

Useful Apps

Frequently used

MyObservatory (Weather forecast, Weather update etc.)

[MyObservatory \(我的天文台\) - Apps on Google Play](#)

[MyObservatory on the App Store](#)

MTR Mobile (MTR routes, stations, exits, fares etc. information)

[MTR Mobile - Apps on Google Play](#)

[App Store 上的《MTR Mobile》](#)

CitybusNWFB (Transport information. Bus routes, timing etc of Citybus and New World First Bus)

[Citybus - Apps on Google Play](#)

[App Store 上的《城巴Citybus》](#)

APP 1933 - KMB/LWB (Transport information. Bus routes, timing etc of Kowloon Motor Bus company)

[APP 1933 - KMB/LWB - Apps on Google Play](#)

[App Store 上的《App1933 - KMB · LWB》](#)

HKTaxi (Taxi hailing)

[HKTaxi - Taxi Hailing App \(HK\) - Apps on Google Play](#)

[App Store 上的《HKTaxi - 香港Call的士App》](#)

Uber (Ride hailing)

[Uber - Request a ride - Apps on Google Play](#)

[Uber - Request a ride on the App Store](#)

Octopus (Refill Octopus card, use phone instead of Octopus card to make payments)

[Octopus - Apps on Google Play](#)

[Octopus 八達通 on the App Store](#)

AlipayHK (Payment on public transport, shops, online stores etc.)

[AlipayHK - Apps on Google Play](#)

[AlipayHK on the App Store](#)

Good to have

Toilet Rush (Toilet locator)

[Toilet Rush - Apps on Google Play](#)

[Toilet Rush 衝廁 on the App Store](#)

Pleco Chinese Dictionary (English to Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) dictionary)

[Pleco Chinese Dictionary - Apps on Google Play](#)

[Pleco Chinese Dictionary on the App Store](#)

GOGO VAN (Van hailing for shifting stuff to and from hostels)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hk.gogovan.GoGoVanClient2>

[24/7 Delivery on the App Store - GoGoX\(GoGoVan\)](#)

Carousell (Buy and sell)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thecarousell.Carousell>

[Carousell: Snap-Sell. Chat-Buy on the App Store](#)

Wechat (communication, payment, trip booking etc. for mainland China)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tencent.mm>

[WeChat on the App Store](#)

Enjoy Hiking (Hiker tracking app for quick rescue)

[郊野樂行 Enjoy Hiking - Apps on Google Play](#)
[App Store 上的《郊野樂行Enjoy Hiking》](#)

HKeMobility (Transport information. Bus routes, timing etc)

[HKeMobility - Apps on Google Play](#)
[HKeMobility on the App Store](#)

Hiking Trail HK (Hiking trails information)

[Hiking Trail HK - Apps on Google Play](#)
[Hiking Trail HK on the App Store](#)

My Hong Kong Guide (Guide for exploring HK)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.DiscoverHongKong.MyHKGuide>
[Hong Kong Travel Guide .. on the App Store](#)

MyMapHK (Public facilities, Hiking trails etc)

[MyMapHK - Apps on Google Play](#)
[App Store 上的《MyMapHK》](#)

Klook (Sightseeing tours etc)

[Klook: Travel, Hotels, Leisure - Apps on Google Play](#)
[Klook: Travel, Hotels, Leisure on the App Store](#)

For Muslims

Miqat (For checking the Qiblah)

[Miqat: Prayer Times, Qibla - Apps on Google Play](#)
[Miqat: Prayer Times, Qibla on the App Store](#)

Halal E-Numbers (For checking the status of ingredients of food stuff)

[Halal E-Numbers - Apps on Google Play](#)
[Halal Check E-Numbers on the App Store](#)

List of Halal certified premises

<https://islamictrusthk.org/list-of-halal-certified-restaurants-in-hong-kong--macau-br->

Web app for finding Halal restaurants, Masajid, prayer rooms and more

<https://hkmuslim.glide.page/dl/ddecb1>

Expenses

1. Food:

- a. If you eat all 3 meals in the university canteens, on average it will cost you around HKD 3500-4000 per month.
- b. If you go to off-campus restaurants, the average cost would be between HKD 30-90 per meal.
- c. If you cook at your apartment (or join one of the groups here that cook their own meal), your food expenses might be HKD2500 on average.
- d. For Halal South Asian food, the Pakistani restaurants at Sham Shui Po are very cost-effective. A meat-based dish with 2 chapatis will cost HKD 45-50. A vegetable-based dish with 2 chapatis will cost HKD 35-45. A biryani will cost HKD 35-55.

