



Lingnan 嶺南大學
University

Augustana Guide
to the

Lingnan University
Exchange Program





This guide is to help you better prepare for your time in the Lingnan University exchange program. It will help you answer any questions you may have about particular steps in the process and give you contact information for those questions that are not answered. This guide will make the process of preparing to go abroad much simpler and lead you in what to do up until the point of departure.

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I. Basic Information and Application Process for Augustana Exchange Programs

Exchange programs differ from other study abroad programs due to the make-up of the trip. An exchange program allows students to travel more independently, without a large group of American students creating a bubble effect. There will be no Augustana professor or advisor to guide you along the way, but the local university has offices dedicated to assisting international students like you to become a part of their campus community. The chance to branch out and become immersed in the Chinese culture is what this experience offers. It is an opportunity to study across many fields of study, in English or in the local language, and to become part of a new campus, a new culture and a new educational model.

Basic Program Information				
SCHOOL	TERMS	LANGUAGE	COURSE LOAD	NOTES
Lingnan University	Full Year Fall + December Spring + Jan/Feb	English, Mandarin	12-15 Credits per semester	Students on semester exchange also take 4-6 credits at Augustana during the ½ of Winter Term not in Hong Kong.

Some prior study of Chinese (Mandarin) is recommended but not required. Courses in basic Mandarin or Cantonese are available and recommended as one of your course options. You may take all other courses in English, but It is recommended that at least one course in the exchange be taken in basic language.

A. Exchange Program Application Instructions

Participation on an exchange program involves working with both Augustana offices and parallel offices at the host university, thus can involve various stages and requirements.

STEP ONE: Applying and qualifying at Augustana

1. Apply for the exchange program on Augie Plus by following the standard study abroad application instructions. Applications for each year's programs are due in January of the prior year (ex. Jan 2014 for a 2014-2015 program.) A deposit will be required at the time of application.
2. Students must have a 2.50 GPA for any exchange program. All students will be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office. This office can approve or deny any student from participation due to academic or other disciplinary issues.
3. Students are notified by email when approved for an exchange program. At this point a meeting will be scheduled with the International & Off-Campus programs staff to discuss the program. Your name will be sent to the International Office of the host university so that they are ready to hear from you.



STEP TWO: Applying at the host university

Every university is different, but all have offices to assist with international and exchange student applications. You should visit the Lingnan University International Office (OMIP) website, notify the school of your intention to apply and complete the online application materials. The University may request that the International & Off-Campus Programs office at Augustana also contact the school to verify that you have been approved for the program. The website for the Lingnan International Office is:

http://www.ln.edu.hk/omip/incoming_stu/why-hk-and-lingnan.php

Follow all instructions from the university. They will require documentation from Augustana and may ask for forms which duplicate those which Augustana requires. You must fill out all required forms for both Augustana and the host university.

Application Deadlines can vary, but typically applications for Fall semester or full year are due in April, while applications for Spring Semester are due in October.

STEP THREE: Enrolling in the program with Augustana

All students who travel on an Augustana program must register with our online paperless Studio Abroad database program. This program includes electronic copies of all of the forms and documents which Augustana requires of students who study, intern, or travel with groups off campus, and this includes all exchange students.

You will be sent instructions on how to apply through Studio Abroad when you are accepted into the exchange program by Augustana. Once you get the approval email, you should set up your Studio Abroad account as soon as possible and then complete the required documents found there.

STEP FOUR: Course Approval

1. Notify International & Off-Campus Programs when you have been accepted into the host university.
2. IOP will provide you with course transfer sheets. These are very similar to the sheets used when a student wishes to take courses at another school and then transfer those credits in, which is essentially what you will be doing with the exchange program.
3. Download course descriptions or syllabi from the host university for TWICE (or more) the number of courses you think you will take. For example, in a semester you might



take 4 courses, so get documents from the 8 courses you are most likely to choose. Since you don't know the class schedule yet, you need a lot of alternate courses in case your top choices are closed, not offered in the term you will be in Lingnan, or conflict with each other.

Course descriptions and catalogs are typically available from the International Office website at Lingnan U.. If you have difficulty finding course descriptions, ask the IOP Director at Augustana. For some syllabi it may be necessary to contact the department which offers the course at the host university to ask for electronic copies. If syllabi are not yet offered, Augustana will work with you to try and dictate appropriate action for each course based on situational circumstances.

