

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Campus Internationalization

Prof Kar Yan Tam

Dean of Undergraduate Education

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, located on the southeastern coast of the People's Republic of China, is home to over 6.9 million people. The densely populated city thrives as an international hub for social, political and economic networks. It is the policy direction of the government to foster Hong Kong to become an international education hub in the region. For this to happen, campuses need to be international. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has been working on campus internationalization in a number of areas: student recruitment; campus life; academic experience; and institutional collaboration.

The University has been actively recruiting overseas high-achievers as HKUST undergraduates by conducting information sessions at selected overseas high schools, advertising in key overseas media, and participating in overseas recruitment fairs. For the brightest minds, the University also offers scholarships. The number of received applications and admitted students has been increasing every year, together with the diversity of the student population.

With a diverse student population, the University understands that the campus must adapt to suit the needs of the different student groups. The University has done this through a number of ways, including the organization of an extensive 2-week long orientation program for new incoming students that prepares them for university life in HKUST and living in Hong Kong. HKUST organizes activities and events that aim at bringing the various cultural groups together and fostering a multicultural campus community. Staff puts a lot of effort on the counseling needs of international students, providing them with guidance and someone to talk to for any academic or personal issues. The types of eating outlets are now more diverse in order to meet the various needs of the international student population.

HKUST also puts great emphasis on enriching local students with international exposure. HKUST has one of the most extensive undergraduate exchange programs in Asia with over 130 exchange partners worldwide. There are plenty of other student opportunities to gain international experience in all disciplines through internships, research projects, and study abroad programs. In addition to the international outlook that our global faculty can provide, the academic experience that is offered is truly international.

At HKUST, campus internationalization initiatives are led by the International and Mainland Students and Programs Office (IMSPPO). The unit works closely with Schools and other administrative units in understanding and addressing the needs that come from campus internationalization.

While there are obvious benefits to campus internationalization, the effort also brings along challenges that universities must face. These include 1) maintaining harmony between local and overseas student groups; 2) recruiting staff that understands internationalization; 3) reviewing academic programs to ensure that existing curriculum suits the needs of a diverse student population.

Campus Internationalization

by

Professor Kar Yan TAM

Dean of Undergraduate Education
Director, International & Mainland Students & Programs Office
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Hong Kong



Higher Education in Hong Kong

- About 10% of annual UG intake are non-local students
- *To increase to about 20% in the upcoming years*



THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Quick Facts

- **Founded:** 1991
- **No. of Students:** 9,000
 - Undergraduate: 5,772
 - Postgraduate: 3,228
- **No. of Faculty:** 453
- **Degrees offered:**
 - Bachelor, Master, PhD

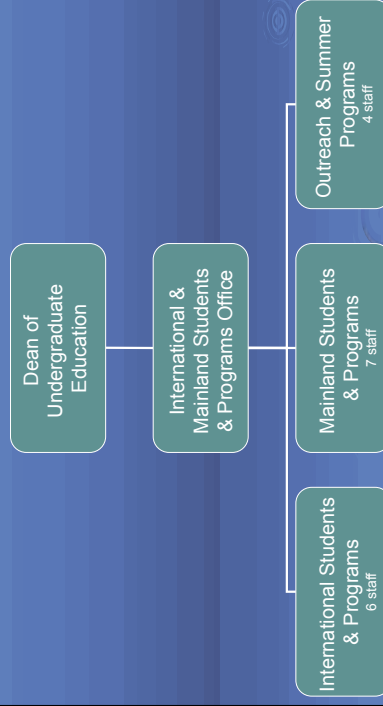
Academic Structure

- School of Science
- School of Engineering
- School of Business and Management
- School of Humanities & Social Science
- HKUST Fok Ying Tung Graduate School

Campus Internationalization

- **Diversity in the faculty profile**
- **Collaboration**
 - Academic and research collaboration
 - Exchange partnerships
- **Students**
 - Diversity in the student population
 - Diversity in types of student activities

Campus Internationalization Administrative Unit



Exchange Partnerships

Exchange Partnerships

- Total Number: 135
- By Geographical Region
 - Asia : 26
 - Australia & New Zealand : 3
 - Europe : 52
 - North and Central America : 54



Students

Categories of Students

- Undergraduate Degree-seeking Students
 - Local (Hong Kong)
 - International
 - Mainland China
- Undergraduate Exchange Students
 - International
 - Mainland China



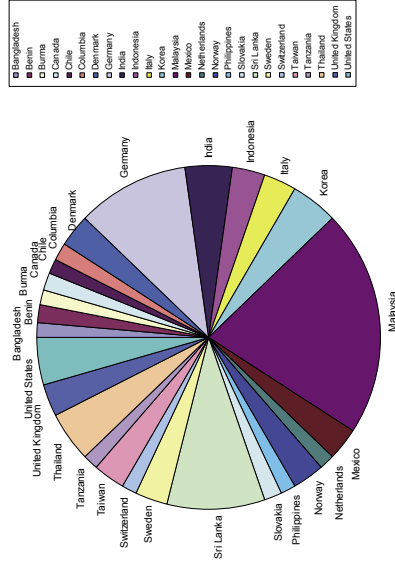
International Undergraduate Degree-seeking Students



