Planning for Study Abroad

19 Oct 2022
RUNDOWN

1. Welcome and Introduction
   Ms. Rachel Hong, Head, Academic Advising Office

2. Briefing by the International Affairs Office
   Ms. Iris Ip, International Affairs Office

3. Tools and Points to Note for Exchange Planning
   Ms. Alice Yeung, Academic Advising Office

4. Student Experience Sharing

5. Q&A
Welcoming

Ms. Rachel Hong
Head, Academic Advising Office
Tools and Points to Note

Ms. Alice Yeung
Academic Advising Office
What to consider when choosing which year to exchange?

**Year 1**
Application takes time hence Year 1 students are **not eligible** for exchange, but one can do short-term study abroad programme in winter or summer break.

**Year 2**
Lower priority was given when you are applying in Year 1, if failed, you are accumulating experience for your second attempt application. Pay attention on **how to fulfil prerequisite requirement** in your study order while you are studying at the host university; Yet you have more time to make adjustment / catching up when you are back to HKU.

**Year 3**
The most common year for doing exchange, higher priority was given. **More mature** in handling adjustment issues overseas & solid academic foundation.

**Year 4**
Avoid doing it in Semester 2 to minimize the chance of defer. Pay attention to avoiding clash with faculty specific graduation requirement such as **capstone** and professional training arrangement.

*For some Double Degree Programmes, a designated period is recommended for exchange by the Syllabus in view of the study progress.*
What to consider when choosing semester long exchange VS short term programme?

**Tuition fee**
- **Self financed** with possible financial assistance to students who will be joining in-person programmes

**Duration & Impact on study**
- Shorter duration, usually take place during non semester time
- Less likely to miss required courses

**Competition & can do it twice**
- Less competitive: wide range of choice
- Exchange cannot do twice but **Short Term Programme can**
What to consider when choosing HKUWW VS Faculty - Level Exchange?

Students studying in one of the following Faculties may also consider joining the exchange programmes provided by their Faculty. Whether both HKUWW and the Faculty-level exchange programmes can be applied for will depend on the Faculty’s policy.

- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Arts
  - School of Modern Languages and Cultures
    - Department of Japanese Studies
- Faculty of Business & Economics
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Sciences
  - Journalism and Media Studies Centre

Important Notes:
1) Students from the **Faculty of Business and Economics** can only apply for either HKUWW or Faculty-level exchange only.
2) Students from the **Faculty of Law** and **Faculty of Architecture** should apply through the Faculty-level exchange programme if they need to study and transfer credits back to HKU to fulfill the curriculum requirement.
3) For **MBBS applicants**, your academic ranking will be taken into consideration.
4) All arrangement is subject to latest announcements from respective Faculties.
Other considerations:
- Competitiveness & popularity of the individual institution/exchange semester (e.g., for some of the Business Exchange partners, students are only allowed to go in either Fall or Spring)/course restrictions/etc.

Source: Extracted from the PPT of “Business Exchange Programme 2022-23 Information Session”
How Would You Plan & Determine Your Success at Each Stage?

- **Purpose & Goal Setting Stage**
- **Application & Pre-departure Stage**
- **Adjustment & Execution Stage**
- **Conclusion & Evaluation Stage**

*My Study Abroad Planning Sheet*

[https://aao.hku.hk/wp-content/resources/pdf/my_study_abroad_plan.pdf](https://aao.hku.hk/wp-content/resources/pdf/my_study_abroad_plan.pdf)
How does exchange impact your study progress?

**Degree Audit**
Assessing how exchange would make impact to your study progress and do academic planning accordingly.

**Academic Planning**
- Course Planning

**Planning on Credit Transfer**
Should one leave all the free elective credits for exchange?
Step by step guide in the coming slides!
Credit Transfer Planning

If you wish to transfer credits from your host institution, you must apply for credit transfer in advance according to your home Faculty’s regulations and requirement.

1. Check the courses offered by the host institution which you are interested.

2. Consult your programme director/Faculty course selection adviser about your academic plans and the courses you intend to take.

3. Do course mapping and get approval from your Faculty on your study plan prior to departure and before the deadline set by your Faculty.

The actual transfer of credits take place only when you return to HKU. Your Faculty has the final authority to decide on how your courses taken at the host institution will be credited towards your HKU degree.
Credit Transfer Planning

CREDIT TRANSFER DATA BASE

Check the credit transfer database of your home Faculty, if they have one, in which past credit transfer records for course mapping are listed out. This gives a reference of the courses which can be mapped with those in your Home Faculty.

