

My Study Abroad Plan

Studying and living in an overseas country will offer unique experiences in many aspects which can complement or even enhance your studying at HKU. Take a good look of this planning sheet and draw up your study abroad plan.

Academic Programme	First Major / Professional Core	Second Major	Minor
Type	Year/Semester Exchange	Short-Term Programme – Summer/Winter	Visiting Student
Organizer	International Affairs Office	Faculty: _____	Both IAO and Faculty (if permitted)

AASO's 3-minute briefing on studying abroad



Other Useful Resources

- Academic credits conversion chart by institutions (Some Faculties have listed out the credit conversion ratios for different exchange institutions. Please check with Faculty)
- Credit Transfer Database by institutions (Please see Faculty website)
- Steps to apply for “Credit Transfer Approval” and “Leave of Absence” (Please see Faculty website)
- Talk to International students, exchange students and senior classmates who studied in those countries before
- Scholarships and financial assistance from HKU, donors and host institutions



Relevant Offices

International Affairs Office (goabroad@hku.hk)

Academic Advising and Scholarships Office (ug.advising@hku.hk)

Faculty or Department Offices

Applications to most programmes are to be made one year ahead and exchange in final semester is not recommended. Start thinking about your plan by following these steps. Make use of the resources listed above to work out the details. Mark your actions on the semester timetable.

Year	Semester	Actions to Take
1	1	You need to apply now if you plan to study abroad in year 2
	2	
	Summer	
2	1	
	2	
	Summer	
3	1	
	2	
	Summer	
4	1	
	2	Last semester is not recommended for studying abroad

Step 1: Clarify your **objectives** to study abroad:
 Gain cultural exposure and life experience
 Learn a foreign language or make friends
 Look for intellectual stimulation by taking courses not offered in HKU
 Fulfill programme requirements and transfer all the credits
 Others: _____

Step 2: Know your choices and compare:
 • IAO-organized vs Faculty-level programmes
 • Year/Semester/Short-term/Visiting
 • Others: _____
 Consider as many factors as possible:
 • Language barrier/ climate/ culture/ budget/ medium of instruction/ impact on study progress/level of competition/ compatibility of courses/ semester dates/English requirement/Faculty’s upper limit of credit transfer for major & minor etc.
 • Others: _____

Step 3: Decide **which year** to study abroad. Consider feasibility and check syllabus carefully. Do you need to adjust your whole study plan to fit this in without risking delayed graduation? (E.g. What courses you might miss while on exchange, such as a FY course?)

Step 4: Apply before **deadline** which varies from programme to programme. Sign up for **English language Test** (e.g. IELTS) early if you do not have valid test result. While application to HKUWW Exchange usually closes in the beginning of December, IAO’s short-term summer programmes still accept applications in March (final round).

Step 5: Plan your course lists after being accepted by the host university. Do you want to **transfer the credits** – as major/minor requirements, Common Core or free electives? Plan for some back-up courses and get them pre-approved by Faculty first. Don’t forget to **apply for Leave of Absence** in advance.