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TRACE IN' ADVENTURE

About Me



Name: Tracy Wong (黃子敏)
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii
Nationality: Chinese-American
Languages: Cantonese, English
Class Standing: Senior (4th year in college)
Major: Management Information Systems (MIS)
Home Institution: University of Hawaii at Manoa (夏威夷大學)
Interests: Manga/anime, video gaming, learning new technology, running
Over Seas Institution: City University of Hong Kong (香港城市大學) Spring 2015
Planning to take:
Business Intelligence & Analytics
Globalization & Business
Data Management
Information Management and It's Social Impact
Mobile Apps

As you can see from the list of classes I'm planning to take, most of them are IT related which relates back to my major. As a MIS major, I felt that there's a limited amount of classes I can take at my home institution and I saw studying abroad as an excellent opportunity to expand my academic knowledge and enhance my professional portfolio.

I was told that not that many MIS majors take the opportunity to study abroad, which made me want to break the trend. I'm not sure why people in my major don't study abroad, but I really encourage them to do so just because it's a great experience.

1NOV2014

Thank you Mr. Freeman

I want to thank Mr. Freeman for the Freeman Scholarship to make studying abroad possible for me. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study abroad in various countries around the world. My dream of studying abroad would have not been possible without the generous support of the Freeman family. As a Freeman Scholar I will do the best of my ability to represent the foundation, University of Hawaii, and an ambassador of Hawaii.

I want to extend another thank you to Rikki Mitsunaga, the academic advisor for international exchange at Shidler College of Business, Darrel Kicker and Sara Otis, the International Exchange Coordinator and International Exchange Specialist at the Manoa International Exchange Program for all of your time, support, and efforts for helping me make this possible. They answered all my questions I had and helped reduce the stress I had with the process of studying abroad.

I look forward to plenty of new experiences for the next semester. There will definitely be a lot exploring for me in this busy city!

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1NOV2014

Accepted!!!

My acceptance letter finally came in! I will be officially going to City University of Hong Kong next year. I never thought the day that I would actually get accepted and study abroad.

I want to thank all my friends for supporting me, especially Brandon, Amber (and Chris)! If I didn't join IBO, I would not have gone through with this and would have regret not studying abroad.

Classes

If you think that studying abroad is going to hold you back from graduating on time, then think again. You'll be able to earn credits towards your degree when you go on your trip. You could get all your study abroad credits transferred back, but there's a catch. There is usually a list of classes that are pre-approved and will transfer back as credits for certain classes. As for the classes that were not approved, they will be counted as elective credits.

The most important thing to do right now is to do your research on what classes the university you choose offers in the semester you go to study. Classes offered will depend on the semester you go. Also, save **ALL your syllabi!!!!** When petitioning for classes between institutions and/or trying to place into a certain class having your past syllabus on hand will help you and the creditor better assess what level you stand at in that particular subject. Also, if you are going to an institution through MIX then only your credits will transfer, not your grades. But if you are going through the Study Abroad Program, then all your credits will transfer back towards your degree along with the gpa you got from that semester abroad.

Do your research by looking at the classes your school has to offer and checking the syllabi if there is any pre-req classes you have to take.

Here are the links for City U's classes which are taught in English.

Classes by semester - https://www.cb.cityu.edu.hk/exchange/international_student/information#info04

Gateway Education Courses - http://www.cityu.edu.hk/ug/201415/catalogue/catalogue_UC.htm?page=B/B_ge_course_index.htm

Below is a list of classes that I choose to take in the spring.

Semester B 2014/15

Preference	Course
1	IS3331 - Data Management
2	IS4834 - Business Intelligence and Analytics
3	GE2202 - Globalization and Business
4	GE1201 - Information Management and Its Social Impact
5	IS4246 - Digital Marketing and Customer Relationship Management
6	IS4032 - Mobile Apps
7	IS2502 - Social Media and Social Networks
8	GE2313 - Global IT Case Studies
9	GE1212 - Building Personal and Firm Images in the Digital Society
10	GE2232 - Knowing Ourselves Better in Work and Life

24NOV2014

Course Approval Outcome

As you choose your classes, make sure you keep a copy of the syllabi for future references. I actually applied and petitioned for lots of IT based classes and was surprised to find out that they are equivalent to some of the UHM ITM classes. My expectations was that I wouldn't get any credit for the classes I would take in CityU, but it's nice to know that I will be getting credit for these courses towards my major. Here is the link to the [Shidler undergraduate petition form](#).

Some of the courses was not approved by CityU because I have already taken a course that is equivalent to it at Shidler or I did not meet the requirements to take the course.

Here is the list of courses that I applied for CityU along with other information.

Course Code	Course Name	UHM Shidler Equivalent Course	CityU Course Approval Outcome
CB2012	Mobile Applications for Business	Pending	Approved
GE1201	Information Management and Its Social Impact	N/A	Approved
GE1212	Building Personal and Firm Images in the Digital Society	ITM 385	Approved
GE2202	Globalization and Business	IB Credit	Approved
GE2232	Knowing Ourselves Better in Work and Life	Not Approved for any class equivalent	Approved
GE2313	Global IT Case Studies	Not Approved for any class equivalent	Approved
IS2502	Social Media and Social Networks	ITM 387D	Approved
IS3331	Data Management	ITM 354	Not Approved
IS4032	Mobile Apps	ITM 387E	Not Approved
IS4246	Digital Marketing and Customer Relationship Management	ITM 387H	Approved

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IS4834	Business Intelligence and Analytics	ITM 357K	Approved
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Getting your Visa

You don't have to worry about this as much if you are going to City University because the exchange officer will help you apply for it. All you have to do is to fill out the paperwork and provide some documentation.

There are six things you need in order to get your VISA.

