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**Degree Program: MBA**

**Host University: HKUST**

**Exchange Term: Spring 2018 (4 Months)**

### **Exchange Experience**

#### **About HK**

There is a lot to say about this crazy place, I chose to mention three facts that were useful for me and made my experience even better.

The most important thing is that a lot of expatriates live in the city so **you never feel alone** and the variety of people create a vibrant and diverse food culture which is a great advantage (there is one restaurant for every 600 people).

Another fact that most of the visitors don't immediately realise is that over **70% of Hong Kong is mountains and country parks**, some also home to geological and historical gems.

In addition, most of the **areas in the city are very safe** and **it's a public transit utopia**. Big buses, little buses, ferries, railways, a tramway and they're all interconnected, making Hong Kong's network one of the most sophisticated, use friendly and safe in the world.

#### **About HKUST**

HKUST is a great university, young and interesting people from all over the world move to Hong Kong to study there. The business program is one of the best programs in the world (few years ago it was ranked in the 15<sup>th</sup> place). There are two locations where you can take classes - the main campus which is in Clear Water Bay (the most beautiful university I have been to) and the business school in Central. The morning classes are in the main campus and the evening are in Central. There are a lot of great activities which are being organized by the University. As a student in HKUST, I studied both with the full time MBA students as well as with the part time. So, you get the chance to be a full-time student for a while.

### **Courses and Professors**

I took two great courses, negotiation class with Larry Franklin and Professor Nielsen and Strategic Finance and Value Creation with Kasper Nielsen

In the negotiation course we had great discussions. Each class you get the chance to work with a different student, to negotiate and to close a deal with him on a different subject. At the end of each session the results are being ranked and it is a sort of a competition between everyone.

Another course that I like was Strategic Finance and Value Creation with Kasper Nielsen which is a great lecturer. This course has taught me a lot about key corporate finance concepts and tools and gave me a “hands-on” experience with the data using both materials from established business cases and publicly available financial data.

### **Accommodation**

Since we didn't get the option to live in the campus, I lived in a serviced apartment in Central, Hong Kong. A service apartment is a fully furnished apartment available for short-term or long-term stay, providing hotel-like amenities. Most of my friends from the exchange program lived in Airbnb apartments in Central as well.

### **Insurance and Health Services**

Exchange students are enrolled to the HKUST Travel Insurance Plan with Zurich Insurance Hong Kong Limited, organized by HKUST.

### **Living Expenses**

The accommodation prices were very high. For an average apartment in Central I paid 15,000 HKD per month. The prices in the supermarket, restaurant, clothes etc. were quite similar to the prices I use to pay in Israel.

### **Night life**

There are bars and restaurants in Lan Kwai Fong, Soho, Causeway Bay and Wan Chai etc.

### **General Experience**

Hong Kong has a lot to offer in terms of nightlife, nature, food scene, variety of people and shopping. The city has a great location that enables you to travel all over Asia very easily.

To sum up, I had a life changing experience. I met great people from all over the world that have the same goals and dreams that I have. We travelled together all over Asia and explored different cultures, people and ate amazing food.