Programme Location: Hong Kong, China
Programme Terms: Fall Semester, Spring Semester, Academic Year
Homepage: https://www.centennialcollege.hku.hk
Programme Type: Study Abroad
Restrictions: Students from partner colleges only
Housing Type: Apartment, student hotel
Minimum Class Standing: Year 2 (Sophomore)
Minimum GPA: 2.75
Areas of Study: China Studies, Global Studies, Business, Management, Accounting, Language and Communication, Gender Studies, Sustainable Development

Overview
Centennial College is a private, four-year liberal arts college located in Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of China. Centennial was established by the University of Hong Kong in 2012, the centennial year of the university, and is underpinned by HKU’s tradition of providing high quality education to students from Hong Kong and around the world.

Centennial has inherited the strengths and academic values of its parent institution HKU but has adopted a new and innovative approach to its
interdisciplinary degree programmes. Its non-traditional liberal arts curriculum not only gives students a broad range of knowledge and skills, it also gives them a global view and understanding of the modern world.

**Location**

Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, is a former British colony located on the south coast of China. With a population of 7.2 million in an area barely the size of Cape Cod and the Islands, the region has a lot to offer. Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon peninsula bustle with urban life, with a multitude of cafés, restaurants and shopping centres. As you go north, the New Territories offer a slower pace, with fishing villages, country parks and wetlands.

Wherever you go, Hong Kong is a food-lover’s paradise. It offers an enormous variety of dining options, from traditional Cantonese and other Asian cuisines to authentic European and American fare—whether you are in the mood for street food, fusion, Michelin-starred fine dining or home-style cooking, you are sure to find a restaurant that suits your taste and budget.

You’ll never be short of weekend activities in and around Hong Kong. Hike the Lantau Trail, relax on the beaches of Sai Kung, take in a concert at the Cultural Centre in Kowloon, or ride the cable car to the Buddhist monastery of Po Lin and see one of the world’s largest Buddha statues. Wherever you go, the mobile network has you covered, so you can seamlessly get your downloads and stay in touch with family and friends.
If you like to island-hop, cruise to the larger outlying islands on a ferry or hire a sampan to visit the 200 or so smaller remote islands that dot the waters around Hong Kong and offer rugged mountain paths and sandy beaches. Since Hong Kong is located in the balmy subtropics, it is beach weather here nine months a year.

The extensive, efficient and affordable public transport network makes it easy to explore everything Hong Kong has to offer. The handy Octopus card makes it even easier—just top it up to pay for most public transport, and purchases made at convenience stores, fast food outlets and vending machines.

Hong Kong is well-connected by train or ferry to other parts of China. And if you have time for overnight travel, Southeast Asia is at your doorstep. In less than four hours you can fly to Singapore, Beijing, Taipei, Shanghai, Bangkok, Tokyo, Seoul, Hanoi or Penang.

**Academics**

Students at Centennial normally take five courses for a total of 15 credits. If you are studying at Centennial for a full academic year while participating in an internship (see below) you may choose to take four courses per semester.

The fall semester is 16 weeks long, with twelve weeks of instruction. It begins in early September and ends just before Christmas. The spring semester is 18 weeks long, with twelve weeks of instruction. It begins in late January and ends in late May. The spring semester is longer than the fall semester owing
to the number of holidays that occur in that period, including Lunar New Year and Easter.

All courses at Centennial (with the exception of some Chinese language courses) are taught in English. Course descriptions, a list of courses offered by semester, and the academic calendar can be downloaded here:


Centennial College does not offer Beginning / Intermediate Chinese language classes, but we can arrange them for you at another local school if you are interested in learning either Mandarin or Cantonese.

**Internships**

As an exchange student, you are eligible to take part in an internship if you meet the following conditions:

1. You enroll at Centennial for a full academic year, September through May. Unfortunately, if you are studying for just one semester at Centennial the Hong Kong Immigration Department does not permit you to take up any employment, whether paid or unpaid.
2. Your internship is study/curriculum-related and has been arranged or endorsed by Centennial College.