1. Transcript
2. Bank Statement
3. Waiver (if you have your parents supporting you financially)
4. Copy of Passport
5. Passport Photo
6. VISA Application

You can get your passport photo taken at Campus Center for \$5. And you can buy a transcript for \$5 from the cashiers' office in QLC. As for the application fee, it costed me around \$50.

Tip: You should get this done and out of the way ASAP because processing your VISA can take a few weeks.

Insurance

Money is always an issue when studying abroad, we tend to shoot for the minimal because we want to spend our money on other things such as clothes, food, etc. So here comes the question of "What's the best deal I can get for my money without sacrificing my health?"

MIX requires students to have insurance to cover them when they study abroad along with the exchange schools and some scholarships. So it's important for students to do their research. If travel insurance is not obtained by a specific deadline, then the student will probably be forced to sign up for the exchange schools insurance policy or possibly lose their acceptance.

I decided to go with my exchange school's insurance policy and the International Student Identification Card.

Exchange Insurance

I opted for this option because at the time I did not have one when the Insurance Notification Form was due.

International Student Identification Card

I actually did not know about this card till I was going through Yee's Blog. Most information below is from her blog, it's a great resource if you're planning to study abroad.

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

This is a good alternative choice for insurance, MIX accepts this as your insurance coverage and it covers all the basic needs when you go abroad.

Basic Travel Insurance while traveling abroad:

Emergency Medical Transportation

Baggage & Travel Delay

Travel Documentation & Passport Replacement

Sickness & Hospital Benefits

Accidental Death, Dismemberment & repatriation of Remains

Discounts across the globe:

Visit mysic.com for a full listing of domestic and international discounts

Phone Card with cheap international rates:

International rates as low as 3 cents a minute

Extra \$10 Bonus call time

Free voicemail

Visit the link below or visit the Study Abroad Center for more information and a pamphlet.

International Student Identification Card

ISIC only costs **\$25** and an additional **\$8** if you do not have your own passport size photo. You can get your picture taken at Campus Center for **\$5** for a cheaper alternative.

This card can be obtained at:

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Study Abroad Center

Moore Hall 115

1890 East-West Road

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Below is the Application Instructions to getting a ISIC.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print in CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS.
2. Print in INK.
3. Keep your printing INSIDE THE BOXES.
4. Complete the questionnaire on the reverse side.

CARD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Applications will not be considered complete if any of the four following items is not included.

1. PROOF OF STUDENT OR TEACHER STATUS

STUDENT (ONE of the following items only):

- Photocopy of school ID (must be validated for current academic year)
- Letter on school stationery from registrar or dean (with school seal) stating that you are enrolled during the current academic year at an accredited institution and working toward a diploma or degree
- Photocopy of transcript or report card for a term of the current academic year

NOTE: An acceptance letter IS NOT sufficient proof.

TEACHER (ONE of the following items):

- Photocopy of Faculty ID (must be validated for current academic year)
- Letter on school stationery from department chair, school principal or other qualified school official stating that you are a faculty member or faculty equivalent during the current academic year

2. ONE ID-SIZE PHOTO

Photo must conform to specific measurements. See excerpt at right:

1-1 1/16 in.
=
1.5116 in.
=
approximately
1 1/2 inches

In-person application: Photo can be taken at the *UHM* Study Abroad Center / phone: 832-0000 / phone: 832-0000

3. PAYMENT OF \$22.00

Cash or check payable to ISIC. No credit cards accepted.

4. OFFICIAL PROOF OF BIRTHDATE

Photocopy of one of the following governmental documents:
Driver's License, State ID or Data Page of Passport

In addition to insurance privileges, ISIC cardholders traveling internationally receive insurance during the card's validity. Insurance coverage includes Sickness, Hospital Benefits, Accidental Medical Expense, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Emergency Evacuation, and Repatriation of Remains. Some age restrictions may apply on certain student and youth discounts. See handbook for complete details.

Return application with documents, photo and payment to: University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Study Abroad Center
Moore Hall 115
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

phone: 832-0000, 956-8058
fax: 832-0000, 956-8058
sharon@uhm.edu

Upon receipt of COMPLETE APPLICATION, card will be made available:

IN-PERSON PICK-UP within 3 business days	DELIVERY BY MAIL within 2 weeks	Additional service available: Add \$2.00 to processing fee.
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Manoa International Exchange Insurance

MIX has a bunch of options for you to choose from, but it's up to you to do your research!

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

All this info can be found at the MIX Exchange website under the Outbound FAQs tab.

Here are some of the listed insurance websites that covers for study abroad.

- [AIP – Associated Insurance Plans for College Students](http://www.aipinternational.com/)
<http://www.aipinternational.com/>
- [BETA – Basic Emergency Travel Assistance Plan](http://www.betins.com/Products/Evacuation/Evacuation.aspx)(Supplemental policy only)
<http://www.betins.com/Products/Evacuation/Evacuation.aspx>
- [Frontier MEDEX](https://www.uhcsafetrip.com/)
<https://www.uhcsafetrip.com/>
- [HTH Worldwide – Health Insurance for U.S. Students Abroad](https://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/students_plans.cfm)
https://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/students_plans.cfm
- [International SOS](https://www.internationalsos.com/)
<https://www.internationalsos.com/>
- [Patriot Travel Medical Insurance](http://www.betins.com/Products/Travel/Individual.aspx)
<http://www.betins.com/Products/Travel/Individual.aspx>

Money

Money is always an issue, especially if you are a college student. When studying abroad, you worry more than just money, which is why I made a mini guide on the following topics.

Currency Exchange

Exchanging money between USD and HKD is different from any other country because Hong Kong's economy is usually stable and the currency is fixed to the US's, meaning if the USD goes up so will the HKD and vice versa.

Also don't forget to bring some of the country's currency you are going to for transportation because the exchange rate at airports are usually low and a rip off.