4. You will need to seek approval from your academic adviser, from IOP, and from the department for each course you wish to take. Some departments will ask for syllabi, others may not. You should be prepared to provide each department with a course description and syllabus for each course upon request.
5. Once completed, these forms are turned in at the Registrar's Office. When you leave, your transcript will state only that you are taking generic credits at the host university (12 credits of LING [Lingnan], for example). Only upon your return and the delivery of a transcript to Augustana's Registrar will those generic credits be transformed into the course titles and equivalents which you took. Grades are not included, only transferred credits. All courses taken at Lingnan will be treated as pass/no credit and will not alter your GPA. Credits will be earned but no letter grades will be reported. **Since all exchange courses are treated as pass/no credit, you must receive the equivalent of a C in any course to pass the course and earn credit or there will not be any credits earned for the course.**

STEP FIVE: Billing, housing and payments:

Remember that for any exchange program you will be billed tuition & fees as if you were at Augustana, on the same calendar you would normally be billed. For the Lingnan exchange you will also be billed a standard housing cost based on your on-campus housing for the rest of the year, or, if you live off-campus, the standard housing cost for a student in your academic year (Residence Hall or TLA, depending on the year). The university overseas will place you in appropriate on-campus student housing and you will not be billed by them for your housing. You will need to anticipate paying for meals in Hong Kong, but this can be done affordably through a combination of on-campus cafeterias (with special student prices) and shopping in local markets to cook within your residence.



With all exchange programs travel to and from the country, and any additional travel you might opt to do, are not covered by the program and are the responsibility of the individual participant.

These five steps are essential to a smooth enrollment process for any exchange program. Of course you will want to speak with each program's campus contact person to find out more about the university and the location. These liaisons are listed on Augustana's exchange program website and able to answer any potential questions you may have about your interested program.

You can also bring questions to the International & Off-Campus Programs Office. You may also be given some student contacts who have participated in the program in prior years, they are a great resource to answer any questions pertaining to the experience, what to pack, cost questions, etc. They can help answer some of your questions from a student perspective and give you more specific answers based on their own experiences.

B. Costs & Payment

The chart below details which program costs are paid to Augustana College and which are paid at the host university. In all cases supplemental health insurance is highly recommended and transportation costs are out-of-pocket.

PAYMENT & EXPENSE PLAN FOR AUGUSTANA EXCHANGE PROGRAMS				
	PAID TO AUGUSTANA			
	Tuition	Fees	Room	Meal Plan
Hong Kong (Lingnan)	YES	YES	YES	NO
Meals are typically out of pocket though some meal options exist on campus. Other out-of-pocket expenses include transportation to/from and within Hong Kong, student visa (and additional visas if you plan to travel within Asia), health insurance and discretionary spending.				

Students on Augustana Exchanges are eligible for the same financial aid they would receive on campus as well as Augie Choice (if eligible) and Freistat Center funds (requires at least 6 credits of language study be included in your coursework abroad). Other grants and scholarships students have individually earned may also be applicable.

Somewhere to start looking for additional study abroad and exchange student scholarships would be http://www.isep.org/students/Programs/financial_aid_scholarships.asp



C. Augustana Contacts

You might wish to speak to these campus contacts prior to completing either your Augustana application or your host university application. Once accepted into both parts of the program, it is recommended that you work with the faculty contacts in order to select courses which are appropriate for your time abroad.

Allen Bertsche, Director
International & Off-Campus Programs
309-794-8283
internationalprograms@augustana.edu

Dr. Marsha Smith
Asian Studies
309-794-7329
marshasmith@augustana.edu



II. Lingnan University Exchange Program

A. Lingnan University in Brief

Lingnan University is the only Liberal Arts College in Hong Kong and one of very few in all of East Asia. Founded in 1967 on an 8.6 hectare campus in the Tuen Mun region of Hong Kong, Lingnan provides a residential college atmosphere on the outskirts of one of the world's most dynamic cities. With only 2,600 undergraduate students, and over 80% living on campus, Lingnan provides a nice parallel to Augustana College in its size, makeup and emphasis on undergraduate education. The campus has a steady population of approximately 400 international students, including students from other regions of China as well as students from across the globe. The school offers outstanding programs in the traditional liberal arts as well as a robust program in Business Administration, including core areas such as Accounting, Finance, Management and Marketing.)

The city of Hong Kong is a city of just over 7 million inhabitants. A former British colony, the city, made up of several islands and coastal regions in southern China, has become one of the most important hubs for finance and trade in East Asia. You can find out more about all that Hong Kong has to offer at this website: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/us/index.jsp>



B. Exchange Program Basics

Augustana College and the Lingnan University have formed an agreement through which students from one school may attend the other for a full year or for a portion of the year. Typically Augustana students travel to Lingnan for one semester, spanning our Fall or Spring Term and half of our Winter Term. For this reason Augustana students should plan to take courses both at Lingnan and at Augustana during the winter. If a student from Augustana wanted to stay for the entire year, that is also possible. Students from Lingnan typically come to Augustana in August and stay only for our Fall trimester.

