

EVANS LAM SCHOLARSHIP

for study in Hong Kong

Summer 2018



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER



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INTRODUCTION

In October 2014, a new scholarship was created to offer a month-long summer program based at our exchange partner, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Interest was high, and five students were selected from a very competitive field. The program was open to undergraduates in Arts, Sciences and Engineering, as well as the Eastman School of Music. Their majors and minors represented the full spectrum of disciplines at Rochester. Preference was given to those with little or no experience in Asia.

The same model was used for the 2016, 2017, and 2018 groups. Each student selected two classes from diverse topics such as Mandarin Chinese, Chinese medicine, engineering innovation, and entrepreneurship, energy and green society, Chinese foreign policy, and urban sustainability. The students will present during International Education Week in November to raise awareness of the program, stressing the value and importance of Hong Kong and China as education abroad destinations. This year's participants have provided here their summary reports of their time in Asia as Evans Lam Scholars.



CUHK International Summer School 2018 Farewell Dinner

JUSTIN ARMSTRONG

Business | Class of 2020
Camden County, NC

Receiving the Evans Lam Scholarship to study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for the summer was one of the best, if not the best, opportunities I have been given. As my first study abroad experience, it has made me crave even more travel, cultural experiences, and knowledge.

I had no idea what to expect in Hong Kong. I only knew that a language I did not know was spoken and it was going to be very hot and humid. Both turned out to be true, but the experiences made them seem like nothing. I was surprised to find how easily you can get by with only English. Almost every street sign, restaurant menu, website, and many other things have both the Chinese and English versions. Many locals can communicate in English as well, so I was very impressed. As expected, there are places where no English is spoken though. I visited an authentic Chinese restaurant where usually only locals eat. Luckily, my roommate at CUHK came along to translate for me and explained to me why they only served hot water when we were outside in the heat of the Summer. I was still graciously welcomed even though I did not speak a single word of Cantonese.

The culture in Hong Kong is so unique and unlike anything I've ever seen. The citizens are extremely proud of where they come from and independence from China is huge thing for them. I was walking along the streets of Mong Kok with a friend on a Friday night where the entire

road was filled with performances and booths supporting their independence and encouraging the next generation to fight for their freedom. Hong Kong flags were hung through the street and people danced and sang to this idea that they are passionate about. One thing that is very apparent as well is how crowded the city is. There are countless residential high-rise buildings, and the cost of living is unbelievably high. Many people live in tiny spaces and is becoming quite a problem for the city.

Life in Hong Kong is never boring, and the scenery will leave you in awe. It is home to some of the world's greatest restaurants, shopping malls, and nature trails. I tried dim sum for the first time at a restaurant in Mong Kok, watched the cities nightly light show in the skyline at the waterfront of Victoria Harbour, and shopped at possibly the nicest mall I've ever been in called Harbour City in Tsim Sha Tsui all in the same day. Nothing is too far away, and the subway system is one of the most efficient in the world. The views are amazing anywhere you go. One minute you will be looking out into the mountains and the water and the next inside a beautiful metropolis landscape. One of my favorite experiences was visiting and dining at the Po Lin Monastery where the Big Buddha statue sits on top of a mountain. I met the monks, ate their food, witnessed people making their prayers to the iconic Buddha statue, and saw fantastic scenery. This is one of my experiences where I really felt I was witnessing the true culture of the Hong Kong people.

The International Summer School consisted of about 500 students from all parts of the world. I made great friends from places that I never imagined I would have the opportunity to. I now have somebody to visit if I am ever in



Austria, South Korea, England, South Africa, or Venezuela just to name a few. I took two courses, Engineering and Technology Management and Energy and Green Society. The academics are rigorous enough to challenge you but leave plenty of time for exploring and experiencing all that Hong Kong has to offer. The school even an amazing job with setting up activities and tours for the students. You are also taught by professors from universities all over the world which was very unique and interesting.

After spending a Summer in Hong Kong, I fully understand why its citizens would have so much pride and love for their home. It is an amazing, vibrant city with so much culture. Businesses thrive, the streets bustle, and the people are united. I have learned a lot about just how different life is and people are in a different part of the world and am grateful for this opportunity provided by the Evans Lam Scholarship.

ANA JAVIERA GARCIA

Business | Class of 2021
Chinandega, Nicaragua

It is quite hard to find the perfect words to describe what the summer program in Hong Kong meant to me. Undoubtedly, my favorite city so far; from skyscrapers, to having the most beautiful natural hiking trails to explore, Hong Kong is a city that never ceased to surprise me.

