

# Studying in Hong Kong

---

A guide for international students & families — how Hong Kong's higher education works, the student visa, English-medium study, the 1-year master's, and the IANG post-study visa.

# The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

## **WORLD-TOP, ENGLISH-MEDIUM, WITH A STANDOUT POST-STUDY VISA**

Hong Kong offers **world-top universities** (HKU, CUHK, HKUST in the global top 50), **all-English teaching**, a **finance-hub economy**, and its **signature 1-year taught master's** — plus one of Asia's best post-study deals: the **IANG visa**, which lets graduates stay 24 months with no job needed. Non-local students get a **student visa sponsored by their university**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

**General guidance, not legal or immigration advice.** Hong Kong's rules (including recent work-rule relaxations), tuition, and fund levels change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and your university**.

# Understand Why Students Choose Hong Kong

## WHAT TO KNOW

Hong Kong offers **world-top universities, all-English teaching (no Cantonese needed), a finance-and-tech hub economy, fast 1-year master's programs, and the IANG post-study visa** — in one of Asia's safest, most connected cities.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### World-top

HKU, CUHK, HKUST

### English-medium

no Cantonese needed

### IANG

24-month post-study

## HOW TO HELP

Weigh Hong Kong's **elite quality and IANG post-study pathway** against high living costs — for finance, tech, and a fast master's into an Asian career, it's outstanding.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Hong Kong is often called the **most affordable English-medium top-100 destination in Asia** — with the IANG advantage on top.

# Understand the System

## WHAT TO KNOW

The leading universities are **HKU** (University of Hong Kong), **CUHK** (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and **HKUST** (Science and Technology) — all global top-50 — plus PolyU, CityU, HKBU, and others. All teach in English. The **1-year taught master's** is a signature offering.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**HKU / CUHK / HKUST**

global top-50

**PolyU / CityU**

+ others

**1-year master's**

signature

## HOW TO HELP

Choose among Hong Kong's **top universities**, and consider the fast **1-year taught master's** (finance, CS, data science, engineering) for career acceleration.

## GOOD TO KNOW

The **1-year taught master's** (no thesis) is a career fast-track — finish in 12 months, then use IANG to work.

## Get the Student Visa

### WHAT TO KNOW

Non-local students need a **student visa/entry permit**, sponsored by the **admitting university** and processed by the **Immigration Department (ImmD)**. You'll provide an admission letter, financial proof, and accommodation details. Allow **several weeks**; apply as soon as you have an offer.

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Student visa

university-sponsored

#### Via ImmD

+ admission letter

#### Allow weeks

apply early

### HOW TO HELP

Let your **university sponsor the student visa** through ImmD, provide your admission letter and financial proof, and apply as soon as you have an offer — allow several weeks.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Apply for the visa **as soon as you have a firm or conditional offer** — assessment plus visa processing takes weeks.

# Apply to Universities

## WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities** (admission is competitive; satisfying minimums doesn't guarantee a place). Input all your academic results — predicted and actual — into each university's application system, and meet language and program-specific requirements.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Apply directly

competitive

### Enter all results

predicted + actual

### Program-specific

+ language reqs

## HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to your chosen universities**, enter all academic results into their systems, and meet each program's language and specific requirements — apply early.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Admission is **competitive** — meeting the minimum requirements doesn't guarantee a place.

# Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

## WHAT TO KNOW

Non-local tuition runs roughly **HK\$140,000–200,000/year** (US\$18k–26k). Generous scholarships exist: **HKU Foundation**, **CUHK Vice-Chancellor's**, and **HKUST President's** awards (often full tuition plus a stipend), and the **Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)** for doctoral students.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Non-local

~HK\$140k–200k/yr

### Scholarships

HKU/CUHK/HKUST

### HKPFS

for PhDs

## HOW TO HELP

Budget the **non-local tuition**, and pursue university scholarships (HKU/CUHK/HKUST, often full tuition + stipend) or the **HKPFS** for doctoral study.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Top scholarships (HKU Foundation, CUHK Vice-Chancellor's, HKUST President's) go to the strongest applicants — apply early and aim high.