For more information, see the Immigration Department’s Immigration Policy on Study Frequently Asked Questions Page:

Housing
Centennial does not have its own residential halls. However, the college will gladly make off-campus housing arrangements for you prior to your arrival, based on your preference:

Off-campus apartments
Centennial can arrange a small private room for you in a furnished student apartment. You will share the kitchen and bathroom with two or three flatmates, most likely other students. In your room you will have a bed, a work table, a closet, an air conditioner, Wi-Fi access, and possibly a television. The kitchen will be small and basic, but will permit you to do a little cooking on your own if you choose. The college works with a local management company called Wing Kong that specializes in student accommodation. Currently, Wing Kong manages 254 rooms in 68 apartments in Hong Kong. See:

http://www.wing-kong.com

Off-campus hotel or guesthouse
If you prefer more independent living and do not plan to cook meals in your room, Centennial can arrange a room for you in a student hotel or guesthouse. One student hotel the college recommends is called Y-Loft in Chai Wan. Its 148 air-conditioned rooms are clean and spacious, and discount rates are available for long-stay guests. The rooms come with two twin beds, so you can choose to live alone or with a roommate. You also have a private bathroom, desk, small refrigerator, television, telephone and Wi-Fi access. There are laundry facilities in the building. Although Y-Loft is located a bit farther from Centennial than most of the off-campus apartments offered
by Wing Kong, the commute is very smooth and efficient thanks to Hong Kong’s world class public transit system. See:

http://www.youthsquare.hk/eng/yloft_hostel_rooms

**Student Life**

Centennial is a small school in a big city—with around 700 students, the atmosphere is warm and friendly. The college is located in the Southern District of Hong Kong Island, away from the hustle and bustle of Central. All classes are held in a single, compact, five-story building designed around a central courtyard. The rooms are clean, bright and newly-renovated. Centennial strives to build close relationships between staff and students and encourages teamwork wherever possible. Class sizes are relatively small so as to facilitate two-way learning and small-group activities.

The Centennial café serves breakfast and lunch and offers a full range of espresso drinks. There are several other dining choices near the campus, including fast food chains, local restaurants, and takeaways. Several convenience stores are also located nearby.

Because you have access to the dining, library, and sports facilities of the University of Hong Kong (a 15-minute bus ride away), Centennial offers the advantages of both a small college and a large university. You will receive an HKU library card granting book-borrowing privileges and on-site access to printed material and vast electronic resources. You may also use HKU’s newly built Chi Wah Learning Commons, featuring quiet study areas, reading and lounging areas, individual workstations, a language laboratory, audio-visual facilities, computers and colour printers.
HKU’s sports facilities include a swimming pool, running track, and fully equipped fitness centres with experienced and helpful staff. You can take your pick from a range of activities including hiking, badminton, basketball, fencing, jazz dance, sport climbing, tennis, squash and yoga.

Centennial assigns visiting international students a local student “buddy” to provide peer support and answer questions about life in Hong Kong. Your buddy—or a member of the Centennial staff—will meet you at the airport when you arrive and take you to your apartment or residence. In the following days, he or she will help you settle in by instructing you on how to use public transportation, select a cell phone contract, shop for basic supplies, etc. You will take part in a new student orientation program and receive a crash course in helpful Cantonese words.

During the semester, Centennial organizes several weekend activities for visiting international students. You may visit museums, go hiking or sailing, enjoy dim sum or a barbecue, or take a ferry to nearby islands, beaches and tourist attractions.

**Student Visas**

**Application**

You must obtain a visa to study in Hong Kong prior to your departure. Although Hong Kong is part of the People’s Republic of China, it maintains its own immigration, passport and visa services. To obtain a visa, download and complete an “Application for Entry for Study in Hong Kong,” ID 995A. Here is the link:

Mail the completed application to Centennial College. Centennial will act as your visa sponsor and forward your application to the Hong Kong Immigration Department. Because the Immigration Department requires the original copy of this form, it cannot faxed or e-mailed. Along with the form, you must include copies of financial statements that demonstrate you have sufficient funds to support yourself while living and studying in Hong Kong.

**Processing Times**
The Hong Kong Immigration Department will process your visa application in about 6–8 weeks and issue you a visa label. Centennial will collect the visa label and send it to you via express mail. When you receive the label, attach it to a page in your passport. The entire process—from the time you mail your application to Centennial to the time you receive your visa label—may take **up to two months**. Please plan accordingly!

**Cost**
The student visa costs about US$100. This amount should be paid directly to Centennial College, which will handle the details of your visa application.

See you at Centennial!