

# Shelley Tang Economics and Statistics Stage 3 Semester 1

My first semester in Hong Kong was a wonderful experience. Not only I got to expand my knowledge of degree subjects, but I have also learnt a lot about the culture and processing of learning in a different country. I realised how different my college life in the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is from UCD.

The CUHK campus is situated on mountainous terrain which can be tedious to navigate by foot. Fortunately, there are shuttle buses available to reach to different lecture buildings. CUHK has a different style of teaching to UCD. The class sizes in CUHK were quite small compared to UCD, and classes were delivered in large classrooms or small lecture halls with the capacity of approximately less than a hundred.

This allowed for a more informal approach between the lecturer and students. It also facilitated greater interaction in the group.



*The view from the window of my accommodation*

I experienced the difference in culture between Hong Kong and Ireland. As English is not the spoken language in Hong Kong, I spoke Cantonese in my daily interaction and socialising. The public transport system is a big improvement on Dublin! The metro is so convenient and cheap, it took me almost anywhere there. Unlike in Ireland, many people eat out or buying takeaways as it doesn't cost any more than buying in and preparing food at home. I was very happy to eat out since the shared kitchen in my accommodation had limited cooking facilities.



*Sit in protest on the first day of the semester in CUHK*

extradition bill. On the 12th November, the protests in Hong Kong spread throughout the whole city, including to all the universities. CUHK was directly impacted by these protests. During that week, rioting took place on the campus causing widespread damage to property. Lectures could not take place for safety reasons, and CUHK officially announced the early termination of the first semester.



*Star Ferry from Kowloon to Hong Kong Island*

I have to say that I came to Hong Kong during an interesting period. The ongoing unlawful assemblies were due to the proposed implementation of the

extradition bill. On the 12th November, the protests in Hong Kong spread throughout the whole city, including to all the universities. CUHK was directly impacted by these protests. During that week, rioting took place on the campus causing widespread damage to property. Lectures could not take place for safety reasons, and CUHK officially announced the early termination of the first semester.



*Dragon's Back Trail*

Regardless of the chaos of the riots, I still learnt a lot. While studying abroad, my horizons were greatly expanded. I met and befriended people from all over the world who made me more open minded to taking on new challenges in the future. A different style of teaching which allowed for more active



*Kowloon City*

participation of the students gave me confidence to trust my own opinions and knowledge. My Chinese language skills have greatly improved through speaking the language daily. Studying in Hong Kong for a semester gave me a great insight into local life, which made me consider possibly working there in the future.



*Lee Tung Avenue*

I am extremely grateful for the Ad Astra Academy for their ongoing financial support which enabled me to avail of this opportunity. I fully appreciate the great privilege to be offered the opportunity to experience different cultures and traditions of the people in another country. I cannot thank enough the staff at UCD Global for being so helpful and supportive throughout my exchange and finding me an alternative option to study in Australia for the rest of the academic year. I am looking forward to the new experiences in Perth.