The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS)

2025-2026 INCOMING EXCHANGE INFORMATION SHEET

12th Asia's Top 700+ Universities (No. 3 in Hong Kong, No. 9 in Greater China) in Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2024

19th Worldwide in Times Higher Education (THE)'s Impact Rankings 2024 (No.1 in Hong Kong)

24th Global Employability University Ranking and Survey 2025(No.1 in Hong Kong, No.3 in Greater China) designed by the HR consultancy Emerging and published by Times Higher Education

HKUST was opened as a world-class technological university dedicated to the advancement of learning and scholarship, with special emphasis on research and postgraduate education. SHSS includes a Division of Humanities, Division of Social Science, and Center for Language Education. It has consistently gained top international rankings, a demonstration of the university's high academic quality and the global recognition it has achieved.

With over 800 exchange students passing through HKUST every year, you really can make friends with people from around the world. Find out more about SHSS exchange experience from our *Student Testimonial* !
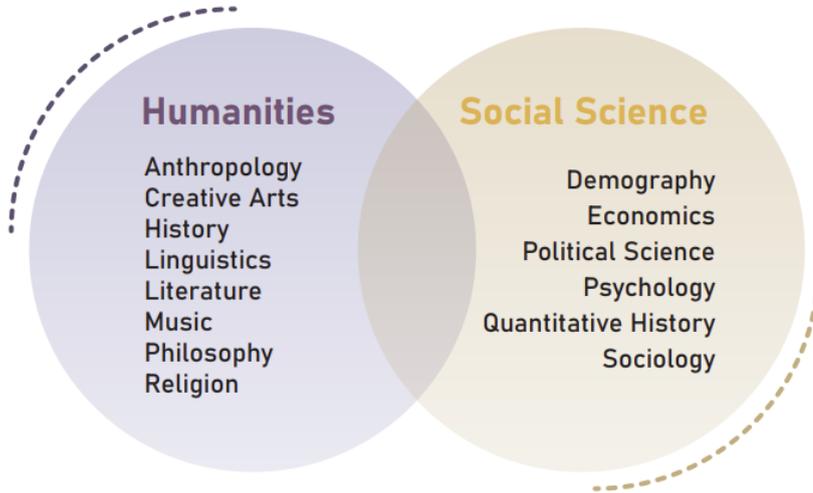
Tentative Dates

Fall Semester, AY 2025/26

Preferred arrival date	Late August 2025
Orientation date	Late August 2025
Classes start	1 September 2025
Exams start and finish	19 December 2025

Spring Semester, AY 2025/26

Preferred arrival date	Late January 2026
Orientation date	Late January 2026
Classes start	2 February 2026
Exams start and finish	29 May 2026

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Humanities

Anthropology
Creative Arts
History
Linguistics
Literature
Music
Philosophy
Religion

Social Science

Demography
Economics
Political Science
Psychology
Quantitative History
Sociology

Learning Expectation

Language of Medium	English is the medium of instruction for HKUST
World-Renowned Faculty	SHSS diverse faculty are recruited internationally and hold doctoral degrees from major research universities including Cambridge, Chicago, Cornell, Duke, Harvard, London School of Economics, MIT, Northwestern, NYU, Oxford, Princeton, Standford, UBC, UC-Berkeley, UC-San Diego, Yale, and so on.
Student Activities	Over 100 student societies affiliated to the Students' Union ; Counseling & Wellness Center
Grading System	4.3 grading scale, letter graded, with grade D as marginal pass.

Course Information

Course List

Undergraduate (UG) / Postgraduate (PG) course offering varies by term. Below past year course is for reference purpose only:

- Social Science Courses (Undergraduate / Postgraduate)
- Humanities Courses (Undergraduate / Postgraduate)
- Language Courses

Students are strongly recommended to take Humanities & Social Sciences courses during the exchange period, enrollment on courses outside SHSS (for example, business course) is not available.

Class Format	Lectures, computer simulations, case discussions, individual and group projects.
Attendance	Class participation is mandatory and part of the student's final grade in most courses. Select your courses carefully and enroll only if you can commit.
Course Requirement	Exchange students can select SHSS courses as long as they meet the prerequisite requirements and are subject to space availability. Some courses may require professor approval for enrollment.
Examinations	Final exams are within the last 2 weeks of school. Students are responsible for staying in HK until the last day of finals. Requests for early leave of exams are normally not considered.

Living In Hong Kong

Language	Locals speak Cantonese while English and Mandarin are widely spoken.
Getting Around	Hong Kong's public transportation system is considered to be world-class in terms of its efficiency. Getting around by Mass Transit Railway (MTR), Bus, Taxi is relatively quick.
Telecommunication	WiFi is widely available, including airport, major tourist attractions, MTR stations and restaurants. You can purchase a prepaid SIM card or Discover Hong Kong Tourist SIM card easily.
Banking	Most international banks have branches in Hong Kong. On HKUST campus, there are two banks: Hang Seng Bank and Bank of China.

Finance

Accommodation Info	• Only undergraduate students might be accommodated in double occupancy student halls. It is **NOT** guaranteed, subject to availability. Room preference is not entertained.

• Hall assignments are all decided by the housing office. Details to be stipulated in the application portal.

• For postgraduate students, off campus accommodation is available near Clearwater Bay, such as Hang Hau just 15 minutes from campus on public transports or Sai Kung.

• The price range is from HK$7,000 - 10,000 per month for a single room. Rates, government rent and management fees exclusive.

Tuition Fee

• **N/A**

Estimated Expenses

• Approximate

Approximate	HK$ Per term
On Campus Hall Fee (subject to availability & approval)	12,000
Off Campus Rental Fee	24,000
Student visa	900
HKUST compulsory travel insurance fee	1,500
Food	16,000
Books	1,500
Transportation & personal expenses	8,500

*Above cost for general reference only. Personal expenses may vary.

Admissions

Nomination Deadlines	• 15 March (For Fall Semester); • 15 September (For Spring Semester)
Application Deadlines	• 31 March (For Fall Semester); • 30 September (For Spring Semester)
Application Web Link	• **General Info** • **Application Portal** Undergraduates / Postgraduates • **Please submit the nomination list to SHSS** before making an online application.
Student Visa	• For all incoming exchange students (non-Hong Kong citizens), you are required for a student visa to study in HK. Student visa documents must be submitted in a TIMELY manner or will be withdrawn. • Please expect that student visas may take up to 3 months to be approved by the Director of Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). • For Mainland Chinese students holding PRC passport, you will need an additional 2-4 weeks to apply for an EEP from your hometown after you have received your approved visa label.

Contact Info

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SHSS Exchange Program
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