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

• 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?
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.
Credit Transfer

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/service/course_equiv

**Social Sciences:**
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)

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<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 fulfilment*: Major/Minor/Free elective</th>
<th>Approval*: Yes/No</th>
<th>Course type*: Intro/Advanced/Capstone®</th>
<th>HKU credits</th>
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Student signature: __________________________ Name of host institution: __________________________ Signature: __________________________

Student name and University no.: __________________________ BA Year: __________________________

Date: __________________________

* Any course which is rejected for a major or minor may be considered as a free elective course, subject to Programmes’ approval.

** 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.
Credit Transfer

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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