BERICHTSFORMULAR
Non-EU Student Exchange Programm
2021/2022

BewerbungsID 8514

Nominierte Studienrichtung: 066/926 Studienrichtung Masterstudium Wirtschaftsinformatik

Angaben zum Aufenthalt:

Gastinstitution: City University of Hong Kong - (China, Volksrepublik)

Aufenthaltszeitraum: WS 2021/2022

Aufenthaltsbeginn: 01.09.2021   **Aufenthaltsende:** 18.12.2021

STIPENDIUM	
Stipendium Uni Wien gesamt laut Zuerkennung: (inkl. Zuschüsse für Reisekosten und Sprachtest)	€ 2.000,00
	Rückforderung: nein Rückgeforderter Betrag: € Rückforderungsgrund:
Weitere Stipendien (zB Jasso, Studienbeihilfe):	Weitere Stipendien: Nein • Stipendium des Gastlandes: nein () • Bundesländerstipendium: nein • Studienbeihilfe: nein • *Sonstiges Stipendium:*
Summe weiterer Stipendien:	€
Gesamtsumme aller Stipendien:	€ 2.100,00

KOSTEN DES AUSLANDSAUFENTHALTS	
Unterkunft:	€ 2.500,00
Art der Unterkunft:	Privatunterkunft
Reisekosten:	€ 500,00
Lebenshaltungskosten:	€ 2.500,00
Studienkosten:	€ 0,00
Versicherungskosten	€ 40,00
Visakosten:	€ 60,00
Gesamtkosten des Auslandsaufenthalts:	**€ 5.600,00**

Bericht veröffentlichen: ☑

PERSÖNLICHER BERICHT
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Verfassen Sie bitte einen persönlichen Bericht über den Studienaufenthalt

- **Mindestumfang:** Fließtext 1 Seite DinA4
- **Inhalt:** Gastuniversität, Kurse, Prüfungen, Mitstudierende, Unterkunft, etwaige Schwierigkeiten etc.

BERICHT ÜBER DEN STUDIENAUFENTHALT

University

The City University of Hong Kong is in the northern part of Kowloon and is easy to reach. Unfortunately, I can't tell much about the university itself, since Corona meant that a lot of my studies took place online and I otherwise only studied in the library. From an organizational point of view, however, I can say that it was very pleasant. All the people at the university spoke fluent English, which is not always the case in Asia, and were very helpful and polite. The advantage of CityU is clearly the location. You can get to most places in Hong Kong in less than 30 minutes.

Accommodation

Unfortunately, it was not possible to live directly on campus. All exchange students at CityU had to organize themselves and live off campus. At this point, I would have liked to receive a little more information in advance from the University of Vienna. Self-organized accommodation in Hong Kong can be summarized quickly. Small and very expensive. Depending on the location and how far in advance you book, you can easily be upwards of 600 euros per month. I lived in one of the Weave Co-Living spaces for around 750€ per month on approx. 8qm. because I booked my stay very late, I had no other options to live at. The advantages are that you are very close to the center, and it never gets boring. In the room itself I only spent the time to sleep. The rule that exchange students are not allowed in the dorms seems to be related to Corona, which is why it is definitely worth asking in advance if this rule has changed, as it can save a lot of money. However, it was a great experience. We were around 60 exchange students from all over the world and it was very easy to get in touch with new people and find new friends. All in all, I would rather live on Campus but for the duration of 4 or 5 month it's still possible to live off campus and with enough preparation in advance it's also possible to get a cheaper accommodation.

Courses

First, I would like to say that I had all my courses only with locals and I was the only exchange student except for one course, because probably few computer science exchange students were in Hong Kong during this period. This is not bad at all but working with locals can take some time since at least from my experience they were a bit shy and did not seek contact by themselves which made it difficult to form groups in first instance.

Data Engineering

This course was one of the most time-consuming. Data Engineering is a master's course at CityU and is directly comparable with courses at the University of Vienna. The grade is formed by several submissions during the semester and a final exam. Since many master's students at CityU have a full-time job, all lectures always took place in the evening and went until 9 pm. There is no official attendance requirement, but since there are quizzes that contribute to the grade, it makes sense to be present in the lectures.

