

Hong Kong Polytechnic University Summer Exchange Report

My name is Theo Lock and I am second year law student. In the summer of 2018 I attended a Summer Exchange Programme at PolyU University in Hong Kong for 5 weeks.

I went to Hong Kong not knowing anyone else going, however once I arrived the University staff were quick to welcome me and show me to my room in student halls. The university offered different field trips taking us to China and Taiwan, so I spent the first week in Taiwan quickly getting to know other students from Hong Kong, mainland China, the US and the UK.

On the field trip we visited many of Taiwan's sites along with its Night Markets in the evening, we were led round by Kay Kay, our Taiwanese guide, who was slightly crazy but good fun and always made sure we were busy. Over 5 days I tried a whole host of different foods including Taro, Pigs feet and Squid while also going to workshops in Pineapple Cake baking and painting Paper Umbrellas.

Once the field trip was over we returned to Hong Kong to begin lectures. Here I met Monte, a local who I was sharing my room with, Monte spoke perfect English and we immediately got on well. Soon I met a great group of people, from different countries including South Korea, Croatia, the United States and Poland. As a group we explored Hong Kong and went to some of the major sights while the locals took us to places little known by Tourists. One night we camped on the beach and spent the night in the sea, another day we explored an abandoned Island last inhabited 40 years ago.

Each morning for four days a week I attended my Lecture: Global Economics, this was taught in English by a lecturer who'd formerly lived in London. The course was interesting and dynamically taught. It took on an international perspective, so it could relate students from different nationalities. I shared my class with locals from Hong Kong, students from mainland China and a few from the UK.

Living with such a large and diverse group of people in halls allowed me to learn more and experience different cultures, I found a group to go out in the evenings with and got to know people who I would explore Hong Kong with during the day. I also met someone who was willing to suffer the heat and would do some of the more challenging Hikes up to some of the beautiful peaks in Hong Kong.

During the final few days the University organised trips and Workshops including Cooking and Tai Chi, along with a Closing Party where there was entertainment and food. To close off the trip a large group of 25 of us hired a boat for the day and sailed around some of the outlying Islands. My trip to Hong Kong was absolutely incredible and I will remember the people I met and places I visited for a long time into the future, in fact I'm still in contact with many of them now.