Some examples:

- Faculty of Arts
- HKU Business School
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Sciences
The Credit Accumulation and Transfer Policy

1. Take **full course load** stipulated by the host institution.
   
   Credit overload or underload during exchange is **NOT advised**

2. Credit transfer is considered on the basis of:
   
   - **course content equivalence**
     - Equivalency assessment based on:
       - Programme/course learning outcomes
       - Course content (e.g., breadth, depth and currency of knowledge)
       - Volume of learning
       - Assessment requirements
       - Credit values etc.
   - **total learning time involved**
     - (i.e., hours include both in-class and outside classroom learning activities).
     - the normal study load for a six-credit course: **150 hours**
     - (within the range of > 120 hours and < 180 hours of learning activities)
The Credit Accumulation and Transfer Policy

A semester of full-time study as defined at a recognised overseas institution will be translated as a full semester’s study load at HKU. (subject to approval by the Faculty Board)

3. Students taking a full course load abroad

Awarded a full course load of HKU credits (i.e., 30 HKU credits per semester)

4. The maximum number of credits transferrable per semester is 36
## The Credit Accumulation and Transfer Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Invalid</th>
<th>Notice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Apply for and obtain approval for transfer of credits <strong>before departing</strong> on exchange or visiting study.</td>
<td>• No credits can be transferred for <strong>failed</strong> courses or courses <strong>without prior approval</strong>.</td>
<td>• Students may <strong>choose not to</strong> transfer any credits from their exchange or visiting study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Only the credits of the approved courses that students <strong>successfully completed</strong> will be transferred.</td>
<td>• Students cannot apply for credit transfer for courses they have <strong>already completed in HKU</strong>.</td>
<td>• Please pay attention if your course taken during study abroad is classified as <strong>Introductory</strong> course or <strong>Advanced</strong> course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exchange course credits to be transferred to HKU from a partner institution should first be converted using the “top-down” method of conversion. If the resulting credit conversion results in a credit total for the semester or year that is not a multiple of 6, the following table should be used to adjust the total credits for the semester or year of exchange study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual credits transferred from exchange partner institution per semester/year</th>
<th>Total conversion credits to satisfy the HKU 6-credit accumulation structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 5.00 but fewer than 8.75 HKU credits</td>
<td>6 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 8.75 credits but fewer than 14.75 credits</td>
<td>12 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 14.75 credits but fewer than 20.75 credits</td>
<td>18 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20.75 credits but fewer than 26.75 credits</td>
<td>24 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 26.75 credits but fewer than 32.75 credits</td>
<td>30 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 32.75 credits but fewer than 38.75 credits</td>
<td>36 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 38.75 credits but fewer than 44.75 credits</td>
<td>42 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 44.75 credits but fewer than 50.75 credits</td>
<td>48 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 50.75 credits but fewer than 56.75 credits</td>
<td>54 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 56.75 credits but fewer than 62.75 credits</td>
<td>60 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 62.75 credits but fewer than 68.75 credits</td>
<td>66 HKU credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 68.75 credits</td>
<td>72 HKU credits*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can I complete my minor during exchange in my host university?

(A) Faculty Cap Policy on Credit Transfer to HKU Arts Major/Minor from 2014-15 Onwards

1. **Up to 50%** of the transferred credits to HKU can be counted towards each of the Arts major/minor requirements. In other words, students should complete at least 50% of each of the Arts major/minor requirements at HKU. A summary table is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Arts major</th>
<th>Arts minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. no. of exchange credits allowed to be transferred to HKU</td>
<td>36 credits</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min. no. of credits completed at HKU</td>
<td>36 or 42 credits</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72 or 78 credits</td>
<td>36 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Transferred credits in excess of the cap as approved by the major/minor offering Programme(s) will be counted as free elective(s) for the undergraduate degree only.

3. This Faculty Cap Policy is applicable to:

   (a) all HKU students admitted to the 4-year curriculum in 2012-13 and thereafter, who take any Arts major/minor; and

   (b) those who go on outgoing academic exchange from 2014-15 onwards.

Source: Extracted from the Faculty of Arts Website
Looking for Exchange Buddy from HKU?

- Exchange to University of Kent in Semester 2
- Exchange to UCL in semester 2
- Exchange to Stockholm University in semester 2
- Exchange to King’s College London Jan 2023 - group chat?!?
- Exchange to The University of Groningen (Sem 2)
- Exchange to the Drexel University in Jan 2023 (Winter/ Spring term)
- Exchange to McGill
Student Experience Sharing

Shawn WAT (Year 4, A&F)
Emily LO (Year 5, Govt & Laws)
Mun Kay HO (Year 4, BiomedSc)
Q&A
PLANNING FOR STUDY ABROAD

https://aaol.hku.hk/abroad-planning/
THANKS
Feel free to contact us if you need any support.

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