IT Security and Management

This was the only course which took place on site at the university. The professor was very helpful, and the course was well structured. What was striking was that the class dynamic is completely different than in Vienna, the students were very reserved and there was little to no exchange within or after the lecture with my fellow students, which I found a bit unfortunate. The course was structured in such a way that you had to write 2 assignments during the semester on certain given topics and had a final exam at the end. I would rate the level of performance of this course as somewhat easier compared to courses at the University of Vienna.

Python for Data Science

This bachelor course starts with a basic introduction to Python and starts from scratch, making it ideal for beginners. The professor has made a special effort to teach python to the students. In the course there are continuous programming assignments to test the knowledge every 2 weeks. The level of difficulty increased very quickly, from "Hello World" in the first week to Machine Learning concepts, not much time passed. It is possible to pass the course without any prior knowledge, but a basic understanding of Python and Machine Learning helps and saves a lot of time on the programming assignments.

Software Engineering and Practice

In this course we had a group project that went on throughout the semester. The goal was to plan, organize, program, and test a software project by ourselves. Here we had complete freedom of choice, the professor only wanted a small update sometimes to see in which direction the projects were moving. This amount of freedom is good and bad in equal parts. I had problems finding a group because the locals tended to avoid working with exchange people. The course itself was a great experience, because you could organize yourself completely freely. As I said, there were problems only in finding groups and subsequent arrangements with the team members. However, the initial difficulties with the team we became good friends by the end of the semester, which is why I don't regret having taken this course. The grade consists of the project, a presentation, and a final exam. The course was enjoyable but requires planning and good time management. The final exam was fair but very tight with little time to think about it.

Life in Hongkong

Life in Hong Kong is incredibly multifaceted. You hear from many that it has changed massively in recent years, but I can still say that you can experience a lot. The north is culturally more traditional, the closer you get to Hong Kong Central, the more westernized the city and life is. There is something for everyone. The nightlife in Hong Kong takes place in Central on Hong Kong Island and offers a wide variety of clubs, bars and restaurants. Hong Kong is much more than a concrete jungle. There are many beautiful beaches which can be perfectly combined with a hike. Although we as a group have planned at least one big trip every week, we have not been able to visit all the beaches or hiking trails. Without Corona you can also get to Shenzhen or Macao in no time and can see many more great cities and places with a weekend trip, as Hong Kong is very central and incredibly well connected. In summary, there is something for everyone. Whether it's partying the night through, exploring the city, hiking, surfing, and relaxing on the beach or exploring the surrounding regions, you won't get bored during your stay.
It's very important to get a Octopus card as soon as you arrive in Hongkong since this card can be used for everything from paying for the MTR (subway system) or shopping. During the summertime its very hot and humid. However, in buildings or the library especially it's very cold. At least a pair of jeans and a sweater could be good, even if I never wore them outside. Sim cards can be purchased in each Seven eleven and are quite cheap.

Problems and Exchange in Covid times

This is a point I hope future exchange students will not have to read. Hong Kong is understandably very strict about guidelines and regulations for the containment of Corona. Entering the country with regulations that change daily is very stressful. Since these rules generally change very quickly, I do not want to go into more detail, but just say that you should not take it lightly. It is very important to know the current regulations and if something changes also to change your plans and if necessary to book again. Planning and being flexible is therefore definitely a must, as the authorities do not turn a blind eye or allow half measures when entering the country. After the quarantine the life in Hongkong was normal with close to no restrictions at all.
The quarantine was mandatory, and I spent 14 days in isolation. The government provided a list of hotels where we could pick a stay for the duration. After arriving at the airport, we got all tested and went immediately into the hotel and left the room after 14 days. Luckily, I was allowed to order food and a SIM card over a delivery service, otherwise the 14 days in isolation would have been way more challenging. However, these rules change on a daily base and might be not up to date now, hopefully.

To briefly summarize it. I loved the time in Hongkong and enjoyed it. I can recommend it if you like a fast and never sleeping city. This can be stressful sometimes because its not easy to get some time to relax but for the purpose of studying and exploring new cultures its one of the best environments I personally can imagine. Even with the Corona regulations and the 14 days quarantine at the beginning it was a nice trip which I would do immediately again.