Intake Numbers

- > 2005/06 : 15
 - > 2006/07 : 25
 - > 2007/08 : 39
- Total : 79

International Undergraduate Degree-seeking Students Distribution by Nationality (2005-2008)



Mainland China Undergraduate Degree-seeking Students



Intake Numbers

- > 2005/06 : 163
- > 2006/07 : 160
- > 2007/08 : 232

Undergraduate Exchange Students



- > Number of Exchange-in Students
 - > 2005/06 : 495
 - > 2006/07 : 538
 - > 2007/08 : 523
- > Number of Exchange-out Students
 - > 2005/06 : 393
 - > 2006/07 : 441
 - > 2007/08 : 546

Student Activities

celebrating the multicultural campus of HKUST

Student Activities

- Promoting a “**Multicultural Campus**” by encouraging student involvement in campus life
- The International and Mainland Students and Programs Office (IMSPPO) initiates intercultural activities to bring together campus diversity
- Campus diversity:
 - HKUST receives over 500 exchange students every academic year from over 130 different partner institutions spanning 4 continents
 - Full-time international students come from 25 different countries, including the likes of Germany, Sweden, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States, and Korea



A Taste of Culture

October 2007

- Organized by HKUST & The Swire Group
- SWIRE has been a long-standing supporter of the HKUST internationalization activities and programs through the *Swire International Young Fellows Program*







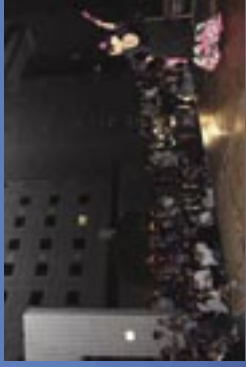
- The highlight of “A Taste of Culture”, was a cooking competition where six teams of students from Europe, Asia, and Latin America as well as from Hong Kong vied for honor of “The Most Popular Dish” and “The Champion’s Award”

Culture Fiesta!

November 2007
Co-organized by the IMSPO and NAUTY

•NAUTY (enJoy the pleAsures of diversity), established in 2005, is a student group, made up of students from all backgrounds, whose aim is to organize fun events that celebrate diversity on campus

•*Culture Fiesta!* is a popular annual event with food, music and cultural performances from around the world



Welcome Cocktail



Hot Pot Night



Orientation Program

(For newly-arrived degree seeking international students)

- **PURPOSE:** to provide new arrivals a familiarization period to adjust and settle down before beginning their studies
- In 2007/08, The orientation program ran from August 18-30. It included:
 - a **Student Buddy** system which a current HKUST student is paired with a new student to provide assistance upon arrival
 - **Information sessions** – include both academic and non-academic segments
 - Survival **Cantonese classes**
 - **Welcome lunch** with university staff
 - **Sharing session** with current international students on issues that arise during university life
 - **Cultural field trips** to various destinations around the city
 - **Workshops** to learn about the campus amenities (e.g. library tour and computer workshops)
- Evaluations conducted after the orientation program show that students are left with a positive outlook and enthusiasm for the start of the academic year. Moreover, they relish the opportunity to get to know their peers in a relaxed setting.

Orientation Program

(For newly-arrived degree seeking international students)



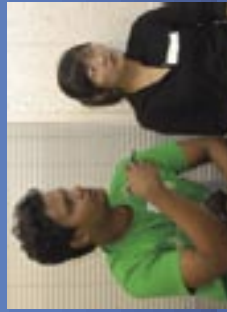
Outlying Island Excursion

•New students have the opportunity to experience the Hong Kong culture and to mix with current HKUST students

Dinner Outings

Orientation Program

(For newly-arrived full-time international students)



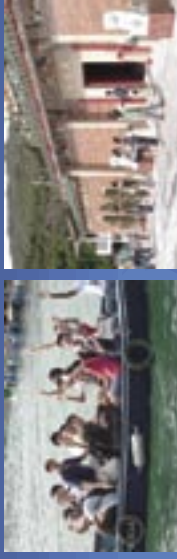
Information and Sharing Sessions

- information sessions provide a setting for students to settle any enquiries with university administration
- The sharing sessions with current international students are highly regarded by the participants as they can learn more about the university system through their peers and to discuss any adjustment issues pertaining to international students

Orientation Program

(For newly-arrived degree seeking international students)

Boat Cruise around HKUST campus



Orientation Program

(For newly arrived international exchange students)



- All incoming exchange students have an Orientation Day comprised of a half-day information session and a welcome lunch

Challenges and Ways forward in Campus Internationalization

Challenges

- Lobbying for allocation of university resources by individual student groups; perceptions of inequity in resource allocation
- University staff are unprepared for dealing with the diverse needs of an international student group.
- The academic curriculum is not designed to address the diverse needs of an international student group.

Ways Forward

- Foster continuous open communication with various stakeholders, including students, faculty and the administration.
- Share the goal of campus internationalization with various stakeholders
- Communicate the benefits of an international campus in ways that stakeholders can understand, such as through the arts, culture, sports, food, and increased career opportunities.

Conclusion

Goal of an University Administration

- Foster a harmonious multicultural campus where the various student groups respect each other and where international diversity is celebrated