Exchange Tips:

- Exchange rates at your abroad country are probably better because they have a large amount of the currency you need verses your home country who may not have enough of the currency you want causing them to purchase more of it and possibly passing some fees onto you.
- Banks will most likely offer you the best exchange rate verses the airport. Airport exchange services understand that you need local currency quick so their prices are probably marked a little higher than normal.
- Certain Hong Kong bank branches will not do a currency exchange for you unless you have a bank account with them. Others will do the exchange for you but charge a fee for every transaction you make.

Grants/Scholarships/Loans

Financial Aid: Apply for financial aid with the school. All you need to complete is your taxes and FAFSA (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>). The school will handle the rest by letting you know what separate documents you need to turn in and what scholarships/loans they are able to provide you. *Priority deadline: Around beginning March.*

Mansfield Freeman Asia Study Abroad Program (Shidler Specific): This scholarship is specifically designed for Shidler students studying abroad with a partner school in Asia. There are 20 \$5,000 scholarships to be distributed in one academic year. The Freeman Scholarship is different from other scholarships as there are guidelines we must

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

uphold during and after our trip. As Shidler students we pay \$500 extra on top of our UH Manoa tuition and always wonder what additional things have we gotten out of that (other than free printing). This is one of them; the opportunity to earn \$5,000 for a study abroad trip!

For more information regarding the Freeman-ASIA scholarship visit the links below:

[Shidler College of Business Freeman Scholarship](#)

[Freeman Scholarship Brochure](#)

Freeman Awards for Study in Asia (National Scholarship): Study in East or Southeast Asia. The goal is to increase the number of Americans with first-hand exposure to and understanding of Asia and its peoples and cultures. *\$3,000-\$7,000 awards.* There is more competition for this one as it is nation wide, so if you're a Shidler student go for the other one.

[Freeman-ASIA](#)

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program: Encourages students to choose non-traditional study abroad destinations, especially those outside of Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. *Up to \$5,000-\$8,000 awards.* [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#)

William R. Johnson, Jr. Scholarship (Shidler Specific): This scholarship is specifically designed for Shidler students studying abroad with a partner school in Europe. There are *10 \$5,000 scholarships* to be distributed in one academic year. The Johnson Scholarship follows the same guidelines as the Freeman Scholarship which we must uphold during and after our trip. [Johnson Scholarship](#)

More Information and Resources

- [Financial Aid and Career Planning](#)
- [Funding Resources for Outgoing Exchange](#)
- [Premier Scholarship Database](#)
- [Study Abroad, Volunteer, Intern, Teach and Jobs Abroad](#)
- [Institute of International Education](#)

Things to Buy/Bring

Here's my packing list/suggestions on what to pack/buy before you go to Hong Kong and things to buy in Hong Kong. This list is mainly based around [this packing list](#). Any changes I made to the packing list I will mark with an asterisk (*).

This is going to be hard for me because I will be in Japan before going to Hong Kong. So I will probably be buying most of the winter clothes and last minute things I need in Japan before flying to Hong Kong.

Things to Pack

Clothes/Accessories

- Jeans (2-3)
- Nice Pants (1)
- Belt (1-2)

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- Undershirts/Tanktops
- Thermal Underwear (just in case)
- Long Sleeve Shirts
- Short Sleeve Shirts
- Hoodie/Sweaters (2)
- Coat
- 2 Pairs of Pajamas
- Socks/underwear for two weeks (plus pair or two of wool socks)
- 1 Set Workout Clothes
- Nice Outfits (for formal occasions)
- Scarves, Mittens/Gloves, Hat, Scarf
- Slippers
- Running/Walking Shoes
- Flats
- Boots
- Purse *
- Backpack *
- Small bag (for going out) *

Electronics *

- Laptop
- Laptop Charger
- Adapter (for charger)
- Unlocked Cell Phone
- Cell Phone Charger
- Flash Drive/External
- Camera (memory cards, chargers, and adapters)
- Headphones/Earbuds

Documentation* (Digital Copies too!)

- Plane Ticket
- Passport
- Student ID

Medical*

- Vitamins
- Medicine

Toiletries

- TSA Compliant Toiletry Kit/1-quart zip-top Ziploc bags (the following are liquids that should be packed in this 1-quart so I don't need to worry about buying these immediately upon arrival)
 - Shampoo/Conditioner*
 - Toothpaste*
 - Soap*
 - Hand Sanitizer*



A couple blocks away from Baratie is Aqua City where much shopping was done for my friends. My friends probably bought out one store with all the things they bought. You could also see the Rainbow Bridge from one of the resting places in the shopping mall.



2JAN2015

Gundam Front

This place gets its own post cause I took so much pictures of this place. Admission fee to go to Gundam Front is 1,200 yen and there's 2 films (10 minute and 15 minute short films) with Gundam Unicorn, and the Gundam Gallery. I actually only know about Gundam Unicorn and Wing. Not a total huge fan of Gundam but I have to give credit to the people who build the models and all the details to it. It's really beautiful artwork in my opinion. This is definitely a place to go if you're a gundam/mecha fan.

Beware, there are many pictures of the giant gundam in this slideshow.



Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

2JAN2015

Harajuku – Shinjuku

TIP: My friends actually made a itinerary for this Japan trip so we would have something to do and won't be lost. So I highly recommend doing that so waste time standing around figuring what to do and utilize the most of the time you have in that country.

So my friends and I solely went to Shinjuku at Hoshino's Coffee to eat delicious souffles. The interior was really nice and best of all, it's warm. Japan's temperature is around the late 50's F.



After eating delicious souffles, we went to Harajuku. The street I walked really looked like the streets in Hong Kong and Korea. The only difference was that there was crepe carts/places all over the street. There was so many people there that it's easy to get lost, trust me, I had one friend that consistently got lost throughout the whole trip.



