information



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a. Reasons for Exchange

To go on exchange is to challenge yourself to **see things from a new perspective**, to **rediscover yourself**, your city and your culture from a global stage; and to hopefully, when you return, help end the prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness of the world we live in.

- ✓ Immerse yourself in a foreign culture
- ✓ Expose yourself to a new educational culture at a different university
- ✓ Equip yourself with new academic and interpersonal skill for future career and life
- ✓ Meet new people from different backgrounds
- ✓ Learn how to be more independent
- ✓ Take courses not available at CUHK

When should I start planning?

Planning to go on exchange should begin as early as your first year at CUHK. It will take approximately 9 months from the time you start planning, to the time you leave Hong Kong for your exchange destination. To qualify for admission to some exchange programmes and to take full advantage of the experience, you need to achieve certain minimum academic standards and where appropriate, build a foundation in a foreign language. Careful planning will prepare you for your exchange as well as meet the requirements.

b. Tips for Choosing Exchange Programmes

Shaw College offers **39 exchange programmes in 14 countries/regions** for 2020/21.

Please click [HERE](#) for details of the admission requirements of the 2020/21 exchange programmes.

****Words in refer to columns of admission requirements of the 2020/21 exchange programmes.****

1) Destinations

You should read carefully the and of the exchange programmes. Some programmes are NOT open to / ONLY open to students of certain disciplines. You also need to pay special attention to the medium of instruction of the courses.

You may check the ranking of various universities in a particular subject here:

<https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/2019> (For reference only)

2) Duration

You have to decide how long will you go on exchange. The duration of exchange period varies among programmes. You may check the of the exchange programmes.

Besides, teaching terms of exchange programmes may be different from CUHK. Please scroll through the website of the universities for details.

3) GPA requirement

Most exchange programmes have set the minimum GPA requirement for students. Most programmes in Europe and the United States require students to have at least 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 GPA scale, while the GPA requirements of Japanese and Korean universities are generally lower.

Please ensure that your cumulative GPA (with NO ROUNDING) fulfills the of the exchange programmes that you are interested in.

4) Language (TOEFL / IELTS and Other Languages)

Remember to check if the programme you are interested in has any non-English language requirements. Most programmes do not require you to know a language besides English. Universities often require you to submit an official document based on a language test, certifying your language level when you apply. You may check the of the exchange programmes.

English Language Proficiency Test (TOEFL / IELTS)

Most Exchange Programmes require applicants to provide a valid TOEFL/ IELTS score by a specific deadline. Please check the and of exchange programmes. If you are interested in one of these programmes, you are strongly advised to take a TOEFL/IELTS test **as early as possible** and submit a copy of your TOEFL/ IELTS test report to **Information Counter, LG1, Wen Lan Tang, Shaw College no later than 3pm, 6 Jan 2020**

(Mon). Otherwise, you will NOT be considered as an eligible applicant. In this connection, your immediate action of registering and sitting in a TOEFL/ IELTS test is required. Please ensure that you have inputted the correct information and uploaded a clear image of your TOEFL or IELTS test score report to the online application form (Part I). Your full name, test date and score should be clearly shown on the report; missing or incorrect information will affect your eligibility.

What is a valid TOEFL or IELTS score?

Your TOEFL/IELTS score is valid only if your score report is issued for no more than 2 years when you submit your admission application. TOEFL/IELTS scores resulted from tests on or after 1 September 2018 are valid for the application for 2020-21 exchange programmes.

Should I take TOEFL or IELTS test?

You should check the particular English language requirements of your interested programmes before you register for either one of the tests. Some programmes ONLY accept either TOEFL or IELTS test. Please make sure that you have taken the right test.

Even if you are interested in a programme that does not require a TOEFL or IELTS score, you should still sit a TOEFL or IELTS test as soon as possible if your preferred programme has English-proficiency requirements, which usually means a valid TOEFL or IELTS score.

If you are a student and apply to an Australian university, you must meet the English Language Test requirement for obtaining an Australian student visa

(See <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud> for details).

Students who wish to go to United Kingdom for exchange are recommended to sit for IELTS (UKVI Academic) test, to fulfill UK (Tier 4) student visa requirement. Further information on the approved test can be referred to the British Council Hong Kong website <https://ielts.britishcouncil.org.hk/iorps/html/registration/selectExamTypeServlet.do?vEngine=> and the UK Visas and Immigration website <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>. This document will be updated from time to time to reflect relevant change(s) to the individual programme's IELTS requirements.

More about TOEFL:

<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/tc/ipe/toefl/>

More about IELTS:

<http://www.ielts.org/>

Foreign language requirement (e.g. French and German, etc.)

