

Overseas Travel Risk Assessment: Student Mobility_HONG KONG

The purpose of this Risk Assessment is to ensure that members of the University community are unlikely to be exposed to unacceptable risks which could affect their health, safety or security when travelling abroad on behalf of the University.

This form should be completed by the individual wishing to travel prior to making any firm arrangements to travel, and must be completed in discussion with the relevant line manager or supervisor, allowing sufficient time in advance of travelling for any issues to be addressed.

Before completing this form you should ensure that you (and your manager/supervisor) are familiar with the contents of the Health and Safety and Insurance webpages on travelling abroad.

When completed and approved this risk assessment and its associated itinerary should be carried by the traveller(s) and a copy retained by the Department. Queries on the completion of this assessment should be directed to HealthandSafetyAdmin@warwick.ac.uk

Department:	Student Mobility, Student Opportunity
Location(s) to be visited:	HONG KONG
Purpose of journey:	Student Mobility
Name and role of traveller(s):	List held with Student Mobility
Name of line manager or supervisor:	Jonathan French/Maria Fox (Head of Student Mobility)
Dates of proposed travel:	Academic Year 2025 – 2026
Information taken from:	https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/ (FCDO)
Living In Country Guidance	<p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-hong-kong</p> <p><u>Before you travel</u></p> <p>No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide and any specific travel advice that applies to you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women travellers • disabled travellers • LGBT+ travellers

- [solo and independent travel](#)
- [volunteering and adventure travel](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help British nationals make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

[Sign-up for FCDO travel advice email alerts](#) and follow FCDO travel advice on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Hazard/Consideration	Risk (High / Medium / Low)	Mitigating Actions (please add to or amend as appropriate)	Comments / Actions
Money			<p>The currency in HONG KONG is the Hong Kong dollar.</p> <p>Research and make yourself fully aware of the cost of living for HONG KONG. Some countries have a significantly higher cost of living than the UK, and this can seriously impact your placement. We have received feedback from previous students that being aware of this and having fully prepared for the increased cost is essential.</p>
Visa Applications			<p>You must ensure you have the correct visa. If you are studying, you will be provided with details directly from our partner university.</p> <p>If you intend to work, you must have the correct visa to enable you to work in the country otherwise you may be denied entry to the country. It is your responsibility to arrange the correct visa.</p>

This advice reflects the UK government's understanding of current rules for people travelling on a full ['British citizen' passport](#) from the UK, for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Hong Kong set and enforce entry rules. If you're not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact [Hong Kong's Economic and Trade Office in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

Your passport must be valid for at least one month after the date you plan to leave Hong Kong.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Visa requirements

Hong Kong is part of the People's Republic of China, but it is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) with its own immigration controls.

You can visit Hong Kong for up to 6 months without a visa. For information on entry requirements see the [Hong Kong SAR government website](#).

To stay longer (to work or study, for business travel or for other reasons) you must get a visa. For further information contact the nearest [Chinese mission with visa issuing facilities](#) or the [Hong Kong Immigration Department](#).

Vaccination requirements

To enter Hong Kong, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a [country listed as a transmission risk](#).

For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Hong Kong guide](#).

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of Hong Kong](#).

You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty. Children aged 3 and over must follow the same rules as adult travellers unless otherwise stated.

Bringing restricted items into Hong Kong

It's illegal for visitors arriving in Hong Kong International Airport to carry items including:

- stun guns
- objects with sharp points or edges (for example, samurai swords)
- martial arts equipment (for example, knuckledusters)

You could be fined or given a prison sentence. See further information from the [Hong Kong Police Force](#).

E-cigarettes

It's illegal to bring e-cigarettes or other smoking products, such as heated tobacco products and herbal cigarettes, into Hong Kong. If you are travelling through Hong Kong and do not pass immigration control, you're exempt.

Powdered baby formula

There are restrictions on the amount of powdered baby formula allowed to be taken out of Hong Kong. If you do not follow the rules, you could face a fine or imprisonment for up to 2 years.

See more information, including exemptions, from the [Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department](#).

Dual Chinese-British nationality

Hong Kong does not recognise dual nationality. If you have both British and Chinese nationality, the local authorities may treat you as a Chinese citizen, even if you enter Hong Kong on a full "British citizen" passport or hold a British National (Overseas) passport. If this is the case, the British Consulate-General may not be able to offer you consular help.