2JAN2015

Fukuro no Mise – Tsukishima

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

Going to Fukuro no Mise (owl cafe) was part of the itinerary and my friends and I got lucky on getting reservations for it. We actually got the last slots for the day and it costed 2,000 yen. Totally worth it in my opinion. Our reservations weren't until 5pm so we wandered around Tsukishima (literally translated to Moon Island). We actually found a really good melon pan (bread) place that I recommend going to. On the same street as the melon pan place, there is also a delicious yakitori store.



We were so relieved when it was close to our time for the owl cafe. It was so cold outside that we started busting out the hand warmer packs. Basically we had an hour to take pictures with owls. What was included in the 2,000 yen was a free drink, picture taking with owls, and wining a small gift. Beware, there's a lot of pictures for this one.

2JAN2015

Ghibli Museum

Merry Christmas!!

It's a late Christmas post but nonetheless I at least mentioned it. So to celebrate Christmas, my friends and I went to the Ghibli Museum. Christmas isn't really a huge thing in Japan like how it is in America, it's more or so favored towards couples. So then you see a lot of couples during Christmas, and the Japanese likes to celebrate it with Christmas cake and KFC chicken. I saw a line at KFC for this so I'm not lying.

My friends and I spent a good 3-4 hours at Ghibli. If you plan on going, reserve your ticket ahead of time (3 months to be exact) and it cost about 1200 yen for your ticket. Your ticket itself is pretty cool cause it's a film like thing and you get to watch a film that isn't shown anywhere else. The original art is all over the place at this museum, along with a replication of Miyazaki's studio. Basically, this place is worth your time and money. Also bring money for the gift shop.

Almost forgot to mention, you can't take pictures inside the museum but you can outside.

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

6JAN2015

Kyoto + Shinkansen

The shinkansen (bullet train) ride to Kyoto was really nice. It was a really smooth ride, no bumps or anything along the way. Japan finished the prototype of the magnetic train and I can't wait till that goes out to the public. Anyways, its normal to buy food to eat in the bullet train especially when it's a long ride. I was thinking about getting a new years bento but ended up getting a bunch of small things to eat. Along the train ride, I saw Mt. Fuji which was really nice.



Kyoto was AMAZING!!! But really cold. It was much more colder than Tokyo, I ended up buying a new jacket just for it too! I mostly went to temples in Kyoto along with Nishiki market. Kyomizu Dera and Fukushima Inari were the two temples we went to. The latter temple is my favorite because it's really a beautiful temple along with the 1000 gates it has. The guardian for that temple is the fox which is why so many stands there sell fox related merchandise. Kyomizu Dera is a beautiful temple as well, it was a short walk away from the place where I had my kimono fitting at.

And yes, my friend and I bought a fox mask for funsies. We had a mini photo-shoot.

Kyomizu Dera



Fukushima Inari

So I also wore a kimono just to experience it and to be cultural. I have to say that its a Japanese version of a corset. The person who tied it for me tied it a bit too tight that I had a really hard time breathing. Also its not that many layers so my feet especially froze as I went out to Kyomizu Dera temple. It was worth the experience tho!

7JAN2015

Tokyo Part 2

For the last part of my Japan trip, I went back to Tokyo and stayed in Shibuya. I have to say that was the number one place for foreigners to go to. It's most likely because of New Years and Shibuya 109. The Shibuya 109 department store is one of the main icons for Shibuya besides the Hachiko statue by the train station. It was really crazy in there

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

before New Years and was worse after. After New Years, all the stores in Shibuya 109 would have crazy good sales ranging from 20%-70% and really good fukubukuro (lucky grab) bags. It's basically like how Black Friday is in USA but worse and for a week. Shibuya 109 is just for females while Shibuya 109 Men is as the name indicates for men.



My friends and I originally wanted to cook dinner for the New Years but because the place we stayed in didn't have enough room, we decided to eat out. It would have been great if the place we rented had a TV because we wanted to watch Kohaku, which is a show that people sing songs.



And of course, it wouldn't be the full experience without the karaoke. The funny thing is that we originally went to the karaoke place to eat honey toast, and my friends and I ended up having a second lunch there. The food they served was pretty good, its like a high class karaoke place.

Also, we didn't get the honey toast.



Well that pretty much sums up most of my trip to Japan. I have to say that I really enjoyed my trip there and would love to go back during the spring in the future!

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

8JAN2015

Orientation Week

So I'm finally in Hong Kong! It was pretty hard for me to adjust when I first got here but after a couple of days I got used to it. I realized why some parents go with their kids to places and stay there for a short while, the support they give really does help with adjusting to a new surrounding. Luckily I have relatives in Hong Kong to help me out with stuff.

First things first, make a list before you arrive to Hong Kong on what you have to do. I didn't do that so I was running all over the place.

One of the first things you need to get is your student ID card, if you don't get that then you can't access to a lot of the facilities here such as getting in your hall (dorm), gym, computer room, etc. After you get that, you can get your student octopus card which makes traveling on the MTR cheap because it's half the regular price. The only thing about the octopus card is that it takes about a month for you to get it but you can get a temporary one until then. Apparently you can do this in advance before you arrive to Hong Kong as I found out from other students.

The student exchange organizations are really helpful because they organize trips going to IKEA, social outings, and tours for you to get used to life on campus. This is also a great way of making friends as well!



11JAN2015

Day Trip: Lantau Island & Tai-O Fishing Village

posted in [Uncategorized](#)

The student exchange programs at CityU organizes a lot of activities and one of the big ones is going to Lantau Island and Tai-O Fishing Village. Lantau Island is really famous for the big Buddha statue. It's actually quite far from where I stay in Kowloon and is about 1h 30min to 2 hours drive away. We also made a pit stop at a nice beach along the way.

Tip: Don't try to go near the water in the winter, you think you're far away enough but think again.

