

## Studying at UEA- An International Perspective Hong Kong

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### Why did you choose UEA to study Economics?

For all of us, one positive reason is that it is a somewhat less stressful environment for studying, since studying in Hong Kong can be especially stressful. The grading system in Hong Kong universities is called GPA (grade point average), and it is a system that takes students' results as a normal distribution. In other words, you need to perform better than your course mates around you, whereas marking at UEA is not done in such a competitive style.



### So far, what are the differences of studying in UEA and the universities in your home country?

The atmosphere at UEA is quite different from the universities in Hong Kong. Life at UEA is less intense (though it is indeed demanding) than studying in Hong Kong.

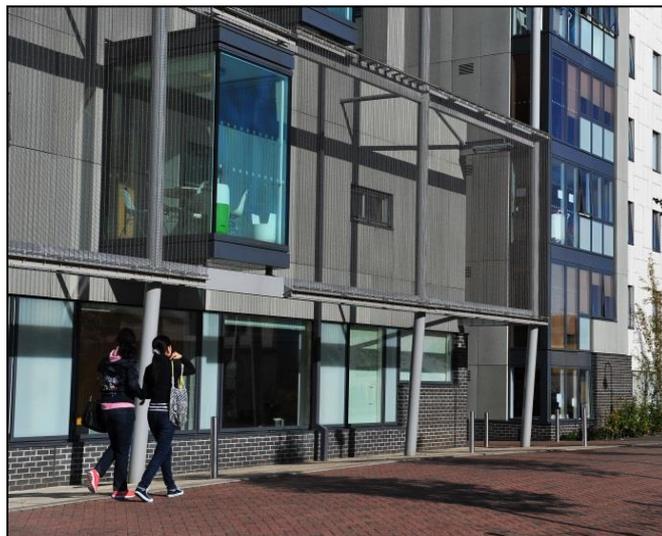
Most of us at UEA are required to study 6 modules, so, Economics students usually have around 8-10 hours lectures and seminars per week in both autumn and spring semesters. In contrast, Hong Kong Economics students usually have 15-20 hours lectures and seminars per week including compulsory modules which are not related to economics. It is incredibly tiring attending lectures and seminars by the end of semesters.

Also, Hong Kong students need to face a mid-term exam during week 6-7 for most modules; much more like a mock-final exam! To compare, studying in UEA may just have 2-3 mid-term tests. In terms of exam pressure, it is relatively lower than for Hong Kong students. Indeed students often face many more pieces of coursework during each semester.

**What abilities have you acquired from UEA Economics modules that you believe you cannot gain in your home country?**

As international students, the most obvious improvement should be both written and verbal communication ability in English. Besides improvements in English, another precious ability that we believe we have acquired and cannot get in Hong Kong is encouraged co-operation with other course mates instead of competing with each other.

For example, in group projects, tasks were allocated according to individual's abilities in the group and projects were completed by utilizing individual ability as a team.



**How are the future career prospect / opportunities for Economics students in your home country? Is it better than the UK?**

Most people's perceptions of Economics students are that our likely career path is to work in banks and financial institutions.

Indeed, Economics students in Hong Kong are likely to start their career in the financial sector or finance-related authorities. However, relatively, opportunities in Hong Kong are fewer, since there are few medium size firms and competition for a job is strong. As a result, some of the graduates in Hong Kong will choose to have further study abroad, so to enhance their competitiveness.

However, it is not a must for us to start careers strictly in the financial sector. Most companies do need economics students to conduct analysis on their business prospects, pricing strategies and risk management meaning there are a wide range of jobs for us to use our knowledge, so it is important for us to find a career we are interested in.

**Special thanks to Ivan Leung for conducting the interviews.**