

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

2026-27 Undergraduate Exchange Program

Information Sheet

Study Abroad Website	https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound		
Contact Point	<p>Office of Global Learning</p> <p>Address: Room 2001, Academic Building, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China</p> <p>Email: study.abroad@ust.hk</p> <p>Tel: (+852) 2358 8178</p> <p>Fax: (+852) 3521 0097</p>		
Important Dates (Tentative)	<p><u>Exchange period</u></p> <p>Fall Term: 1 Sep 2026 - 19 Dec 2026</p> <p>Spring Term: 1 Feb 2027 - 28 May 2027</p> <p>Year Long: 1 Sep 2026 - 28 May 2027</p>	<p><u>Term dates (inclusive of final examination)</u></p>	<p><u>Application period</u></p> <p>Early Feb - 31 Mar 2026</p> <p>Early Jul - 30 Sep 2026</p> <p>Early Feb - 31 Mar 2026</p>
Program Overview	<p>Eligibility</p> <p>Students are normally expected to have completed 2 years of undergraduate study by the start of the exchange, and be in good academic standing at their home institution. Students must be nominated by their home institution.</p> <p><i>Special note for students applying to the School of Business and Management: Students must be undergraduate students majoring in business and have completed at least two years of study at the home institution at the time of application. Students should have no more than one low or failing grade.</i></p> <p>English language proficiency</p> <p>English is the medium of instruction at HKUST. Only some courses related to Chinese language or literature may be conducted in Mandarin or Cantonese.</p> <p>Exchange students are expected to have English proficiency level equivalent to TOEFL iBT 80 (before 21 Jan 2026)/ 4.5 (after 21 Jan 2026) or IELTS 6.0. For details about the English Language proficiency requirements, please refer to the requirements section listed on the website: https://join.hkust.edu.hk/admissions/international-qualifications. English language proficiency proof that are not listed on the website may be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>		
Nomination and application process	<p>Nomination</p> <p>Exchange partners are welcome to nominate students by completing the nomination template (Click here) and sending it to the email address in the nomination template.</p> <p>Please refer to the nomination deadlines for respective semester: Fall 2026: 24 March 2026 (Tuesday) Spring 2027: 23 September 2026 (Wednesday)</p> <p>Submission of application via HKUST MyStudyAbroad System</p> <p>Students are then required to submit an online application through our HKUST MyStudyAbroad System, and further instructions will be provided to students after receiving the nominations.</p>		

Please refer to the application deadlines for respective semester:

Fall 2026: **31 March 2026 (Tuesday)**

Spring 2027: **30 September 2026 (Wednesday)**

Documents required

- Academic transcript, including the current semester's course list (Produced in English)
- Passport copy (the page with the personal details and photo)
- English Language Proficiency Proof

Academic

Course availability

Exchange students can enroll in undergraduate courses offered by the Schools below as long as there are places available and they fulfill the course prerequisites and any other enrollment conditions prescribed for the course.

- School of Science (SSCI)
- School of Engineering (SENG)
- School of Business and Management (SBM)
- School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS)
- Academy of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS)

Restrictions

1. *Postgraduate level courses are usually not open for enrollment to undergraduate exchange students. Courses of self-finance programs and business courses at postgraduate level are not open to exchange students.*
2. *Computer science courses have high demand at HKUST, thus will be difficult for exchange students to enroll into our computer science courses. Students are advised to be flexible in choosing their courses.*

Study load

The Fall and Spring terms are each 13 weeks long. One credit generally represents 40-50 learning hours. In general, the minimum credit load is 12 credits (equivalent to three or four courses) and the maximum is 18 credits (equivalent to five or six courses).

Course catalog: <https://prog-crs.hkust.edu.hk/ugcourse>

Important note:

1. *Each School may have its own policy towards course registration and study load. Please observe and abide by the regulations of the hosting School.*
2. *Courses in the Course Catalog are for reference only. Not all courses in the Catalog are offered every term and the course list will be confirmed around 1 month before the start of the term. Exchange students must be flexible with their course choices.*

Grades & Transcripts

HKUST adopts a 4-point grading system, with letter grades, with Grade D being a marginal pass. For details of the grading system, please refer to

<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/transcript-grading>.

Upon program completion, HKUST will produce transcripts in electronic format detailing the courses taken and the grades obtained. The transcripts will be sent to students and their home institutions.

Credit transfers are approved by students' home institutions. Students should check with their home institution on its policy regarding the transfer of grades and credits.

Accommodation

Exchange students are guaranteed and expected to stay in university accommodation during their exchange period at HKUST. Students who wish to opt out of university housing are required to provide justification (e.g., living with family or relatives in Hong Kong) and seek special approval from HKUST.

There are 14 undergraduate student halls for undergraduate students. Exchange students will be randomly assigned to a double room in one of these HKUST student halls. Students are not allowed to choose a specific hall or their roommates.

Each room is air-conditioned, and furnished with desks, chairs, bookshelves, beds and mattresses (no bedding), wardrobes and a mini fridge. Common facilities include showers, toilets, common rooms with TVs, pantries, microwaves, telephones, washing machines and tumble dryers. Wired and Wi-Fi internet access are available in the student halls.

Finance

Fees

Under the formal exchange agreement, the tuition fee is waived. Exchange students are required to pay a lump-sum of HK\$17,000 (one term) or HK\$34,000 (year-long) (subject to revision) for covering the following upon acceptance:

- University-provided accommodation
- Student visa application and handling
- HKUST Compulsory Travel Insurance

Notes: The amount will be deducted accordingly if students do not need a visa to study in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Estimated living cost

Living expenses vary depending on your lifestyle choices. Please budget around HK\$25,000 (US\$3,200) per term including transportation, meals, course materials and daily supplies.

Student Visa

The Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (hereafter "HKSAR") requires all non-local students to obtain a student visa in order to study in HKSAR. In general, students who do not possess the right of abode or the right to land in HKSAR, or hold a dependent's visa, are required to obtain a student visa.

HKUST Office of Global Learning will assist exchange students with the student visa application process. Detailed information will be provided upon acceptance.

Insurance

All exchange students are required to subscribe to HKUST Compulsory Travel Insurance Plan that covers the duration of your study. The policy provides for the coverage listed below.

- Medical and hospitalization for illnesses and accidents
- Personal liability

Detailed coverage can be found at <https://sfao.hkust.edu.hk/individual.php?l=24>.

Health Matters

On-campus medical and dental services

Exchange students can enjoy free out-patient services in the on-campus Medical Clinic and dental services at the on-campus Student Dental Clinic.

Public hospitals

The HKSAR public healthcare system is of high quality. As an exchange student, you can visit the public hospitals in Hong Kong when you need medical services.

Arrival and Orientation

Arrival dates

Fall Term 2026: 27 August 2026 (To be confirmed)

Spring Term 2027: 27 January 2027 (To be confirmed)

*** Students are advised not to purchase flight tickets until the dates are confirmed.*

Getting to HKUST

Options for getting to HKUST from the Hong Kong International Airport or Hung Hom Train Station can be found at

<https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound/arrival/getting-to-hkust>.

Orientation

A series of orientation activities and welcome events are organized especially for exchange students. Some of them are mandatory. Details can be found at

<https://studyabroad.hkust.edu.hk/inbound/arrival/activities>.

Exchange Buddy Program

HKUST Exchange Buddy Program pairs exchange student up with a HKUST student, who might be their first friend in Hong Kong. The buddies will provide useful information for exchange students prior to arrival and help them familiarize with the campus and Hong Kong, and meet new friends. Sign up information will be sent to exchange students around two months before the start of the exchange program.

Updated on 5 March 2026

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