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>



As for Tai-O Village, it's mostly a tourist place. They're well known for their temples besides (dried) seafood.



19JAN2015

School Life

posted in [School Related/Tips](#), [Uncategorized](#)

Hey guys, today's post will be about school life at CityU! After 2 weeks, I finally adjusted going around the campus and classes. Classes here are different from what I'm used to back at UHM, they tend to be 2-3 hours long. Lectures last for at least 2 hours, and tutorial is 1 hour. Sometimes they're put together or separated depending on the professor. Also most of my classes have group projects which seems like a really big thing here at the school.

I actually had complications with my schedule because one of the classes I really wanted to take was canceled due to low student enrollment. I was scrambling to find a class to take and decided to take Korean since it wasn't filled like the Cantonese class. **Tip:** When you need to add or drop a class, you may have to print an add/drop form where you need the professors signature and then turn it into the department office.

Below is my schedule for school.

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:00-08:50					
09:00-09:50				35615 IS2502-L03 AC3 7-209	
10:00-10:50					37204 IS4834-S01 AC2 4307
11:00-11:50					
12:00-12:50	28591 GE2202-C01 AC1 LT-15			31567 AIS2973-TA1 AC1 G5-314	
13:00-13:50					
14:00-14:50					
15:00-15:50		31567 AIS2973-TA1 AC1 B5-211			
16:00-16:50					
17:00-17:50				35601 IS2502-C01 AC1 LT-13	
18:00-18:50					

I'm currently taking 4 classes, Globalization & Business, Elementary Korean, Social Media and Its Impacts, and lastly Business Intelligence & Analytics. The first class is going to fulfill my IB credit, and the rest I'm taking for my interests and professional development.

The two classes that grabbed my interest the most is the Korean and Social Media class. My Korean professor is so cute, I love it when she mixes Cantonese when she teaches Korean! My Social Media class professor knows how to keep students interested and interactive, also its a very interesting topic because we talk about FaceBook, IG, Twitter, etc.

The layout of the school is definitely different from what I'm used to but it is more convenient in a way. Comparing CityU to UHM, the campus isn't as big as Manoa and most classes are in three buildings called Academic 1, 2, and 3. I actually get lost a lot because the levels are confusing to me but you get used to it after awhile. **Tip:** I recommend downloading the app called [CityU Mobile](#), it's available for both Android and iPhone. It's a very useful app that can show you your class, schedule, eating places, etc.



20JAN2015

Cheung Chau Island

So this past weekend, my hall was hosting an island day trip to Cheung Chau Island and some of my exchange friends decided to tag along with me. To get to Cheung Chau, you take the ferry from Central. There's the option of taking the regular ferry and the faster ferry, which cost a bit more but will take you to the island in about 30 minutes (regular ferry takes about 45 min).

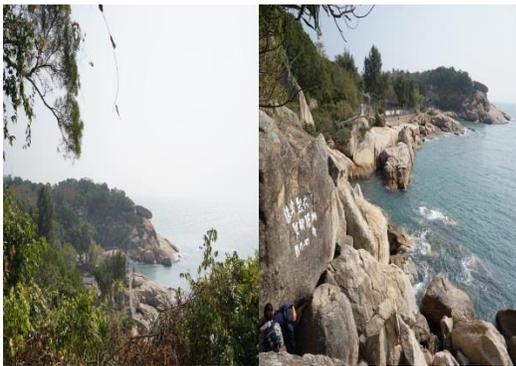
Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

I really enjoyed the island and the beauty that it offers. Cheung Chau is known for its seafood street that attracts many tourists, historical sites, temples, and beautiful beaches. It was said that a pirate hide his treasure in a cave on the island!

Five different types of snacks were provided with the fee that I paid, my favorite out of the five is the mango mochi (there's a huge chunk of mango in it!).



There's so much to see in Cheung Chau and I'm surprised that I saw most of the things in one day!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glRHs55x7a4>

26JAN2015

HeSheEat

I highly recommend going to this place for desserts! My friends and I came here on our day off last week. This place offers many different kinds of desserts such as waffles, souffles, smoothies, panna cotta, etc. The price ranged around \$50-100 HKD so about \$6-13 USD.



Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

26JAN2015

Mobile Apps and Email Notifications



As an MIS/IS major, I like to see my emails through my phone (who doesn't?) and mobile apps that can help me get around school. CityU actually has a couple of apps, for both android and iOS, that can help you for school.

CityU Mobile Apps

How to set up your CityU email on your phone

It took me awhile until I found the right page on setting up your email account, they changed their email host a couple times. So if they're not using Office 365 for email anymore, then the link I have above is outdated.

2FEB2015

Wetland Park

Last week Wednesday, my friends and I decided to go to Wetland Park. It's pretty far from the city so it's a nice place to go if you want some peace and quite. Wetland Park is located pretty far from the school, about 1h 30 min MTR ride. The admission fee was \$15 HKD for me due to the student discount.

If you need to get away from the city and enjoy some green scenery then you should go visit this place!



