

Hong Kong, China - University of Hong Kong Exchange

IAP Academic Notes – Fall/Spring/Academic Year

Please refer to your IAP Study Abroad Handbook for a complete list of UW policies. These academic notes supply additional information specific to your program.

University of Hong Kong – Office of International Student Exchange (OISE)

<http://www.als.hku.hk/admission/exchange/incoming>

Registration

IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request (CER)

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account. The deadline to submit the CER is by the end of the fourth week of classes (not including pre-session terms). Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and in your My Study Abroad account under the academics tab.

Please note that every course you take abroad must be awarded an equivalent UW course. There are no exceptions. It is important to start the equivalent process as soon as possible to avoid any delay in posting your study abroad courses to your UW Madison transcript.

Limits and Load

Students are expected to enroll in a full-time academic program. A course at HKU usually has 6 HKU credits. A regular course load is 30 credits for one semester (60 credits for a year), but you may also take a minimum of 24 credits to a maximum of 36 credits each semester. Going over 30 credits may require HKU Dean’s approval.

Courses and Registration

More than half of each semester’s courses must come from one single faculty. As an example, if you are taking 4 courses of 6 credits each, 3 of your courses should be within the same faculty. A list of the HKU Faculties is found [here](#). All courses are taught in English, except for language courses.

Past students have suggested that it is a good idea to arrive on-site by the beginning of the course selection period, which is shortly before the semester begins. Students are not able to register for classes until they check in on-site with HKU. It is in your best interest to check in on-site promptly

in order to have the best chance at getting into the courses you'd like. Once this period is over, you cannot change classes for a few days, but the first two weeks of class is the "add/drop period", where you are able to change your choices. Once you select classes, you will need department approval, which can take a few days, so please keep this in mind.

Students in the past have encountered difficulty in registering for courses in Journalism. Courses offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) are highly competitive and there may not be space available to enroll. FBE course instructors may also enforce pre-requisite coursework more rigorously than instructors in other areas. There may be other areas that are unavailable to exchange students – such as Medicine and Dentistry – and you should look at the available course areas on the HKU OISE website.

Cantonese (Yue) is primarily spoken in Hong Kong, despite Mandarin (Putonghua) Chinese being China's official language. Students can take Chinese courses, either in Mandarin or Cantonese. Mandarin courses can receive equivalencies for the UW-Madison Chinese language sequence in the Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Department. Cantonese coursework can be taken and students can receive elective credit in ALC, but it will not count in sequence. This means that a student who was already taking Mandarin at UW-Madison could not get credit for the next course in sequence if they took a Cantonese course while in Hong Kong. Similarly, a student who begins Chinese through Cantonese in Hong Kong would need to start again with the first semester of Chinese if they decided to continue the language once back at UW-Madison.

Credits

IAP has established a conversion scale for translating credits from the University of Hong Kong to UW-Madison. 6 credit HKU courses are equivalent to 3 credit UW-Madison courses. 3 credit HKU courses are equivalent to 1 credit UW-Madison courses.

Grades and Grade Conversions

The grading conversion scale from The University of Hong Kong to UW-Madison is the following:

HKU Grade	UW-Madison Grade
A+, A	A
A-, B+	AB
B	B
B-, C+	BC
C, C-	C
D+, D	D
F	F