# Meet the Financial Requirement

## WHAT TO KNOW

There's **no fixed minimum**, but you must show you can cover the **first year's tuition plus 12 months of living**. In practice, a deposit of about **HK\$220,000–280,000 (US\$28k–36k)** is the level that's consistently approved without follow-up queries.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**No fixed minimum**

tuition + 12 months living

**~HK\$220k–280k**

consistently approved

**Deposit**

or scholarship

## HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** covering first-year tuition plus 12 months' living (~HK\$220k–280k is a safe level), or a scholarship letter — confirm with ImmD.

## GOOD TO KNOW

There's **no published minimum**, but ~HK\$220k–280k is the practical level that avoids follow-up queries.



# Meet Language Requirements

## WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught **entirely in English** — so no Cantonese or Mandarin is needed to study, and you prove English via prior English-medium study or a test (IELTS/TOEFL) where required. Some Cantonese helps daily life.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### English

medium of instruction

### No Cantonese needed

to study

### Some Cantonese

helps daily life

## HOW TO HELP

Prove **English proficiency** where required — all teaching is in English — and pick up some Cantonese for daily life if you like.

## GOOD TO KNOW

You **don't need Cantonese or Mandarin to study** — Hong Kong universities teach in English.

# Prepare for the Move

## WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, arrange **housing (university halls are cheapest but limited; private rentals are pricey), banking, and an Octopus card**. Living costs are high (~HK\$8,000–15,000/month). Hong Kong is safe, compact, and superbly connected by MTR.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Housing

halls limited; private pricey

### High costs

~HK\$8k–15k/mo

### MTR

fast & cheap transport

## HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing (apply early for halls), banking, Octopus card** — and budget for Hong Kong—s high living costs in a compact, well-connected city.

## GOOD TO KNOW

University **halls are cheapest but limited** — apply early, or budget more for pricey private rentals.

# Understand Work Rules

## WHAT TO KNOW

Work rules were **recently relaxed**: previously part-time on-campus work (up to 20 hrs/week during term, full-time in summer), but **temporary measures from late 2024 broadened off-campus work** for eligible non-local students. Confirm the **current** conditions with ImmD and your university before working.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Recently relaxed

broader work allowed

### ~20 hrs/week

+ off-campus (temporary)

### Confirm latest

with ImmD

## HOW TO HELP

Check the **current, recently relaxed work rules** with ImmD and your university — broader off-campus part-time work is temporarily allowed — before starting any job.

## WATCH OUT

Work rules **changed recently (late 2024)** — don't rely on older guides; confirm the current conditions.

# Thrive & Work After Study (IANG)

## WHAT TO KNOW

The headline: eligible graduates of full-time, locally-accredited programs can apply for the **IANG visa** — an initial **24 months in Hong Kong with no job offer required**, extendable on a **3-3 year pattern**. Hong Kong's finance and tech sectors offer strong graduate opportunities.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### IANG

24 months, no job needed

### Extensions

3-3 year pattern

### Finance & tech

strong demand

## HOW TO HELP

Plan to use the **IANG visa** after graduating (24 months with no job needed, then 3-3 extensions), and target Hong Kong's finance and tech sectors — a genuine launchpad.

## GOOD TO KNOW

The **IANG visa (24 months, no job offer needed)** is Hong Kong's standout post-study advantage — plan to use it.

# Studying in Hong Kong: The Essentials

A snapshot — rules change (recent work relaxations), so confirm everything with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and your university.

## The system

HKU, CUHK, HKUST (global top-50), PolyU, CityU, HKBU and others; all English-medium; the 1-year taught master's is a signature offering.

## Visa

Non-local students need a university-sponsored student visa via the Immigration Department (ImmD), with an admission letter and financial proof; apply as soon as you have an offer.

## Tuition & scholarships

Non-local ~HK\$140k–200k/year; HKU Foundation, CUHK Vice-Chancellor's, and HKUST President's scholarships (often full tuition + stipend); HKPFS for PhDs.

## Money & language

No fixed minimum, but ~HK\$220k–280k covers first-year tuition + 12 months living (consistently approved); all teaching in English (no Cantonese needed).

## Work & after

Work rules were relaxed in late 2024 (broader off-campus part-time work) — confirm current terms; the IANG visa lets graduates stay 24 months with no job needed (3-3 extensions).

YOUR HONG KONG JOURNEY STARTS HERE

# Find Your Community.

Explore our other Studying in [Country] guides, Top Universities by Country, and country guides — among **1,297 free resources**.

[tools.k12academics.com](https://tools.k12academics.com) →