In just six weeks, I could immerse myself into the beauty that this city has to offer and beyond that, into all its culture and traditions. During the weekends, the university summer program organized city tours to the most popular destinations for students to get to know the city and the culture around. One of the things I enjoyed the most was visiting the different historical temples that make the city to keep its essence within the modernization that surrounds it. We got to visit the Thousand Buddhas temple, The Big Buddha, The Nan Lian Garden, Victoria Peak, and obviously, the must-visit famous Ladies Market.



Every minimal experience amazed me. All the cultural growth I was exposed to went beyond just places, but it expanded to the whole new experience of eating all the meals with chopsticks, to eat noodles for breakfast and to try typical Hong Kong Dim Sum brunch with locals; which was a great opportunity for me to see a bit of the daily life in the city.

Beyond all the cultural experience, just the university and international school program were fulfilling enough to categorize the whole summer as amazing. The Chinese University of Hong Kong was one of the best and most enriching experiences I have ever lived. In these six weeks, I had the opportunity to take a Global Enterprise Management course, and a General Psychology, courses that were taught by well-known international professors; which gave us the chance of acquiring a broader knowledge than the one expected just by studying in Hong Kong. One of my favorite parts of my Business course is not only that I got to learn about management around the globe, but that I could apply the knowledge acquired in class by assisting to field trips, such as the visit to the Hong Kong Port and Harbor, the world's largest container port. Field trips such as the one just mentioned allowed me to get a glimpse of how businesses and the related concepts are applied in real life jobs and industries.

These connection between classes and business strategies in Hong Kong were a total new different method of learning, which I appreciated a lot and consider fruitful and necessary for the better understanding of how careers are applied in the daily basis.

Moreover, getting to live for six weeks with people from

all over the world contributed to make this experience an unforgettable one. In just a few days I became friends with people from Australia, South Africa, UK, China, and many other countries. The fact that we all shared the same timetables made it easy to keep contact with other students and established this way amazing friendships that will indeed remain forever.

The summer program could not end any better than by visiting Beijing with other students. The Chinese cuisine and all the history that the country encompasses, are unbelievable. One of my favorite places besides the Great Wall of China, was the Forbidden City which takes you back to history just by walking around it.



Time went by so fast in Hong Kong that in just a blink of an eye it was already time to realize that time over there was over. I am sure I was not the only left with the feeling of wanting to stay longer or just wanting to go back someday. By now, I am just certain that Hong Kong is the most remarkable summer experience I have had so far, and it made me grow as a person, leader, and as a student as well. All these and all the memories that will stick with me, will always make me be incredibly thankful with the Evans Lam Scholarship for making all this experience possible.

MATTHEW LE

Molecular Genetics | Class of 2020 Lake Placid, NY

In all honesty, I don't think I can fully describe my feelings towards Hong Kong. In only the short span of a month, the place has left such a profound impact on me. It is for this reason that I am extremely grateful to Mr. Evans Lam for giving me this opportunity as I don't think I would have been able to go through such a life changing experience otherwise.

The classes that I decided to take at the Chinese University of Hong Kong were the Cantonese language classes. This is mainly due to my own personal interest in learning about my family's heritage and background. The city of Hong Kong provided an amazing opportunity in which I could practice everything that I learned in class in actual everyday situations. It is for this reason that I think their bundle course in the language was very interesting because the courses provided me with tools that were very applicable during my stay in Hong Kong. In addition to the education, the entire program itself was great in the fact that I had the opportunity to meet with people from across the world. Notable friends that I've made while there, for example, hailed from Canada, Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, mainland China, and the United Kingdom. This represents only a small snippet of the breadth of diversity that I experienced while at CUHK. It is through this that I was able to obtain a deeper insight into the lives and perspectives of people from countries that, under normal circumstances, I would never have had the opportunity to interact with.