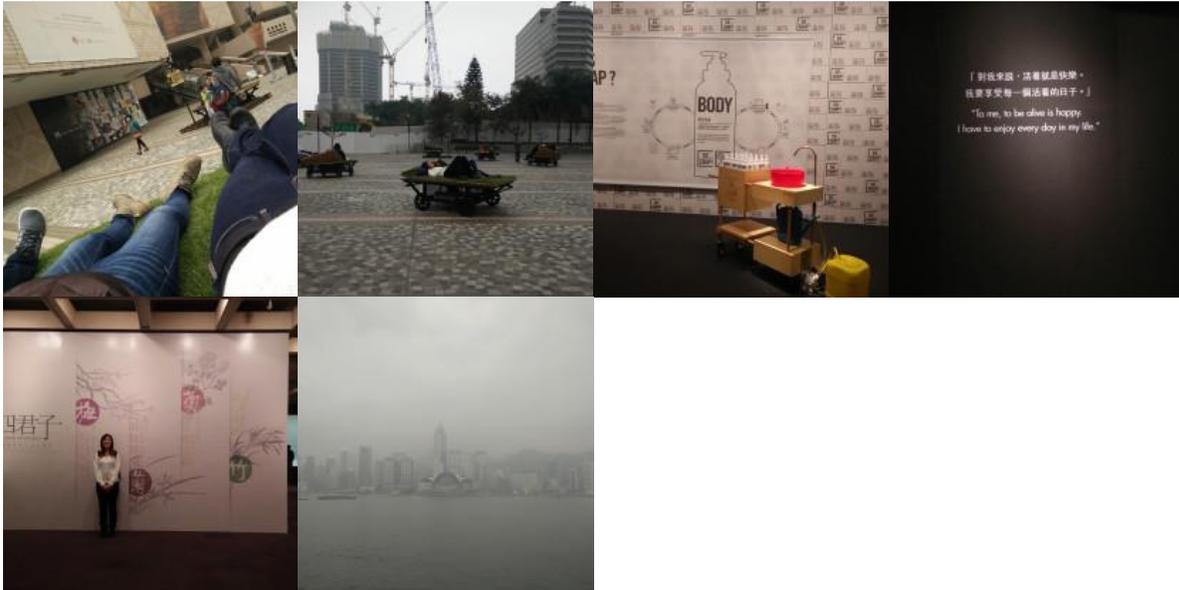
Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

5FEB2015

Art and Space Museums!

This weeks Wednesday adventures is at the Art and Space museums. Admission on Wednesday for most museums are **free!** So if you don't have anything to do on Wednesday, take advantage of that. There's also student discount for the other days of the week as well.

What I really enjoyed was the carts with fake grass where you can just lie down and relax. It's a really peaceful area, I would love it if the campus has these all over the place for students to sit down and relax.



12FEB2015

Vlog #1

Sorry for the delay, school has been keeping me busy but I finally found the time to make my first vlog! Please excuse my poor editing skills, theres just so much I can do with Windows Movie Maker. If you have any questions, feel free to leave a comment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csNo-mq2zWo>

22FEB2015

Chinese New Year!

Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快樂!

This post will be dedicated on how HK celebrates the new lunar year.

Chinese new year is a major holiday in HK and almost everybody goes on break for it. This holiday is a time for people to spend with their families so many people are rushing to prepare for the holidays. Many people will be coming/going out of the country to go visit their families. Below is listed some of the traditional things that people here do to prep for Chinese New Year (CNY).

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

1) **Clean the house.** It's like spring cleaning but prepping for CNY. Cleaning before the New Year is a tradition in Chinese culture. The grounds, the walls, and every corner of the house need to be cleaned. In Chinese, "Dust" is a homophone for the word "old" (Chen), thus cleaning means to drive the bad luck or the old things away from the house to get ready for a new start.

2) **Shopping for food.** I will assure you that most places will be closed for this holidays because its part of the tradition to not really do anything on the day of. **Tip:** If you're staying at the dorms, buy food before hand if you want to cook else you might end up eating at McDonalds.

3) **Pomelo leaves.** It's believed pomelo-leaf is able to wash away the dirt, to cast away the evil spirits and to get ready for the brand new year! You can find some places selling them for \$4-\$10 HKD.

4) **Good luck foods.** Chinese people enjoy play on words because some words sounds the same, which is how some food are considered to be good luck. Here's a [list of some good luck food](#).

5) **Lucky money/Red envelope/紅包.** Lucky money is prepared for children by adults and the elderly and given after the reunion dinner. In folk culture, the children will live safe and sound for the whole year if they get lucky money. This custom still remains and the amount of money is increasing. Children use their money to buy books or other school supplies. Some families also save the money for future use or use it to help cultivate in their children the habit of saving. Personally I tend to just put it all in my bank account.

6) **Shopping.** People will go shopping and buy new clothes for the festival. Chinese people believe that since this is a year anew they should buy a lot of new things. Purchasing new items symbolizes welcoming new things and getting ready for a new start.

7) **Flower market.** Just like fruits, flowers also bring meaning and luck! I went to the Victoria Park Lunar New Year Fair and the flower market section was blooming with plants and flowers of all types. Here's a [guide](#) to some of the flowers that people sell and buy before the new year.

There are some stuff to do after the new year such as watching the parade or fireworks but I decided to opt out of it due to the large crowds of people but my friends who went took pictures and videos for me which I will be posting later on.

Below are some pictures that I took from the Lunar New Year Fair in Victoria Park.



Right by Time Square in Causeway Bay, there was a small exhibition for the lion dancers and a statue of a cat. The cat is suppose to be like the lucky cat statues you see in shops. As for the lucky envelope, I made that myself at a

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

CNY party. The Chinese characters says red panda, which in Chinese is Hong Mao. I like to do play on words and it sounds similar to how you say lucky envelope which is Hong Bao.



As for how I spent my CNY, I went out to Victoria Peak with some friends and ended the day with hotpot, sweet soup with glutinous rice balls (汤圆), and uno!



I hope you enjoyed this post about CNY along with my experiences! Until next time or post! 再见

1MAR2015

Chinese New Year Videos!

