

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Fall Semester 2014 – Benny Barak



The MBA program of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) ranked #1 in Asia, and #11 in the world the past 3 years, according to the Financial Times - <http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/hong-kong-ust/global-mba-ranking-2014>

Visa:

All exchange-in students receive a welcome guidebook upon acceptance to the program from the MBA office, explaining every required aspect concerning the student's visa. The application process is been processed through HKUST MBA's office prior the arrival to Hong Kong.

Important tip: You may choose your visa expiration date, so you may leave additional time to travel around Hong Kong after the end of the semester. The student's visa enable you to re-enter Hong Kong without any limitation, when you travel around.

Insurance:

It is compulsory for you to have sufficient insurance coverage for your entire study period at HKUST prior your arrival to HK. You must subscribe to the insurance plan required by HKUST. You may review additional information in the following link: http://sfao.ust.hk/insurance/info_nontravel.html

Hospitality

The following is a break-down of the estimated monthly costs (in NIS) to attend the Fall semester (August-December) for a single adult (only basic expenses, excluding extra expenses like traveling around, registration to gym, clubs entrance fees, special events on campus, etc.)

Food (2 daily meals outside. Cooking is cheaper, but not to much)	1,500
Rental (Outside UST, on the Island (Kowloon area is cheaper)	6,000 and up
Rental (Private room at dorms buildings on campus)	500
Booking and Supplies	100
Transportation (To school + traveling around the city)	300
Museums	Free on Wednesday



Living expenses:

You can apply for a private room in UST dorms. Each floor have around 20 rooms with around 8 bathrooms and shower rooms, a shared living area, studying area and a refrigerator. You can't really cook for yourself in the shared kitchen, but UST offers more than a dozen cheap restaurants for dining almost around the clock.



Orientation activities:

An informative orientation regarding the academic regulation and study plan will be organized a week prior the beginning of the semester. On these events, you will meet the other exchange-in students, traveling around the most touristic places in Hong Kong.

Don't forget to Like the HKUST Exchange student's group page @Facebook.

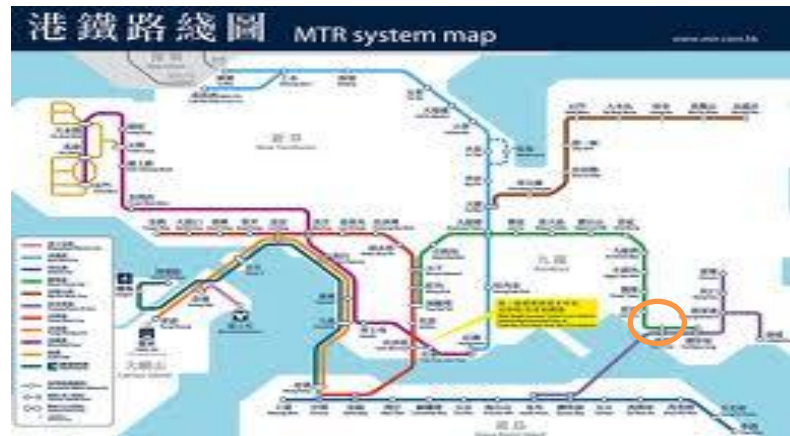


Transportation:

1. **Mass Transit Railway (MTR)** is the rapid transit railway system in Hong Kong. It can take you to almost everywhere in Hong Kong, almost around the clock. The transfer fees range from 2 NIS per trip, to the average of 8 NIS, and up to 20 NIS if you travel around the Island. In order to get from Hong Kong Island (where most of the exchange students and the expats live) to the university will take around 50 minutes (using both MTR to Hang Hau station, and bus shuttle directly to UST entrance).

The price for one way is around 15 NIS.

Don't forget to download the free MTR app for your convenience.



2. **Taxis.** Entering a taxi will cost HK\$22. Quite affordable but watch out if you go from one side to the other (HK to Kowloon or the opposite) you will need to pay a tunnel charge that can reach HK\$50.
3. **Busses.** A good way to go, especially if you take a double-decker bus and sit on the top. However, you will need to know which bus routes to take so may be a bit more complicated.

