

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS)

2026-2027 INCOMING EXCHANGE INFORMATION SHEET



Introduction

[HKUST](#) was opened as a world-class technological university dedicated to the advancement of learning and scholarship, with special emphasis on research and postgraduate education. SHSS includes a [Division of Humanities](#), [Division of Social Science](#), and [Center for Language Education](#). It has consistently gained top international rankings, a demonstration of the university's high academic quality and the global recognition it has achieved.

12th

Asia's Top 700+ Universities (No. 3 in Hong Kong, No. 9 in Greater China) in Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2024

19th

Worldwide in Times Higher Education (THE)'s Impact Rankings 2024 (No.1 in Hong Kong)

24th

Global Employability University Ranking and Survey 2025 (No.1 in Hong Kong, No.3 in Greater China) designed by the HR consultancy Emerging and published by Times Higher Education

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Humanities

Anthropology
Creative Arts
History
Linguistics
Literature
Music
Philosophy
Religion

Social Science

Demography
Economics
Political Science
Psychology
Quantitative History
Sociology

Student Testimonial

With over 800 exchange students passing through HKUST every year, you really can make friends with people from around the world. Find out more about SHSS exchange experience from our [past exchange student stories](#) !





Learning Expectation

Tentative Dates	Fall Semester, AY26-27
Preferred Arrival / Orientation Date	Late August 2026
Semester Start Date	1 September 2026
Semester End Date	19 December 2026
	Spring Semester, AY26-27
Preferred Arrival / Orientation Date	Late January 2027
Semester Start Date	1 February 2027
Semester End Date	28 May 2027



Language of Medium	English is the medium of instruction for HKUST.
World-Renowned Faculty	SHSS diverse faculty are recruited internationally and hold doctoral degrees from major research universities including Cambridge, Chicago, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, London School of Economics, MIT, Northwestern, NYU, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Yale, and so on.
Student Activities	Over 100 student societies affiliated to the Students' Union; Counseling & Wellness Center.
Grading System	4.3 grading scale , letter graded, with grade D as marginal pass.



Course Information

Undergraduate (UG) / Postgraduate (PG) course offering varies by semester. Past year course below is for reference purpose only:

- **Social Science Courses** ([Undergraduate](#) / [Postgraduate](#))
- **Humanities Courses** ([Undergraduate](#) / [Postgraduate](#))
- [Language Courses](#)

Students are strongly recommended to take Humanities & Social Sciences courses during the exchange period, enrollment on courses outside SHSS (e.g. business course) is not available.



Class Information

Class Format	Lectures, computer simulations, case discussions, individual and group projects.
Attendance	Class participation is mandatory and part of the student's final grade in most courses. Select your courses carefully and enroll only if you can commit.
Course Requirement	Exchange students can select SHSS courses as long as they meet the prerequisite requirements and are subject to space availability. Some courses may require professor approval for enrollment.
Examinations	Final exams are within the last 2 weeks of school. Students are responsible for staying in HK until the last day of finals. Requests for early leave of exams are not considered.



Living in Hong Kong



Language	Locals speak Cantonese while English and Mandarin are widely spoken.
Getting Around	Hong Kong's public transportation system is considered to be world-class in terms of efficiency. Getting around by Mass Transit Railway (MTR), Bus, Taxi is relatively quick.
Telecommunication	WiFi is widely available, including airport, MTR stations and restaurants. You can purchase a prepaid SIM card or Discover Hong Kong Tourist SIM card easily.
Banking	Most international banks have branches in Hong Kong. On HKUST campus, there are two banks: Hang Seng Bank and Bank of China.



Accommodation Info

Only undergraduate students might be accommodated in double occupancy student halls. It is NOT guaranteed, subject to availability. Room preference is not entertained.

Hall assignments are all decided by the housing office. Details to be stipulated in the application portal.

For postgraduate students, [off campus accommodation](#) is available near Clearwater Bay, such as Hang Hau just 15 minutes from campus on public transports or Sai Kung.

The price range is from HK\$7,000 - 10,000 per month for a single room. Rates, government rent and management fees exclusive.



Estimated Expenses	HK\$ per semester
Tuition Fee	Waived
On Campus Hall Fee (subject to availability & approval)	12000
Off Campus Rental Fee	24000
Student visa	900
HKUST compulsory travel insurance fee	1500
Food	16000
Books	1500
Transportation & personal expenses	8500

*Above cost for general reference only. Personal expenses may vary.



Admission

Nomination Deadlines

15 March (For Fall Semester);

15 September (For Spring Semester)

Application Deadlines

31 March (For Fall Semester);

30 September (For Spring Semester)

Application Web Link

[General Info](#)

[Application Portal Undergraduates](#) / [Postgraduates](#)

Student Visa

Please submit the nomination list to SHSS before making an online application.

For all incoming exchange students (non-Hong Kong citizens), you are required for a student visa to study in HK. Student visa documents must be submitted in a TIMELY manner or will be withdrawn.

Please expect that student visas may take up to 3 months to be approved by the Director of Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

For Mainland Chinese students holding PRC passport, you will need an additional 2-4 weeks to apply for an EEP from your hometown after you have received your approved visa label.

Undergraduate Exchange exchange@ust.hk

Postgraduate Exchange pgexchange@ust.hk

Exchange Agreement deniselaw@ust.hk



[SHSS Exchange Program](#)

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