Hello there! Sorry for the late upload since Chinese New Year was last week but heres some videos that I took!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvdkVHYN95g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMZPEp7XGaM>

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

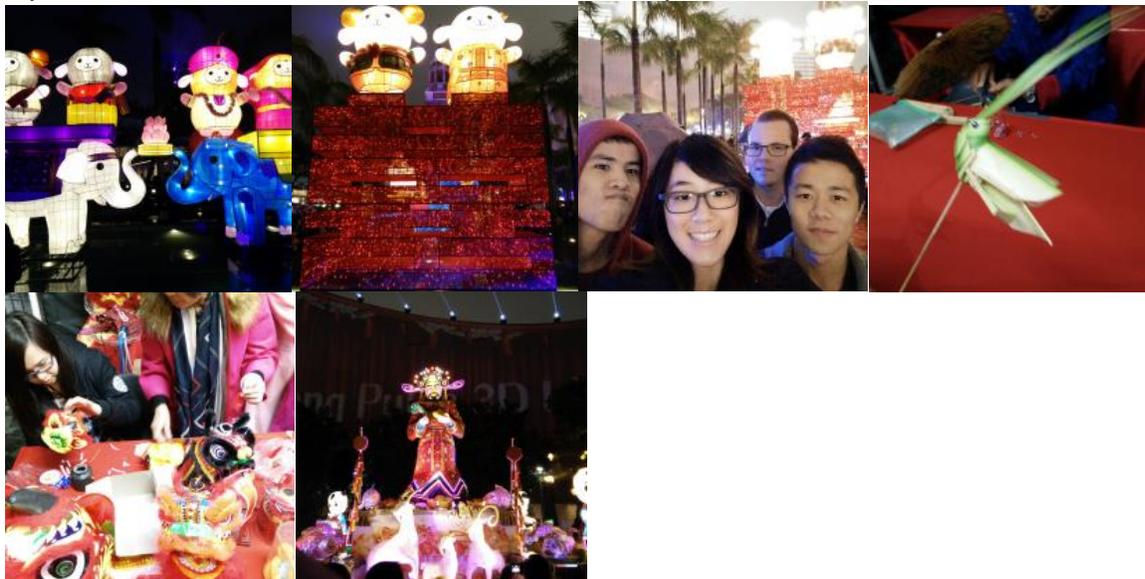
8MAR2015

Chinese Lantern Festival

I honestly didn't know it was the lantern festival until I went on my laptop and Google had that banner up. Basically, this lantern festival is celebrated on the first full moon of the lunar year, its also known as Chinese Valentines day. So this night will be lit with hundreds of colorful lanterns and celebrations for visitors to enjoy takes place in Tsim Sha Tsui at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Plaza.

My friends and I decided last minute to go there after dinner to take a look at the celebration. We took a look at the many cultural exhibition and art/craft that the festival offered. There was also a show on the screen of the building as well!

If you want to learn more about the Chinese Lantern Festival, you can visit [this link](#).

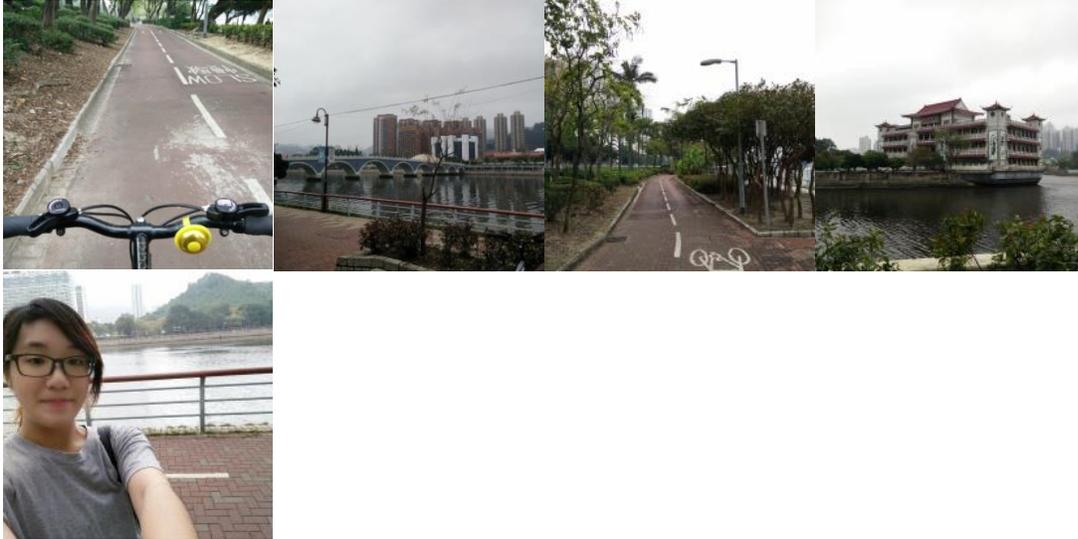


14MAR2015

Adventures in Sha Tin

So my friends and I decided to go to Sha Tin purely because you can rent bikes for \$30 HKD for the whole day. Pretty good deal, \$30 HKD comes out to about \$3.80 USD. You can ride your bike in a huge loop through Sha Tin park, there are some pretty nice views too! There are roads just for bikes all over the place you don't have to be confined in just the park area. This is a nice change from just walking all the time and enjoying the breeze. The floating restaurant is also nearby so my friends and I decided to check it out!

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>



Sha Tin has more than just bike riding, Snoopy Land is just right outside the New Town Plaza mall!



The 10,000 Buddha temple is also in Sha Tin but unfortunately my friends and I did not have locks for the bike so we were not able to go there. Adventure saved for another day~

15MAR2015

Art Central in HK

One of my friends found out about an art exhibition that was going on during the weekend and being an art lover myself, I decided to go with him. It's basically a contemporary art fair that holds more than 70 international galleries from 21 countries! The guide even said that there's more than 30 art pieces that's never been exhibited before in an art fair. It was truly an experience because there was just so many styles and pieces to look and admire at. I've been to Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) before, but I have to say that this fair tops that. Admission was \$60 HKD for me due to being a student, and I have to say that \$60 HKD is quite worth it to see such beautiful works of art.

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

Below is a slideshow of some of the pieces that caught my eye. Hope you enjoy them!



