I went to City University of Hong Kong, situated at Kowloon Tong MTR Station and located relatively close to Festival Walk. My major is Communication. While I was at City University of Hong Kong, the majority of my courses were under the Asian and International Studies department. And like SFU, City University of Hong Kong does have three campuses- the main one is the Kowloon Tong campus!

I arrived in Hong Kong on December 29, 2015. Student Residence began on January 4th and ended on May 23rd, 2016. My first day of class was on January 9th and last day of class was during the last week of April. I had lived in one of the newer residence buildings, except it was a bit farther than the rest of the residence buildings. Since all of my classes had in-class finals, I did not have any exams during the exam season at City University of Hong Kong.

**Preparation for exchange**
Since I had a Hong Kong Identity Card, I did not need to apply for a student visa/study permit. However, depending on the duration of your exchange, it may be wise to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card as non-Hong Kong people are required to bring their passports everywhere they go. Because I had been to Hong Kong previously before my exchange, preparation for exchange was quite easy for me. Due to my tendency of overpacking, I had read the previous exchange report to ensure that I was bringing the right amount of clothes. Unfortunately during my exchange, it did get relatively cold in Hong Kong and there was no heater in the student residence rooms. There was a heater in the common room (a space where you could hang out, cook and keep warm)! To make my packing easier, City University of Hong Kong does provide a recommended packing list and I did include most of the items they had advised to bring.

If you are planning to visit different countries (eg. China, Vietnam, etc.), I suggest you to take 5-10 passport photos as you will need a photo for your student Octopus card and your student card. Applying for a student Octopus Card is really fast but processing the Octopus Card application can take at least one month. Before the semester had started, Global Services Office had included a shopping tour (basically, a shopping visit to Ikea in Sha Tin) for two days. Most of the exchange students had bought bedding and other laundry/closet necessities from Ikea. However, the Student Residence Office does provide a rental service for bedding. And depending on which student residence building you are living in, the space to store clothes is minimal but in the newer residence buildings, they provide a closet and a drawer!

**During exchange**
When arriving in Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong does provide a free shuttle service from the airport to the student residence. However, if you had arrived early and went to City University of Hong Kong on your own, they also provided a free shuttle bus service from the student residence to the main campus (vice versa). At City University of Hong Kong, there are ten student residence buildings but it is not directly connected to the main campus. I had lived in Hall 10 (one of the newer buildings), which is farther away from the campus and takes an additional 5-10 minutes walking to Academic 3 Building. I was also pleasantly surprised as City University of Hong Kong prohibits smoking on campus.
Orientation was highly recommended as during Orientation week, they had provided campus tours, free items such as an universal adapter and a handtowel, and shopping tours where you get to meet other exchange students and local students as well. Aside
from orientation, they also had one mandatory session for all of the exchange students. And depending on what faculty (college) you are in, they may also have an orientation session where they introduce you to the Dean and other important people you may contact during the exchange.

In terms of classes and grading scheme, lectures were generally the same as SFU and City University of Hong Kong also uses Canvas as their way to deliver course materials. However, when we are talking about tutorials, the tutorials are run differently. Instead of having tutorials every week, most tutorials are hosted every other week. For example, if my tutorial number has an odd number (TE1/TE3), it will be hosted every odd week, whereas even tutorials will be hosted on every 2\textsuperscript{nd}/4\textsuperscript{th} week. For grading scheme, I felt that it was easier than Simon Fraser University as it was easier to achieve a A- at City University of Hong Kong than at SFU. For example, for my faculty, an A- is just 76%. Since all of my readings were provided online, I did not need to purchase any textbooks. Also, City University of Hong Kong offers free quota-controlled printing and charged printing.

Aside from school, Hong Kong provides a lot of attractions such as Ocean Park, Disneyland, Victoria Peak, Avenue of the Stars and different museums and a lot of festivals such as Hong Kong Food Truck Festival. I would recommend visiting Ocean Park and Victoria Peak as these attractions represents Hong Kong. Additionally, Hong Kong also offers a lot of hikes such as Dragon’s Back that showcases the beauty of Hong Kong.

**Reflection after exchange**

During the first two months, I was very excited and enthusiastic to be in Hong Kong. But by the time March and April was here, I was a bit homesick. Overall, I did enjoy my time in Hong Kong as it gave me a chance to be with my relatives in Hong Kong, specifically my grandma. My time in Hong Kong also led me to use my problem-solving skills and to spend money on the things I really need. I also loved my exchange experience at City University of Hong Kong because I got to experience different cultures and make long-lasting friendships. One advice I would give is to say yes to the unknown! Since exchange is a one-in-a-lifetime experience, keep an open mind to try out new things.

**Photos**

![Figure 1 Scenery during my ferry ride to Wanchai](image-url)
Figure 2 The exterior of my student residence building

Figure 3 The Garden at City University of HK and Academic 3 Building
Figure 4 Night-view of Hall 10 (right) + Hall 11 (left)