Courses registration:

About one week prior the inception of each period in your semester (each semester divided into 2 periods of 8 weeks each) each student have to apply for the courses he wish to participate, using the bidding system. It is most recommended to choose elective courses than mandatory courses in TAU, so you may enjoy the variety HKUST has to offer (more than 70 electives are available in the HKUST MBA program). The Elective courses comprise over 40% of the curriculum and let you delve more deeply into the subjects that matter most to you and your future.

A few interesting courses you may choose from: Strategy and Organization; Valuing Companies; Consulting Skills for Managers; Applied M&A; Private Equity Investing; Hedge Funds; Family Business; Technology and Innovation Management; Understanding Consumers; Effective Negotiations; Computer and Internet Security Management; Information Systems Assurance and Forensic investigation, and many more.

Please check the complete courses list - <http://mba.ust.hk/ftmba/program/electives.htm>

Overload: not too heavy, usually some readings before each class, with weekly team assignments. Since usually you apply for 2-4 courses every period (the maximum you need to take is 9 credits to get the full recognition from TAU), you have plenty of time to travel around.



Night life and special recreation

You can find everything, from dancing clubs, through jazz bars, classic cocktails at the top-tier places of the world, or local bars that offers Chinese tea. Prices range from 10 NIS per one drink, to 70 NIS in luxury restaurants. Hong Kong offers top cuisines with 3 Michelin starts, to the best Dim Sum and sushi you will ever eat (really cheap), American dinners and French restaurants with great variety of everything.

Night life in Hong Kong is amazing. You can go out almost every night (don't skip ladies night @Wan Chai every Wednesday when girls drink for free), meeting new people from all over the world. The Lan Kwai Fong (LKF) is the most famous bars area in central Hong Kong, where you can meet people standing in every corner of every street, drinking beers and having fun.

Important tip: don't forget to download Open Rice application for food recommendation around your location everywhere in Hong Kong.



Shopping:

Hong Kong is expensive. You will find all over top luxury brands, alongside international moderate brands which also operates in Israel. BUT - you may travel to Shenzhen, the 3rd largest city in China to buy copies of almost every brand (watches, shoes, cloths, etc). Shenzhen is located one hour by train from central Hong Kong, so you don't need to hesitate too much. No visa is required to enter Shenzhen. Nonetheless, Hong Kong offers many shopping malls to visit:

1. Times Square – Causeway Bay HK - <http://www.timesquare.com.hk/eng/>. The whole area of Causeway Bay is a shopping mecca and worth visiting. Close to our place.
2. IFC – Central HK (expensive) - <http://www.ifc.com.hk/en/mall/shopping.jsp>
3. Citygate Outlet (Lantau Island, near airport) – Outlet prices of many brands but a lot of junk too. You can combine it with Ngong Ping 360 (see below) <http://www.citygateoutlets.com.hk/home/Pages/home.aspx>

Sport activities:

You can use UST's gym and swimming pools (indoor and outdoor) for free. In addition, there are many sport centers around the island, at the average prices of 200-350 NIS. Hong Kong offers plenty of hiking trails around the city, so you can consider this option as well. You can also join the sports club @ MBA program, and also the university different sport teams (soccer, basketball, handball, surfing, rugby, ping pong, etc.)



Overall experience:

JUST GO. This is the easiest decision you should take in your life. Imagine yourself studying with the best students in Asia, in the most vibrant city in the world, less than 2-3 hours from amazing places like South Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, China and other amazing places. The flight prices range from 150 USD to 400 USD if you wish to travel to Japan. Most of the exchange students travel all over the semester, especially since you can miss at least 2 lessons from each course. It is like the after army trip, but much better 😊



Special Tips

When you land:

1. SIM Card. In the arrivals hall, look for 7-11 shop. Go buy a SIM card with data for monthly period. I believe there are 2 options: China Mobile and One2Free. China mobile is cheaper but will give you much slower download speeds. The price is around 30 NIS per free data (internet), and local calls.
2. Octopus. If you decide to take a taxi or bus, go to the airport express counter and buy the octopus card (if you take the airport express you should ask for an octopus card anyway). You will need this card to go around public transportation in HK (similar to an Oyster card in the UK but better) and you can also pay in many shops with this card. Don't worry about putting too much money in it – once you are back in the airport for your return flight you can give it back and get you