			<p>If you have formally renounced Chinese citizenship, carry evidence that you have done so.</p> <p>See guidance on nationality in China.</p> <p>Dual nationals</p> <p>When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid British passport or certificate of entitlement. See Dual citizenship.</p> <p>Other types of British nationals who are exempt from ETA must also carry a valid British passport when entering the UK.</p>
<p>Local knowledge, understanding of customs and conditions</p> <p>Cultural differences</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of travel to, or working in, the region before • Obtain guidance and information from the host organisation • Research via relevant web-sites • Consider dress, behaviours and sensitivities • Local laws, fees or levies. • Awareness of attitudes towards protected characteristics, e.g. disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment etc. • Dress in accordance with local laws/customs • Avoid behaviour that may fall foul of local customs/laws/cultures. • Report and support at Warwick: https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/spring/livingatuniversity/reportandsupport 	<p>Laws and cultural differences</p> <p>National security laws</p> <p>The 2020 National Security Law (NSL) includes offences, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secession • subversion • organisation and perpetration of terrorist activities • collusion with a foreign country <p>The 2024 Safeguarding National Security Ordinance includes offences, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treason • sedition • unlawful disclosure of state secrets • external interference endangering national security <p>The law can be interpreted broadly and some offences can lead to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Individuals and organisations can be prosecuted.</p>

The national security laws apply to activities taking place inside and outside Hong Kong, including in the UK. The national security laws apply to all individuals regardless of nationality or residency.

Hong Kong's National Security Police have issued arrest warrants and financial rewards against individuals living outside Hong Kong, including in the UK under the 2020 National Security Law.

You could be detained or removed to mainland China for some offences under the 2020 National Security Law.

Criticising the government

Some people have been prosecuted for publishing or supporting statements that are critical of the Hong Kong or Chinese authorities, including online. You could also be prosecuted for supporting individuals who are considered to be breaking the national security laws.

Immigration Ordinance

The Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance came in force in 2021. Under this law, people could be stopped from leaving the Hong Kong SAR. However, the Hong Kong SAR Government has said that these powers will only be used to stop certain asylum seekers from entering Hong Kong.

Public offences

You can be fined on the spot for littering and spitting.

Wildlife, animal products and souvenirs

The import and re-export of all elephant ivory and its products, including tourist souvenirs, is illegal. You could be fined or given a prison sentence.

Illegal drugs and prison sentences

Do not become involved with illegal drugs of any kind. This includes cannabidiol (CBD). Possession of drugs can lead to a prison sentence.

Illegal drugs, including cannabis and cannabidiol (CBD), carry severe penalties.

			<p>You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including cannabis, when transiting through the airport.</p> <p>Airports in Hong Kong have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.</p> <p>Using cameras in secure areas</p> <p>Do not take photographs of military installations.</p>
Equality and Diversity LGBTQ information		Unless provided here there is no statement given by the FCDO on Equality and Diversity and LGBTQ information, issues or concerns	Please see the link below which you may find useful: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-foreign-travel-advice
Social/Political Unrest or Terrorism:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the FCDO website for up-to-date advice. • If the FCDO advises against travel to destination(s) on safety/security grounds then seek approval from HoD/Line Manager • Consider not just the country in question but also any territories as identified in FCDO pages • Reschedule visit or modify itinerary if at all feasible. 	<p>Protests and demonstrations should be avoided at all times.</p> <p>Terrorism</p> <p>There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.</p> <p>UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on staying safe abroad and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad.</p> <p>Terrorism in Hong Kong</p> <p>Terrorist attacks in Hong Kong cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>Political situation</p> <p>Protests and civil unrest</p> <p>Between 2019 and 2020, large-scale political demonstrations took place in Hong Kong, including popular tourist areas. There were some violent clashes between police and protesters.</p>