2. SIM card:

- a. SIM cards start at HKD 33 or 48. CMHK and 3HK offer both HKD 33 and 48 SIM cards. CSL and SmarTone start from HKD 48 SIM cards

- b. HKUST students can purchase a prepaid SIM card (<https://www.sosimhk.com/en/shop.html>) for around HKD 33 from the ParknShop in the university. A 7-eleven shop close to HKUST (<https://goo.gl/maps/USuTwRKQkD4cak8a9>) also stocks SIM cards of HKD 33 (<https://eshop.hk.chinamobile.com/en/prepaid-card/detail.html?pid=2326&category=1031>).
- 3. Rent:
 - a. For the university hostel, current rates can be checked from the website.
 - b. If you opt to stay outside, the rent for a single room is around HKD 4,000-6,000 per month.
 - c. The rent for a small apartment is around HKD 6,000-10,000 per month.
- 4. Fees:
 - a. The fees can be checked from the website.
 - b. Research Postgraduate Students (not Taught Postgraduate Students) who need to support their spouse and kids can apply for a hardship allowance in which the fee is waived off. This is on a case to case basis and one should confirm this with their professor if they and their department would be willing to grant one a hardship allowance
- 5. Transportation:
 - a. For the journey from the airport to the university, detailed instructions plus fares are given here
 - i. HKUST ([From Airport/Train Station to HKUST](#))
 - ii. CityU ([Getting to CityU From Airport | City University of Hong Kong](#))
 - b. For traveling via public transport, you will need an Octopus Card that requires a HKD 150 deposit.
 - c. You can budget around HKD 500 for the first month to account for any trips you want to make to the city.
- 6. Miscellaneous:
 - a. Laundry, stationary, other expenses could be estimated to cost HKD500 - HKD1,000 per month
- 7. Initial expenses:
 - a. You can budget around HKD 14,000 - 15,000 for your first month here.
 - b. If you plan to bring cash, try to bring HKD
 - c. If you can't bring HKD or the conversion rate is bad, you can bring CNY, USD, EUR, GBP etc. and convert a small amount at the airport (Convert the rest elsewhere as you can get better rates in the city)

Misc Information

- 1. Electrical outlets:
 - a. Three-pronged UK-style plugs (220V AC, 50Hz).



- b. It's better to bring an adapter if possible, otherwise you can purchase those from JHC (<http://www.japanhome.com.hk/eng/brands/jhc/shop-network/index.jsp?area=Kowloon>)
2. Weather:
- a. It is useful to bring an umbrella along, both for rain as well as for UltraViolet radiation.
 - b. In Nov-Dec one might require windbreakers/hoodies because of the windchill. Temperature rarely goes in the single digits (Celsius) in these months, but the wind can make things a bit chilly especially when in the open.
 - c. Classrooms and labs have air conditioning throughout the year (because of humidity). It can get a bit cold, so better to have a hoodie.
3. Utensils:
- a. If you can bring your own, it would save you both time and money.
 - b. IKEA in Kowloon Bay might be an economical option ([Kowloon Bay Store | IKEA Hong Kong and Macau](#))
 - c. You can also buy from Tmall.com
4. Bedding:
- a. You might have to bring a pillow, bedsheet, quilt, toiletries etc. as those aren't generally provided in the hostels (double check from their website to be sure)
 - b. Again it's better to bring along than spend time and money buying
5. HKID card:
- a. You will need to apply for an HKID card within 30 days of arrival if you intend to stay for more than 180 days.
6. Food:
- a. Bring along at least two meals and some snacks because if you reach here at night, it might be difficult to find an open food place.

Useful Links

Renting

[28Hse - Hong Kong](#)

HKUST

[Preparing for Arrival in Hong Kong | HKUST Fok Ying Tung Graduate School](#)

[Living in Hong Kong | HKUST Fok Ying Tung Graduate School](#)

[Must-Do on Arrival | HKUST Fok Ying Tung Graduate School](#)

[Getting to HKUST](#)

CityU

[Preparing for Arrival](#)

[Cost of Living and Finance](#)

[Useful Guides | Student Residence Office | City University of Hong Kong](#)

[Getting to CityU Student Residence at Cornwall Street](#)

Useful Facebook Groups

Buy and Sell

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/173537446146349>

Buy nothing (give or take items for free)

[Buy Nothing. Kowloon. Hong Kong | Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1374716009606296>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rrrfreehk>

Renting

[Hong Kong Rent Apartment | Facebook](#)

[Find Apartments Studio Share Flats In Hong Kong - NO FEE RENTALS | Facebook](#)

For Muslims

HK Halal Foods

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/591126317690579>

Halal Options Hong Kong

[Halal Options Hong Kong](#)

Hong Kong Halal Eats

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/746144510520952/>

HKUST

HKUST International students:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/379487995249>

HKUST buy and sell:

[HKUST Buy and Sell | Facebook](#)

Provision Stores



Waqas provision store

📍 Waqas Provision Store (also has an online store at [Waqas Provision Store](#))

Pakistan food store (it's also a restaurant)

247 Ki Lung St, Sham Shui Po



LetPacific

<https://www.letpacificfood.com/shop/>



Indo Market

[營多Indo Market - 分店詳情](#)



Spice Store

[Spice Store](#)

Bhavika

[bhavika.online](#)

HK Bazaar

[Online Grocery Store | Hongkong Bazaar](#)



U Select

<http://www.uselect.com.hk/stockists>

Wholesale

Dairy

[King Rise \(Asia\) Limited](#)

[Foodgears](#)

Off-campus accommodation (CityU)

[ROOMS & RATES | Apple Dorm](#)

[Hung Hom | Weave Living - Co-living Studios in Hong Kong](#)

[Gallery | Furnished Yesinspace serviced apartment & studio in Hong Kong](#)

[Pillows Coliving](#)

Fare Saver

[The Kowloon Motor Bus Co. \(1933\) Ltd 九龍巴士\(一九三三\)](#)

[MTR Fare Savers](#)