The Freeman Fou…

June 2

The Freeman Foundation I give all the thanks!

Aloha, My name is Claudius Jeffries. This blog is to present my experience as a student from America in China at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. It is my pleasure to be able to share this experience with you and I would like to thank you for taking the time to visit my blog site. Always feel free to make comments, explore, and discuss any topics on my pages or about my posts.

Thank you to the Freeman Foundation for their generous donations to study abroad programs. It is very rewarding to be selected as a Freeman Scholar. I would like to give great thanks to the Freeman Foundation for their generosity and support of my studies to The Chinese University of Hong Kong. My idea to study abroad need a little push and the Freeman Foundation provided this push. I am grateful for the Freeman Foundation for removing financial burden from my study abroad opportunity by providing me with this scholarship. Now I can focus on my studies and cultural experiences. Thank you Freeman Foundation again.

I will attempt to dedicate most posts to my scholastic achievements at The Chinese University of Hong Kong but I know I will get carried away at times with the photo’s (photo bombing sessions). With this blog I will also attempt to guide you though a tour of what China has to offer as a culture and a country.

I give a warm thanks to Rikki Mitsunaga, my counselor at the Shidler College of Business and Darrell Kicker & Sara Otis of the Mānoa International Exchange Office for their endless availability and support. If you see my posts and think studying abroad is something you can do I highly recommend scheduling a meeting with Darrell Kicker or Sara Otis asap. These two individuals guided me in the right direction by answering the “what if” questions and the “how to” concerns.

I hope you enjoy!

---

All Us Freeman Scholars

June 4

All us Freeman Scholars

Check out 2014/2015 Freeman Scholars! I am on the lower left hand corner!
The First Steps
June 6

Strengthening bonds of friendships between the US and countries of the Far East are key as a Freeman Scholar. There are a few steps in fulfilling this vision of the Freeman Foundation. But the first step is getting to the Far East. So it’s time to buy a plane ticket. Which company should I use to fly with? Some would consider Hawaiian Airlines first, then China Airlines second. Well that’s my next dilemma. Put your suggestions on which airline I should use in the comment box below. Let me know what you would do in this situation.

The Second Step
June 20
Choosing the right courses!

The Third Step
June 27
Acceptance never felt so good!!

So it’s official!! I have been accepted formally to The Chinese University of Hong Kong! I got the acceptance letter on Sunday! Can you say “excited”? I’m shaking.

Not only did I receive an expectancy letter but I also brought my ticket. I choose Air China. Never flew with them before…… Well I have never been to Asia before so that would explain that!

As last weeks post stated I need to choose courses, which I have a lot to choose from, and I need to find a place to stay until my room opens up on campus….. If anyone has any suggestions on lodging let me know.

---

Fourth Step
July 26

It’s not easy to sign up for courses on The Chinese University of Hong Kong site. All new layout but I will learn it soon. Have a few course picked out and submitted, so no worries there. I will have more choices once I get there!

But now the fourth step is to actually buying my hotel room for the weekend before orientation and move in which I plan to do this weekend. I’m sure this will be a “grand ole” experience. Currently I’m doing the 2nd summer session so the summer is still moving rapidly.

Don’t forget to like my posts and leave a comment or question when you can….. Be back soon!
Fifth Step
August 1

My accommodations for my first weekend in Hong Kong, ever, has been scheduled!!! I will have a few days of learning the campus, surrounding locale, and the economy. Everything is coming so quickly! Sharing my emotions is a good way to get the fear out!!!

After the weekend I will be moving into on campus lounging by the following week of my arrival. Pics coming soon!!

With classes in work, living accommodations taking care of, and flights booked I think I’m ready for this trip.

---

!!!!Reporting Update!!!!!
August 8

With all purchases made for arrival Now I must begin my financial reports. While maximizing my granted funds are a priority, my focus of this opportunity is in using my formal education to give me a advantage in seeing the country of China!

All expenses with be accounted for. My goal is to make those expenses reports a story in its self. As a Freeman scholar I think it’s not only an end goal to be able to study in another environment but to also tell a story when spending in and improving the host countries economy.

Stay turned. I will work on this approach. I’m hard at work on it.

---
The Sixth Step : Getting on the plane

So everything is packed!!! My apartment here on the island, stored away. Summer session over. Hong Kong is next on the list.

Speaking of lists, I will post updates for all the different costs that it takes to get to the university soon.

But now it’s about making the flight, getting to my Destiny. Destination is CUHK!!!

Stay reading the blogs and of course leave a comment if you wish to have anything answered. I will try to respond in a timely manner.

---

Step Seven : Getting Into Hong Kong!!

August 22

It looks like the trip to Beijing China is a much traveled trip by the Chinese people. Of course the plane was full and lively! With a short lay over in Beijing, I made my way to Hong Kong. I was told my luggage would make it the whole way to Hong Kong after being told in Hawai’i I would have to check it in again in Beijing, China. That gave for a bit of nervousness.

Traveling has always been a joy of mine. So now I’m doing it in the pursuit of education. Guess it’s finally sinking in that I’m studying in another country for the first time. All thanks in part of course by the Freeman Scholarship.

This week will be one I will never forget. I must check in to my new campus, get my ID card, and move in to my permanent living space. The campus representatives have it all outlined for me. No worries there. Dress to impress.
Not only must I grow accustomed to my campus and learning environment, I must also begin to learn my new surrounding area, my new home country. Looking forward to it.