Some universities offered a limited amount of courses taught in English, thus it is necessary for the students to have adequate language proficiency BEFORE they submit the choice to Shaw College.

If you would like to select an exchange programme that requires proficiency in other languages, such as German – Intermediate or Spanish – Intermediate, you **must** indicate in your online application form (Part I) that you have the level of proficiency at least one level lower than the specified requirement (e.g. if the requirement is German – Intermediate, you must indicate that you have the proficiency of elementary German). Otherwise, you will not be considered for that particular exchange programme.

If you have not taken a language test (for French, German, Spanish, Japanese, etc.), please consult your language teacher regarding your level of proficiency. Please note that Shaw

College or the Office of Academic Links will not certify your language proficiency under these circumstances.

Your level of language proficiency is often related to the number of hours you have spent learning the language, so students should pay attention to the details of the lessons they have attended rather than their titles. For example, immediate level courses at CUHK are not equivalent to CEFR B1-B2. Please consult your language teacher for further guidance.

For more information about European languages, please refer to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

French/German/Italian/Spanish courses at CUHK

Language Proficiency	CEFR Levels	Equivalent courses at CUHK	No. of Tuition Hours of CUHK Courses	Estimated No. of Tuition Hours Equivalent to the CEFR Scale
Elementary	A2.1	Language IV	168	150
	A2.2	Language V	210	
	A2.3	Language VI	252	180-200
Intermediate	B1			300-400
	B2			500-600
Advanced	C1			700-800
	C2			1000-2000

By the time students participate in the exchange programme, they should have completed:

at least 200 hours = A2

at least 300 hours = B1

at least 500 hours = B2

at least 700 hours = C1

at least 1000 hours = C2

Note: For non-English language requirements, students must have the proficiency level which is at least one level lower than the specified requirement. (e.g. if the requirement is German – Intermediate, you MUST indicate you have the proficiency of elementary German.)

5) Accommodation

Most partner universities provide on-campus accommodation to exchange students. You need to pay either CUHK hostel fee or housing fee at the host university. Some programmes

provide only off-campus accommodation, but the host universities usually assist students in finding off-campus accommodation. Please check [Remarks](#) for details.

Community housing

Many students will share room or apartment with other international students off campus during their exchange period.

Renting an apartment abroad can be a real challenge. You should be prepared to spend abundant time in looking for a suitable apartment as well as a roommate. Check all the items on the rental contract before you sign it or pay the deposit. Some landlords may request you to provide rental references and financial proofs. Check if utilities such as gas, electricity, water and trash will be included in the monthly rental, and that they are functioning properly before you move in.

On-campus housing

Some universities offer special housing for international and local students to experience cross-cultural interactions. Check the details about the hostel applications and all other information on the housing website or the information prepared by your host university.

Some of the hostels will close down during the term break. Remember to arrange short term accommodation or other plans during this period or else you will be living nowhere. Make sure that you have confirmed your accommodation with the host institution or other relevant agencies. If you have not received any information or confirmation before departure, you should contact them and confirm the status immediately.

In case you are not offered a campus residence hostel nor secured a rental apartment prior to your arrival, you need to plan to arrive one to two weeks earlier to settle the accommodation arrangement.

c. Credit Transfer and Course Load Requirement

Can I take the courses not in my major during exchange?

You are not limited to courses in your major, but you will have to meet the course requirements, e.g. pre-requisites, in order to get in the courses. You are encouraged to enrich your knowledge on different aspects through the exchange, but it is important for you to consult relevant departments before taking the courses if you wish to transfer the credits back to CUHK.

How many units of course should I take during exchange?

As an undergraduate student, if you are in the new curriculum, you must enroll in a minimum of 9 units and obtain passing grades in at least 6 units of courses per term, or the equivalent, except for summer exchanges. If you are in the old curriculum, you must enroll in a minimum of 12 units and pass at least 9 of them per term or the equivalent, except for summer exchanges. Failure to comply with the aforementioned requirements may lead to complications in graduation and/or receiving full repayment of any financial support under the CUHK Student Exchange Financial Aid and Scholarship Scheme (FASS).

How do I get credit from exchange study?

Academically, you should approach relevant CUHK academic departments which have full autonomy to determine which courses taken abroad could transfer credits to CUHK. You are recommended to approach relevant departments for preliminary assessment on course and unit exemption of particular courses.

Administratively, you should contact the Registration & Examinations Section at CUHK for instructions on transferring credits. Before you return to Hong Kong from your exchange, you should ask the host university for an official transcript to be sent directly to the Office of Academic Links in a sealed envelope.

Can I go on exchange at any point during my studies at CUHK?