			Protests are rare but could take place at any time. If you are near a demonstration, follow the advice of local authorities and move away to a safe place.
<p>Crime:</p> <p>Personal attack / kidnap: Dangers associated with travelling alone; arriving at night, etc.:</p> <p>Theft or loss of ID documents and other belongings: passport, driving license, bank cards, travel tickets, laptop</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of risk of theft or pickpockets • Awareness of local scams or hotspots • Cash and card security/awareness • Be aware of specific local risks • Precautionary measures should be taken to protect personal safety. • Inform hosts of itinerary. • Be aware of specific local risks. • Travel during daylight hours if possible. • Keep items secure. • Record details of numbers, issue dates, etc. and store separately both with you and at home. • Have emergency contact numbers • Report to police if theft suspected • Minimise amount of cash carried 	<p>Crime</p> <p>Protecting your belongings</p> <p>Violent crime is low but pickpocketing and other street crime can happen. Take extra care of passports, credit cards and money in crowded areas and when checking in and out of hotels.</p> <p>If you plan to hike in Hong Kong’s country parks, stay on the marked trails and do not carry valuables.</p> <p>Drink spiking and sexual assault</p> <p>Personal attacks, including sexual assaults, are rare but do happen, including by drink spiking. Do not leave drinks unattended and do not accept drinks from strangers. Women travelling alone, or with other females, could be at greater risk. See advice for women travelling abroad.</p> <p><u>Warwick Business Travel Insurance Details –</u></p> <p>Only emergency medical treatment is covered under this policy. Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention in. For emergency medical assistance or security assistance (if there is risk to your personal safety) please call the number on the following page: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/legalandcomplianceservices/insurance/keypolicies/traveloverseas</p> <p>Report and Support: https://reportandsupport.warwick.ac.uk/</p> <p>Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/</p>
Travel Preparation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date EHIC/GHIC if eligible (transit) • Valid vehicle insurance (you cannot use the Business Travel Insurance policy). 	<p>Before you travel check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your destination can provide the healthcare you may need • you have appropriate travel insurance for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

			<p>This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.</p> <p>Emergency medical number</p> <p>Call 999 and ask for an ambulance.</p> <p>Contact your insurance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.</p> <p>Vaccinations and health risks</p> <p>At least 8 weeks before your trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check the latest vaccine recommendations for Hong Kong • see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the NHS travel vaccinations page <p>See what health risks you'll face in Hong Kong.</p>
Exposure to infection: Known endemic illnesses in destination(s)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take medical advice and arrange vaccination/inoculation/prophylaxis as appropriate • Consider the following conditions in particular: Cholera, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Tick-borne Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Typhoid and Yellow Fever. 	<p>Health risks</p> <p>Mosquito-borne diseases like dengue fever occur all year round. You should take appropriate precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. UK health authorities have classified Hong Kong as having a risk of dengue virus transmission. For information and advice about the risks associated with dengue fever visit the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website.</p> <p>You may undergo temperature screening at borders. Depending on the results, further medical examinations may be needed.</p>
Pre-existing medical conditions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take medical advice. • Carry written details of medical condition, adequate supplies of prescribed medication, details of blood group, etc. • Consider translation of information into local language. • Share with colleagues where appropriate 	<p>If you're on prescription medication, make sure you bring enough with you or have access to a supply in HONG KONG. Certain medicines may not be available and you <u>may be prohibited</u> from bringing others into the country. For more information and advice, check with your GP and the Embassy of HONG KONG before travelling.</p> <p>If you have a health condition, or you are pregnant, you may need specialist healthcare abroad. Check whether your destination country can provide the healthcare you may need and ensure you have appropriate travel insurance for unexpected medical evacuation or local treatment.</p>

			<p>Medication</p> <p>The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.</p> <p>Read best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro.</p> <p>The NHS has information on whether you can take your medicine abroad.</p>
<p>Health and Local medical facilities</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital proximity and standards. • Access to doctors/dentists. • Payment methods for medical treatment. 	<p>Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. The cost of medical treatment in Hong Kong is high.</p> <p>If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.</p> <p>Healthcare in Hong Kong</p> <p>Medical treatment for uninsured foreign visitors to Hong Kong is expensive. You can only get prescribed medication through a doctor unless your UK prescription specifically says the medication will be required in Hong Kong.</p> <p>FCDO has a list of medical providers in Hong Kong where some staff will speak English.</p> <p>There is also guidance on healthcare if you're living in Hong Kong.</p> <p>Travel and mental health</p> <p>Read FCDO guidance on travel and mental health. There is also mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro.</p> <p>Emergency services in Hong Kong</p> <p>Telephone: 999 (ambulance, fire, police)</p>

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Hong Kong
- dealing with a [death in Hong Kong](#)
- being [arrested or imprisoned in Hong Kong](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting FCDO

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Medical treatment

As stated above, make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. The cost of medical treatment in **HONG KONG** can be high.