---

**No More Steps, I Have Arrived**

**September 5**

I am here at my campus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. I have been through the first week of courses and I am registered for all the courses I needed! So all is good with my course study.

I have also checked in to my permanent residence on campus. It’s not so bad. But it is really hot here so I had to get a fan. Living in the same room with another person makes the room really hot.

I have also traveled lightly around Hong Kong. Even took a short trip to Macau. Hong Kong is a very high density urban area. This area is surrounded by water. It’s great to take ferry’s and jet boats to other parts of this surrounding areas.

Next post will be about my course study and the people I meet along the way.

---

**My Studies and the People I’ve Met Along The Way**

**September 19**

The course lectures I have go only once a week for three hours…. Talk about a need for a caffeine fix before every lecture. Of course the professor attempts to give us a short break every hour yet this still doesn’t make up for the heat exhaustion that happens as you walk to class! All course work is taught in English. (I know I’m not as good as most people who are here taking courses in Cantonese). I am grateful for this though so that I do not get lost in translation.
The people that I have meet through the international program have been wonderful in assisting with finding places to enjoy free time. As we have been to numerous shopping centers in Sha Tin, Fo Tan, and Macau together. I have meet only a few locals so far but I’m not letting that get in my way of enjoying the sites. I will meet much more as my time here becomes longer.

I have also moved into my suite as discussed earlier in my posts. It’s an interesting bunch of students they have thrown together here. Hopefully I can meet them all. (Suite mate selfie coming soon!)

Guess that’s enough for now. I will continue to study hard, travel often, and mingle much.

---

**As You May Have Heard…**

**October 10**

With the recent events unfolding in Hong Kong surrounding China’s choice in the political arena I have not been able to spend as much time in the local zone as planned. Most international students ventured out to other countries during this period of history. I choose to stay and observe.

I attended every class noting the “walk out”. This is where students refused to attend classes until their voices were heard by the Chinese government. So to say there were very few chances to socialize with local students during the last two weeks is an understatement.

Since I choose to stay and observed I was able to get quite a bit of studying and reading done. Guess you can say that is a positive. Even though our classes are drastically behind in lectures everyone seems to be in good spirits with mid-terms approaching. I guess it still goes to show you the Chinese take responsibility with a helmet. (If you know what I mean)

Since I know a few locals who are protesting at the moment I will leave this post with this to say, in the words of a professor on campus, “There will be a time in your life where you will have to choose between what is easy and what is right.”

No names were mentioned to protect anonymity

---

**Everywhere You Go There Is Someone In China; Hong Kong**

**October 24**

Deeply ingrained in the Chinese mindset were and still are unquestioning respect for authority and a proclivity to stifle differences in the name of “harmony”
As my time in Hong Kong closes…

November 7

I am now on just about a month and a half left here in Hong Kong. The time travels quickly when in a big city, the sun sets quicker than it rises. Places you wish you had gone to become distant plans and people you have meet along the way become seasoned friends.

I have also noticed the teaching style here is far less structured yet with higher expectations, knowledge of subject, and a focus on grade performance. We have been given half knowledge of the current subjects but tasked with full knowledge assignments as in projects, term papers, and of course a final. I’m gearing myself up for another professional ending. It’s like the real world here on campus.

I am going to continue to enjoy the view from the mountains, the beautiful campus layout, and the city life while I can. Even though I spend many hours in study I will also see much more of the surrounding countries.

---

Short but SWEET! Hong Kong, China warm hello heartbreaking good byes!

November 27

My time here in the country is drawing to a close. Finals are here, end of the year parties are on my schedule, and flights have been booked for return. Making sure I get the best out of my experience at every chance I get.
One seems to always have some sort of traveling regret when traveling away from another country, but I’ve been through so many ups and downs in these short four months I’ve been here, that my regrets are short lived.

The city life here has definitely shown some potential for my permanent stay maybe even a job here in the near future. The culture is quite exceptant of culture. But make sure if you travel here you know that Hong Kong people are about preserving their own culture as well.

So as I continue to walk around here at CUHK I will keep in mind that my knowledge is important but my experience is unforgettable. Friends I’ve met will not be lost.

---

**Reflections!**

**December 15**

No words necessary….. Connected. Hong Kong! Freeman Foundation I thank you with all my heart. I attempting things I wouldn’t have originally attempted. I made friends with people I wouldn’t have never met. I learned culture that would have been far from my door step.

I thank the Freeman Foundation for everything! Reflections!

---

**Four Months Flew By!!!**

**January 9**

My time spent here on the blog has been very rewarding. I have been able to put my thoughts down while I spent a wonderful time in Hong Kong. Being able to share these thoughts here over the course of my time spent in Hong
Kong was the greatest reward. Now it is my time to reward the readers. Here are a few tips for your travels to Hong Kong and many other places in Asia.

1) Always be prepared to catch a cab. Meaning always carry enough money to take a cab home. The trains stop early in the evening and if you have bags say you were shopping you do not want to be caught out pass the train stops without fare.

2) Be prepared for crowds. Personal space is smaller in Asia. Lots of people enjoy gathering. So just know that you will never be alone. Even in the early mornings

3) In everything that you do make sure that you show dedication. Never give in to easily on travel plans or course curriculum. It can make a huge difference in how you are viewed socially.

4) Travel lightly. To reach a lot of the wonderful sites you must walk, and walk far. So having only the things you need will make the travel time much more enjoyable. There is food everywhere so you need not bring any with you even though I do recommend you travel with a full water bottle if you find yourself in unfamiliar area.