Places to go/things to do (very short list, plenty more to see around):

1. **The Peak**. A must see to catch the best views of HK. Go early to avoid the crowds and take the tram to the top - <http://www.thepeak.com.hk/en/>. You can also take the cab to the peak, which is cheaper.
When you get there, go inside the shopping mall and go all the way up using the escalators to the top. If you have time, it's also worth taking the circular hike around the peak
<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/see-do/great-outdoors/hikes/peak-circle-walk.jsp>
and if you get hungry, stay away from the tourist traps in the mall and go have some amazing food (but not cheap) at the Peak Lookout
<http://www.peaklookout.com.hk/>.
2. **Ladies Market/Temple Market (night time around 19:00-23:00)**. Both close to each other. Go see the night markets of HK. Mostly junk and HK memorabilia. You can also get your fortune told if you want. <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/see-do/highlight-attractions/top-10/ladies-market.jsp> <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/see-do/highlight-attractions/top-10/temple-street-night-market.jsp>
3. **Horse Races** (Happy Valley, HK Island). Every Wednesday evening (19:00) you can enjoy races on the Happy Valley racecourse. Entrance is HK\$10. You can bet on the horses and grab some beers to enjoy a fun night.
<http://www.happyvalleyracecourse.com/>
4. **Sheung Wan**. Walk around the streets and the markets of this cool neighborhood. A mix of cool modern spots and traditional HK streets.
<http://www.timeout.com.hk/feature-stories/features/53663/great-city-walks-sheung-wan.html>
5. **Star Ferry**. Make sure you take the star ferry at least once to cross between HK side and Kowloon side (2 stops in HK: Central and Wan Chai. 1 stop in Kowloon: TST). This is iconic of historic HK. Price of a journey is HK\$2.5. Good time to take it is at around 19:50 so you catch a good view of both sides the lights show. <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/see-do/highlight-attractions/harbour-view/star-ferries.jsp>
6. **Foot massage**. Do yourself a favor and go to a foot massage. There are many places all over the city.

7. **Stanley.** If you are here in the weekend go to Stanley. It's a HK\$100-150 taxi ride from central which takes you to the south side of the island. Very nice on the weekend with some restaurants near the beach and a nice market to stroll around in.
<http://www.hk-stanley-market.com/>
8. **Take a Tram (ding dong train).** Again some experience of the historic HK. This electric train is over 100 years old and runs across HK island. Hop on hop off. <http://www.hktramways.com/en/index.html>
9. **Ngong Ping 360.** This is a bit far out from the city (close to airport) but if you want to visit the giant buddah and see some great views take this cable car. Not cheap but spectacular views. You can also combine this with some good shopping (see above in shopping – Citygate Outlet)
<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/see-do/great-outdoors/outlying-islands/lantau-island/ngong-ping-360.jsp>
10. **Ocean Park.** If you are with kids or are a kid at heart, you can go to a big theme park in HK (much better than Disney). Be aware it is a tourist trap and you will also get to see a million tourists from Mainland China.
<http://www.oceanpark.com.hk/html/en/home/>
11. **Hiking.** There are many many beautiful hiking routes which will show you a different side of HK.

Macau:

1. **Don't forget your passport!!!**
2. You can use HKD in Macau so no need to convert money to Macau Pacetas.
3. Ferries cost around HK\$180 each way and run every 20-30 minutes. Ferry terminal is in HK island (Sheung Wan) Travel time is 70 minutes. If you don't book your tickets in advance you might need to wait in the ferry terminal or be made to pay for a more expensive ticket.
4. Go visit the old Portuguese city, have some Portuguese food (a good place to eat is <http://www.plataomacau.com/home.htm> and hit the casinos (Venetian etc.). Min bet in tables can reach HKD500.
5. To save money on the way back to the ferry terminal, instead of taking a taxi, use the casino shuttle of Casino Oceanus and walk to back to the ferry terminal (5-10 min walk).