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*Semester 1 at the Hong Kong University*

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My room for the year is like nearly all of Hong Kong's facilities located in a skyscraper, although being on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor is still considered fairly low here where even the university itself is sprawled across several skyscrapers. The view from my room already summarizes part of Hong Kong's uniqueness with its blend of nature, ocean, and megacity.



One big difference between student accommodation in UCD and HKU is that here hall culture is very important, and each student hall has their own traditions, hall song, committee and clubs and societies. Furthermore, once a semester each hall holds a mandatory high-table dinner, which includes a three-course meal, guest speakers from such fields as journalism, politics etc. and a strict dress code completed by green robes for undergrads and black ones for postgraduate students.



Even after spending more than 5 months here I still get regularly lost on campus, where you must take several elevators and escalators to get to where you want. Both the architecture as well as the greenery of the old wing on campus give you the feeling of a tropical paradise with palm trees and parks.



As Hong Kong's number 1 and biggest university HKU is also a major melting pot of students from all over the world, due to its convenient location in the heart of Asia. While English is the official language, and all classes are taught in English as well you will still here Cantonese as the primary spoken language among students and in the city. The teaching style does not differ from UCD in any fundamental aspects, which I attribute to the influence of the UK who have also left such aspects as driving on the left, beloved afternoon tea and their language embedded in modern Hong Kong's culture.



After a selection process and interview I am honored to be now part of HKU's internal mentorship-program. My mentor Mr. Cheung is a young working professional in the field of brand marketing. Even though Philosophy and brand marketing seem to have nothing in common at a first glance, our meetings have been very productive for me as he has a unique view on the difference of working in Asia vs. Europe, having done both, as well as some general guidance when it comes the question of a future career path and internship opportunities.





In Hong Kong religion is omnipresent with many Buddhist and Taoist temples sprawled across the city and little offering tables or shrines on nearly all street corners.