21MAR2015

The language

The three main languages used in Hong Kong is Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. Of course more people know Cantonese than the other two. Most students in Hong Kong are required to learn Mandarin and English in school. One local student told me that 10% of local students actually don't know how to speak Cantonese and there's no formal class in speaking except in college. I was talking to one of the students who's currently taking the Cantonese beginners class and it seems like its quite hard to learn Cantonese. There are numbers for tones but no explanation, in Mandarin there are tones and it's explained how to use them. Cantonese is a harder language to grasp than Mandarin because there are more tones.

I can speak Cantonese to have a conversation but not a really deep conversation. Rule of thumb for having a decent conversation in Chinese is that you need to know at least 3,000 words. Some people can tell immediately that Cantonese isn't my native tongue because say some words differently or I don't really understand them. One local girl told me that she wishes to speak Cantonese like how I do because its interesting/cute(?) (the Cantonese word for interesting and cute sounds the same so I distinguish the two by the content used with it). It's funny because students who aren't fluent in Cantonese wants to speak to the locals in Cantonese while local students want to practice their English with exchange students. Then there's the people who's like "Wow, you can speak Cantonese pretty good", I got lots of mixed compliments from the local students.

It also sucks not being able to read Chinese because the better food and deals are all in Chinese. I forgot most of my Chinese because I didn't use it often back in Hawaii. I actually ordered food the other day based on how people said the name of it. It works and I do learn more Cantonese that way.

In the end, there are pros and cons of knowing Cantonese in Hong Kong. I know what people are saying so they can't really talk behind my back. My friend pretended not knowing Cantonese for about 4 weeks to his group members and he told me that one girl was really embarrassed when they found out. The con is that I can't speak it fluently so people judge you, and they judge hard.

Also another interesting observation, you can tell a person is local to Hong Kong if they say "la" a lot. 'La' is basically a particle used for past tense and to finish a sentence or question. 'Ma' is used to ask questions but it seems like people in Hong Kong prefer to use 'ma' as well. They even use it when speaking English! I know because my professor said it often and my aunty texts me using la.

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

17APR2015

Bargains



Hong Kong is full of bargains, you just need to know where to find them along with haggling with the sellers. You can usually bargain at Mong Kok's Lady's Market and Jordan's Temple Street. The best way to get the deals is speaking Chinese, either Cantonese or Mandarin. When my friend and I was asking for the price for something, another tourist asking the same thing but in English got a much higher price than the price we got from the seller. So my advice is to pick up some Cantonese or Mandarin (I suggest Mandarin for those English speakers since its easier! Cantonese is a lot harder for people to pick up) to get the best deals! You can also bargain at the small shops since prices aren't always fixed.

CityU does offer both Cantonese and Mandarin classes so take advantage of that!

20APR2015

Tsum Tsums!

Hey guys, todays topic is about Disney's product line "Tsum Tsum"!

I'm sure 75% of you guys heard about Tsum Tsums. It's a pretty popular thing since last summer, thats when Line collaborated with Disney and came out with the game Tsum Tsum. The appeal to Tsum Tsum is the cuteness of Disney characters which Disney saw and decided to make plush products out of it. Of course it was a big hit in Hawaii (not really sure for the other states) and Japan.

When I went to Japan's Disney store, I mainly only saw the plush Tsum Tsum products.



Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>

When I arrived to Hong Kong, I actually expected Tsum Tsums to be popular. In actuality, it's not that popular as it is in Hawaii or Japan. I don't even see that many people play the game.

I think it's how Disney markets it to HK and the products line. The plush product doesn't have any other appeal to it other than its cuteness. Shops even sell fake Tsum Tsum plush products. Some of the fakes are made into keychains to hang on bags. And there's not that many Disney stores in HK either. There's only two Disney stores which is in the Hong Kong Disney Land and Airport.

This month, there's a Tsum Tsum pop up shop in Festival Walk (the mall close to my university). So with the pop up store, Disney made more Tsum Tsum products such as backpacks, pencil cases, etc. Making products that can be practical and some cuteness to it is how Disney grabbed the HK market. The pop up store is always busy and filled with people so I believe it's a success.

28APR2015

Vlog #2

UHM Student Exchange Vlog #2: <https://youtu.be/NFmXDgCLvmU>

29APR2015

Where to print your papers

Need to print out your papers for your class? Notes? Powerpoint slides? Don't worry, you can print them all out at Academic Building 2 (aka AC2)!

So I found out that the printing quota at CityU is pretty ridiculous, it's like 1,600 pages for two semesters! I only get 250 pages per semester so you can see why I'm quite shocked about it. If you go to other places like Cut Price (at AC1), you have to pay to print. The store there doesn't take school printing quota. Also you can only print black and white for free at AC2, you have to pay with your Octopus card for color. Your hall sometimes also have a printer for you to print your papers but I think you have to bring your own paper for that.

Here's a link for [more information about printing at AC2!](#)

3MAY2015

Turkish Ice Cream

This is what can happen when you purchase Turkish ice cream sometimes

Turkish Ice Cream: <https://youtu.be/mNqLEPYOwvU>

18MAY2015

The overall experience

Taken from <https://traceinadventure.wordpress.com/>



Going on this study abroad was one of the best choices I have made in my life so far. I made friends from all over the place, experience the culture more in depth, and made unforgettable memories with my friends. Before going abroad, I didn't really know what to expect and was scared that I would have a hard time making friends (haha). Turns out that I made friends easily and I honestly can't wait when we have a reunion with everyone.

I learned so much these past five months and this kind of experience is something that you need to get out of your comfort zone and into somewhere unfamiliar. It's something that you can't replace with just staying at your home university. In the picture above, some of my friends are going to go on their study abroad for next semester while some of us will be returning home. City University of Hong Kong is very supportive about their students going to study abroad, some people even goes on 2 study abroad trips.

I highly suggest every student to go study abroad because it's an irreplaceable experience which you can't do after you graduate.