Outside of the academics, the experiences that I've had away from the classroom were what truly made this summer amazing. Every Friday night my South Korean friend (dubbed "the travel buddy") and I would randomly pick a location on the map and take the MTR there. From there we would go around exploring the streets and looking for random restaurants to try out their cuisine. We managed to find pretty much any kind of cuisine that we could imagine which most notably included Japanese, Thai, Korean, Sichuan, of course Hong Kong. The wealth of food was honestly overwhelming and my mouth waters just thinking about it. For Hong Kong cuisine specifically, I fell in love with the roast goose from a Michelin starred restaurant called "Yat Lok" which is located near Lan Kwai Fong. Super crowded, super noisy, super delicious, and super cheap; I was able to enjoy some of the best Chinese barbecue meats that I have ever had. Other notable mentions for my favorite food includes a Gai Daan Jai (Egg Waffle) from a famous street stand called "Mammy

Pancake” located in Tsim Sha Tsui and dimsum from a famous restaurant called “One Dimsum” which is located in Prince Edward. Honestly, although these restaurants are exceptional, these foods are just straight up delicious pretty much anywhere you can find them in Hong Kong.

Aside from the food, I really enjoyed being able to take in the breathtaking views from the various sightseeing locations as well as visiting the many museums in the city. I would meet up with a good friend of mine who lives in the area and he would show me around to these different locations. With the views of the harbour from areas such as Central and Tsim Sha Tsui contrasting with areas like the forests near the Wisdom Path on Lantau Island, Hong Kong is the perfect balance of natural and man-made beauty. My favorite place to be is still Ocean Terminal overlooking Victoria Harbour at night during the 8 PM symphony of lights. In addition, as someone who also really enjoys museums, visiting the Heritage Museum and the History museum were experiences that really enabled me to appreciate Hong Kong further as I now had a greater understanding of how it developed to be the way it is today.

After an amazing six weeks in Hong Kong, we had the opportunity to visit Beijing in an organized tour. I was able to see historical sites such as the Great Wall, Forbidden Palace, Tiananmen Square, and the Summer Palace. Although I had seen most of these places before in pictures and in textbooks, actually being there in person adds a whole new dimension to it. I had never realized how large the Great Wall was until I actually had the opportunity to climb it. To think of the effort that it took to create is mind blowing to me. Having the opportunity to try authentic

Beijing cuisine was also a nice way to become more acquainted with all of the different styles of food that China had to offer. Unfortunately, the Beijing trip eventually came to an end as well and I had to board my plane back to Hong Kong.

Afterwards, as I sat in the Hong Kong international airport preparing to board my flight back to the states, I could only think to myself “Aw man, I really wanted one more egg waffle.” If I were given another opportunity to come back, I wouldn’t hesitate for a second. Not just for the egg waffle, but also because it’s grown to have a special place in my heart.



MEIQI (MAGGIE) LIU

Political Science; Environmental Studies | Class of 2019
Acton, MA

After learning of my fall study abroad program's cancellation this summer, I was thoroughly dismayed that my chance to finally study in Asia had been quashed. Yet thanks to the generosity of Mr. Lam and the Education Abroad office, I have been given the opportunity of a lifetime. Like many other Chinese-Americans, my identity has always felt transient: more Chinese between as a child attempting to assimilate, more American as a teenager embarrassed by my heritage, and now firmly in between the two as a curious young adult. Hong Kong feels the same to me; once Chinese, then colonized by Great Britain, and now a union of tradition and modernity. Since emigrating as a toddler, I have never had the opportunity to explore my native country, and I saw this summer as the perfect way to hone my Mandarin skills while also learning Cantonese in order to explore my roots and further cultivate my Asian-American identity.

There were so many sights to see, foods to taste, and lessons to learn immediately upon landing in Hong Kong, and I tried my best to take explore it all. Being located farther out in Shatin District was a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of downtown; the lush mountains offered many hiking escapes, hidden monasteries, and markets brimming with activity. I immediately began to notice the differences between the mainland and Hong Kong cultures and was eager to better understand both.



Classes at CUHK were also just as eye-opening; as a Political Science and Environmental Studies major, I was excited to take a social science course called Chinese Foreign Policy as well as my first business course called Global Enterprise Management. It was wonderful to sit in such a global classroom with peers from all across the world; our unique perspectives contributed to discussions that I could not have experienced anywhere else. In particular, I found it fascinating to take a social science course such as Chinese Foreign Policy from a non-Western perspective; our professor was from Hong Kong and provided a unique perspective of examining foreign policy from both an external (Hong Kong) and internal (mainland) lens. My business class was just as interesting, as we were even able to go tour a the second-largest shipping container company in Hong Kong.

