My SYA in Hong Kong
Sasha Kramer

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

The University

- Established in 1984 and became a fully accredited university in 1994
- Campus located in Kowloon Tong, on Hong Kong mainland
- Ranked as #1 most international university in the world in 2024





The city

- A British colony until 1997
- Is being returned to Chinese sovereignty but still has a strong British influence
- Hot and humid weather in the summer, dry and warm in spring and autumn and cooler in the winter
- Very cheap and accessible public transport
- Cost of living similar to Bath
- Has a very big international community of expats
- Has 9 public universities so there are many other exchange students

University life

- I took 3 modules per semester, alongside a year long research project
- Chemistry modules were significantly easier than in Bath: 3rd year content was all a recap of Bath 1st and 2nd year
- My research project was focused on developing a machine learning model to find novel alternatives to cisplatin
- The lab environment was intense and there was very limited work-life balance

Travel

- Other Asian countries are only a short flight away
- Mainland China is accessible by train
- Countries I visited: Macau, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, Japan, China, Singapore

Activities

- Hong Kong has EVERYTHING: city life, hikes, beaches, temples, museums
- There are big celebrations for public holidays such as mid-autumn festival and Chinese new year
- Hong Kong is comprised of the mainland and many islands
- The city centre is on Hong Kong island which is connected to the mainland by the subway, and the others are all a short ferry trip away
- Hong Kong rugby sevens is a huge event and many people travel to Hong Kong just for it
- Really good and often cheap nightlife
- The horse races happen every week on a Wednesday night, entry is free and the minimum bet is about £2
- A very diverse, amazing food scene
- There is a big eating out culture, it is often cheaper to eat at local restaurants than it is to cook at home