If you have a medical emergency contact the University Insurance company immediately:
<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/finance/insurance/keypolicies/traveloverseas/>

			<p>Please note that there is no emergency medical cover if you are a national in the country you need medical attention in.</p> <p>Note: The University Business Travel Insurance is not private health cover. The insurance is for emergency health treatment only. You may also wish to take out private health insurance for the duration of your stay.</p> <p>Wellbeing Services: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/</p>
Accommodation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-book accommodation • Stay in recognised accommodation • Familiarise yourself with emergency exits • Security staff and arrangements • Secure storage/safes 	<p>Student mobility students hosted at a partner University will be supported with finding accommodation by the partner.</p> <p>Language Assistants are supported by the School(s) that they are allocated to by the British Council</p> <p>Work placements students are required to find their own accommodation with local support.</p> <p>Suitable accommodation can be difficult to identify and secure, it is recommended that you don't leave it too late to find this. We have had students whose placements have been impacted by being unable to secure suitable accommodation.</p> <p>Please be aware that some partner Universities have compulsory 'meal plans' these can prove to be expensive if you have special dietary requirements.</p>
Transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only registered taxis • Arrange airport collection where possible • Check safety and road worthiness of any hire vehicle • Avoid driving at night • If possible, share long distance driving • Ensure all internal transfers are booked in advance of travel (where possible). 	<p>Transport risks</p> <p>Road travel</p> <p>If you are visiting, you can drive in Hong Kong with a valid UK driving licence for up to 12 months.</p> <p>If you are living in Hong Kong, see the Hong Kong SAR Transport Department for information on applying for a full or temporary driving licence.</p> <p>Hire car companies often have stricter requirements for their customers, such as a year of driving experience, a higher minimum age and holding an international driving permit. Check requirements with the car hire company before you travel.</p>
Communications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider access to landlines or alternative handsets if mobile phone is lost or stolen. • Back-up chargers or batteries for phones or electronic devices 	<p>Loss of mobile phones or laptops are not covered on the University Insurance policy</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to network or wi-fi 	
Utilities/Cyber Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility of equipment • Voltages and safety equipment • Power cuts or interruptions 	Check whether plug adapters will be required
Insect and animal bites		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider likely insect/animal issues in particular area • Avoid by prevention – repellents, clothing, etc. • Consider use of nets in accommodation • Carry appropriate treatment 	Mosquito-borne diseases like dengue fever occur all year round. You should take appropriate precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. UK health authorities have classified Hong Kong as having a risk of dengue virus transmission. For information and advice about the risks associated with dengue fever visit the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website.
Contaminated water/food		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid food or water which could be contaminated. • Carry water sterilising tablets. 	Check whether bottled water is recommended
Minor injuries and ailments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry basic First Aid kit. 	
Sunburn		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid by prevention – hat, sunglasses, and sunblock. • Carry appropriate treatment. 	
Leisure activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you are adequately insured (the University insurance does <u>not</u> provide cover for non-business related activity) • Skiing, white water, bungee jumping, diving. Etc. 	The Warwick Business Travel Insurance will not provide cover for non-business (study) related activity. Ensure you take out personal insurance. Also having the correct license if you are hiring a vehicle is essential.
Natural disasters		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the risk of typhoons, earthquake, tsunami, avalanche, etc 	<p>Extreme weather and natural disasters</p> <p>Find out what you can do to prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards.</p> <p>Typhoons</p> <p>Typhoon season runs from April to October in Hong Kong and may cause flooding and landslides. Follow any local warnings issued in advance. Public offices and public transport will shut down when there is a 'Typhoon 8' storm signal.</p> <p>Monitor local news and check the World Meteorological Organization and Hong Kong Observatory.</p>

Research or work activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness of safe systems of work• Awareness of local safety measures• Remoteness of work sites	Will be covered by the Host Institution
Completed by Department:	Student Mobility, STUDENT OPPORTUNITY	
Date:	Friday, 12 December 2025	
	<u>Frequently Asked Questions (warwick.ac.uk)</u>	