Outside of the classroom, CUHK also offered numerous outing opportunities to places that would have been hard for us to explore on our own. Each weekend offered a day full of activities: I was able to explore Victoria Harbour, Victoria Peak, and Stanley Market one time, and take a ferry to Lamma and Cheung Chau Island where we snacked on fresh seafood and mango mochi another. We were also given the opportunity to take cultural classes such as cooking shumai or go on cultural excursions to soy sauce factories, wet markets, and private monasteries. Aside from the CUHK excursions, I also aimed to explore as many nearby areas as possible. Taking the MTR brought me to the homey traditional cafes that served milk tea and warm pineapple buns filled with butter, the lively endless street markets of Mong Kok, and the vibrant modern areas of Hong Kong Island. It was through exploring and more specifically trying new foods that I got to see the multiculturalism of Hong Kong—I could easily get cuisine from any part of the world on any street I walked down. Being conveniently located to the mainland border meant I was able to go on trips to Shenzhen, China, and experience a rapidly-growing mainland city that was just across the river channel from Hong Kong yet was vastly different culturally. I seized the opportunity to travel to Cambodia for a weekend as well. The incredible temples, lush nature, warm people, and rapid development amazed me; the resilience of the people after such recent wars was inspiring. Being so conveniently located in Asia, it was easy for many students like me to travel to other countries in the area.

As the time flew by over the course of six weeks, I flew home with a sense of awe. Not only was it an incredible educational opportunity in the classroom, but it was also so enriching culturally to explore a region with so much

history and to hear my peers' perspectives from all across the world. My time in Hong Kong has only deepened my Chinese-American identity and sparked even more desire to continue to cultivate my heritage. What a delight it was to experience such a cosmopolitan, culturally-rich, and innovative society; I am endlessly grateful to Mr. Lam for this opportunity of a lifetime. I cannot wait to go back.



MARIA MURIAS

Political Science | Class of 2019
Turriaba, Costa Rica

The Evans Lam Summer in Hong Kong program was a life changing experience. This program made me realize how important experiential learning is. I am a political science major, and I love reading about political systems all around the world. But, nothing compares to experience of studying a country while you are living in it. Everything you learn you also get to observe when you walk around the streets or talk to people.

We had the opportunity to take classes at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. I absolutely loved my classes. I took Chinese Foreign Policy and Chinese Government and Politics. Both of my professors were very knowledgeable and passionate about the Chinese politics. In both of my classes the first few lectures focused on the different approaches that academics have taken to study China. This turned out to be very eye opening. I realized that considering the context and the culture is fundamental in order to more appropriately understand contemporary Chinese politics.

When people think about Hong Kong they often think about skyscrapers. However, that is only half of the story. What is so amazing about Hong Kong is that it combines both, a fast-paced urban environment and with splendid tropical forest. There is just so much to explore; whether it is in Hong Kong's tropical forest or in its concrete jungle --you will never be bored. It is a wonderful place to go hiking! As part of the program we had the opportunity to visit



many of Hong Kong's most famous tourist sites. During our weekend trips we went to the Big Buddha, Ocean Park, the Victoria Peak and some of the smaller islands around Hong Kong. In addition, my roommate and I decided to explore other places in the city. Together we visited several of Hong Kong's colorful temples and markets.

Living in at CUHK was in itself an amazing experience. The CUHK campus is located at the top of a hill in the new territories. The view from our kitchen was absolutely captivating. Every morning I would make breakfast and sit in the kitchen to watch the sun rise over the hills. The faculty and staff at CUHK were also very friendly. The summer program organizers were always available and willing to help.

One of the best things about Hong Kong is its culinary culture. The food was fantastic! You can find great food everywhere from the street markets to the (very affordable) Michelin restaurants. Even the canteens at CUHK will pleasantly surprise you! I was particularly impressed by the great variety of fruits and vegetables. I grew up in a tropical country and I thought I had seen it all when it comes to fruits and vegetables. But, in Hong Kong I discovered many new flavors. Here is a (vegan's) list of musts: dim sum, durian, mango mochi, steamed buns with red bean paste, dumplings, tofu dessert, traditional street medicinal tea and coconut pudding. The point is, the Hong Kong experience is full of flavor!

At the end of our program we visited Beijing for four days. Since Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Area (SAR) things work a little different. I had spent the previous four weeks learning all about the Chinese government. The trip to Beijing gave me the opportunity to better understand the difference between the Chinese and Hong Kong political systems. Although we were only there for a few days we got to see a lot of the Chinese capital. We visited the Great Wall, the Olympic Village, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heavens, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.





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