Pre-departure Briefing Session for Study Abroad/Summer Programmes: Academic Preparation

Academic Advising Office
What are your plans for achieving academic success abroad?
Purpose of Studying Abroad

• Diversify and enrich your *academic experiences* through courses / researches / activities / internships / independent studies offered overseas.

• Make use of the opportunity to *broaden your horizons and immerse in a different culture* (though some may not earn credits).

• Learn *another language*, or improve one you already know.

• Explore options abroad for *postgraduate study*...

• Be mindful of *course / programme requirements* of HKU and impact on study progression
Preparation for Studying Abroad / Summer Programmes

• Conduct research about your host university or organisation.
• Meet with students who have studied there.
• Find out specifically about the institutional and classroom culture.
How will you adjust to a new learning environment?
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New Learning Environment

- Be open-minded.
- Expect cultural shock inside classroom.
- Take time to observe - how others greet professor, what do students wear to class, how do classmates participate in class, and so on- or ask when in doubt.
- Keep a journal of your new learning experiences.
- Join some university activities / a university club or be a volunteer in the surrounding campus community to feel more connected to your new learning environment.
How will you earn transfer credit?
Credit Transfer

Course Selection - Prior to Departure

• Check the website of your host institution for the courses offering and course syllabi, and when online registration is open.

• Complete online course enrolment if possible.
Course Selection - Prior to Departure

Some HKU Faculties have credit transfer database or credit conversion information for reference:

**Arts:**
http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/forms

**Business and Economics:**
http://www.fbe.hku.hk/exchange-ctdb/

**Science:**
http://webapp.science.hku.hk/student/servlet/course_equiv

**Social Sciences:**
Credit Transfer

Course Selection - Prior to Departure

• Consult your programme director / faculty course selection adviser about your academic plans and intended courses to take.
  – Note: Some Faculties require completion of at least 50% of major / minor requirement at HKU for their major/minor programmes

• Complete the credit transfer form for your Faculty by the deadline. Retrospective application of credit transfer will not be considered.
  – Reminder: Some Faculties encourage students to plan for alternative / backup courses!
## Credit Transfer

**Application Form for Credit Transfer in Arts Faculty**
*(An Example)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Credit(s)</th>
<th>Proposed HKU-equivalent course (if applicable)/Related Programme</th>
<th>Course fulfillment: Major/Minor/Free elective</th>
<th>Approval(^ {\text{a}})</th>
<th>Course type(^ {\text{a}}) (Intro/Advanced/Capstone(^ {\text{b}}))</th>
<th>HKU credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>e.g.</td>
<td>LIN1000</td>
<td>Introduction to linguistics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>LING1000 (or LING)</td>
<td>LCOM Major</td>
<td>Yes/ No</td>
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<td>Yes/ No</td>
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\(^{\text{a}}\) Any course which is rejected for a major or minor may be considered as a free elective course, subject to Programmes' approval.

\(^{\text{b}}\) Students are normally expected to complete the capstone requirement of their Arts majors at HKU. Only under very special circumstances can final-year students be permitted to transfer credits to fulfill the capstone requirement.
Course Selection at Host Institution

- Follow host institution procedures for official course registration.
- Remember to comply with regulations for full-time student status (HKU, host institution, country immigration)- avoid underloading (and overloading) your course schedule.
- Check the credit conversion to determine no. of courses that you need to take at the host university.
- Ensure that you will have access to your academic record from HKU, especially to prove your fulfillment of prerequisites.
- Inform your Faculty via email ASAP if your course registration changes.
Transcripts- Returning to HKU

- Host institution will send official transcripts directly to International Affairs Office or your Faculty Office.
- Get informal grade report from the host institution, if possible, for your own records.
- Final credit transfer determined by home Faculty.
- Grade obtained will not be counted in CGPA.
Good luck
&
Enjoy your learning!

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