Undergraduate students should go on exchange in their second or third or fourth (if applicable) year within their normative study period at CUHK. Most students choose to go after their second year at CUHK. If you are a final year student, please refer to [d. Final Year Students](#) for details.

d. Final Year Students

Am I a final year student?

If your remaining study period at CUHK is less than or equal to one year, you are a final year student.

Final year students must go on exchange right after their final year at CUHK. This means you cannot usually apply for a second term exchange during your final year. Your intending exchange period must also be pre-approved by your major Department/Division.

If I am a final year student, can I apply for CUHK Student Exchange Programmes?

- a. **If you are a final year student and your original expected term of graduation is the first term of the current academic year (i.e. 2019-20, Term 1)**
Unless you are approved to extend your study period to the following academic term(s) by the Registration and Examinations Section in CUSIS, you cannot apply for the exchange programmes.
- b. **If you are a final year student and your original expected term of graduation is the second term of the current academic year (i.e. 2019-20, Term 2)**

Yes, you can apply. If you are shortlisted, you must file an [Application Form for Extension for Study Period](#) before the commencement of the expected term of graduation, i.e. the first term of the current academic year.

To do so, you must in the first term submit the application form to your major Department and seek their pre-approval for your application for study period extension in preparation for your possible nomination for the next year's student exchange programme.

The endorsed extension form must be submitted to Shaw College on or before 13 Dec 2019 at 3:00pm. Otherwise, you will not be provided with any student exchange nomination in the selection since your student status at CUHK will be expired by the

time you intend to go on exchange and the deadline for application for study period extension is over.

NOTE: Your endorsed application form will be forwarded to the Registration and Examinations Section (RES) for extension of your study period at CUHK if you receive and accept the exchange offer. **By accepting the exchange offer, it also means that you have decided to defer your graduation until after 2020. If you accept the exchange offer but decide to withdraw from the exchange programme and graduate in 2019, it is your responsibility to inform Registration and Examinations Section, Shaw College and your major Department on or before 1 June 2020. Your graduation will be deferred if you do not do so.**

Please click [here](#) to download the application form for extension of study period.

- c. If graduating students intend to apply for course and unit exemption, you should make application for course and unit exemptions on CUSIS (for preliminary approval of department) by early November (for 1st term exchange) and mid-March (for 2nd term exchange), late submission may affect your graduation assessment. Final approval will only be given after the official transcript is received with pass grade(s) for the course(s) concerned.

It is necessary that the official transcript should reach Registration and Examinations Section via OAL or directly sent from the host institution by December (for 1st term exchange) and May (for 2nd term exchange), otherwise, the graduation assessment and release of the award result may be delayed.

e. Cost

Fees required for a typical exchange programme would include the following:

- CUHK tuition
- CUHK and College Student Union Fees (For undergraduate students only; not applicable for summer programmes)
- Accommodation (CUHK or host university / country)
- Health and Travel Insurance
- Meal Plan
- Student Visa
- Airfare

Other costs which you will incur during your exchange period include:

- Books and stationery
- Personal expenses
- Cultural activities
- Transportation (local and inter-state)
- Warm clothing for some exchange destinations

When do I pay?

Before you depart for the exchange programme, you will need to pay the CUHK tuition fee and student union membership fees. Failure to do so will disqualify you from the exchange

programme. Other fees are payable either before or during the exchange depending on the programme and the nature of the fee.

f. Scholarships and Financial assistance

Selected students of exchange programmes would be invited by the College to apply for scholarships for exchange programmes. A total of 72 students were awarded each with a scholarship of HK\$10,000 to participate in an overseas exchange programme in 2019/20. In 2020/21, 80 scholarships will be awarded to students (HK\$10,000 each). 20 out of 80 scholarships will **ONLY** be awarded to students participating in **College Exchange Programmes**.

Selected students with financial difficulties may also apply for the College Loan or Bursary for Exchange Programmes in January/February. The value of each bursary for outgoing exchange students in 2019/20 ranged from around HK\$9,000 to HK\$30,000 depending on the financial need of the applicants.

The College reserves the right to terminate and/or claim repayment of the subsidy, scholarship or any financial aid to students should the students withdraw from the exchange programme, or have failed to complete the exchange programme.

Additionally, the Office of Academic Links provides student exchange financial aid and scholarship scheme (FASS), please visit the OAL website [here](#) for details.

HSBC Overseas Scholarship will support non-final-year full-time undergraduate students to study in an overseas university for either one semester or one academic year in the academic year 2020/21. The maximum amount of each scholarship for the academic year 2020/21 is HK\$300,000. Please refer to the Information Sheet which is available at <http://admission.cuhk.edu.hk/scholarships/application.html> for details. The application deadline is **12:00 noon, 30 December 2019**.

g. Enquiries

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