Students traveling to Hong Kong pay Augustana tuition, fees and housing costs. They live on campus at Lingnan University, often paired with another international students as a roommate. Students have all the rights and privileges of Lingnan U. students, including access to a wide range of courses in English, computer use, library access and use of the on-campus cafeterias.

The typical Augustana student will enroll in 5 courses while in Lingnan, allowing them to earn 15 credits of coursework at Augustana. They will then supplement those credits with 1-3 credits of 5-week courses at Augustana during the half of Winter Term when they are not in Hong Kong. All courses taken at Lingnan should be pre-approved by Augustana before a student departs for Asia (more on this later in the document.)

Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to/from Hong Kong for this program. Instructions and recommendations are included in this document.

C. Application Process

Step One : Submit the application on the Augustana Website by the January deadline. You will need to have your \$300 deposit to the business office by the same date.

Step Two: Once you have been accepted by Augustana for the Lingnan Exchange Program, you will be given specific instructions on how to complete Augustana's required documentation. You will also be advised to apply to Lingnan University through their exchange office. Instructions on the application process are available at the Lingnan University Exchange office website: http://www.ln.edu.hk/omip/incoming_stu/application-and-visa.php

Step Three: Complete the application, visa and housing documents for Lingnan University, along with the Augustana documents which will be located on an online database. Instructions on how to complete both will be available from the IOP office at Augustana and the OMIP office at Lingnan. The application includes a course request form where you indicate the courses you wish to take. Review the section below on Course Selection before filling out this part of the application.

Step Four: You will need to follow the instructions on the Lingnan website for the visa needed to travel to Hong Kong. Additional visas may be needed if you plan to visit mainland China or other nations in the region.



D. Course Selection

While you will not officially register for courses until you arrive in Hong Kong, you should review the courses available for the semester you will be at Lingnan and seek approval from Augustana departments for courses in preparation for enrollment. In order to ensure that you will receive full credit for courses taken in Hong Kong, you should plan to do the following:

1. Speak with your advisor about courses and Gen Ed requirements you might try to fill while in Hong Kong. You may opt to take at least 1 course of Chinese while abroad so that you can better acclimate to the culture of the region. If you have never studied Chinese before, you can start with a basic introductory course. If you have studied Mandarin, you will want to speak with the Asian Studies or Chinese language faculty to determine which course at Lingnan is the best match for you.
2. Review the list of courses offered in English at Lingnan as you are likely to select most of your courses from this list. The list of courses taught in English is produced by Lingnan University each year. You can access it here:
http://www.ln.edu.hk/omip/incoming_stu/academic-studies.php
3. Select twice as many courses as you actually plan to take. Basically you want backup options if a course is not offered, is closed by the time you register, or is in conflict with another course. By getting twice as many courses approved as you need, you can register at Lingnan without fear that some of your courses will not transfer back to Augie.
4. In order to get courses approved by Augustana you will need to pick up the yellow course transfer sheets from the IOP office and get signatures from your advisor, the appropriate department chair at Augustana and the IOP Director. In most cases you will need to download either a course description or a copy of the syllabus in order to get approval from a department chair. They are the gatekeepers for all courses and it is their job to ensure that the course you want to take in Lingnan is a good equivalent for



something you could study at Augustana. Expect them to ask questions about the class and to be skeptical at first.

5. Once you have all of the signatures for the courses you have selected, make a copy of the forms for you to take with you and turn in the original yellow forms to the Registrar in Founders Hall. This should be completed BEFORE you leave for Hong Kong.
6. Once you arrive in Hong Kong your course schedule will be finalized by the staff of the International Office. If you find yourself with a course which was not preapproved, it is your responsibility to acquire a syllabus and send a scan or image of the complete syllabus to the IOP Office. They will work with faculty at Augustana to get approval for this new course. But, if you have done your predeparture course selection correctly, this should not be necessary.

E. Housing

On-Campus housing is guaranteed at Lingnan University for all exchange students. Housing documents are part of the paperwork you will complete before departure for Hong Kong. You can review information about housing and a look at all dorms at the Lingnan University website: http://www.ln.edu.hk/omip/incoming_stu/accommodation.php

All housing is in shared rooms where exchange students are placed with local students. This enhances your ability to engage with the culture of Hong Kong as well as to develop friendships with local students.

F. Health Insurance

It is necessary that you purchase health insurance for your time at Lingnan University. We recommend that you review the health & insurance information provided by the university carefully so that you can select the most appropriate supplemental insurance for your time in Hong Kong. American health insurance which you already possess may not be valid or contain all of the benefits you would desire while living abroad. You can review Lingnan's health insurance information at this address: http://www.ln.edu.hk/omip/incoming_stu/health-and-insurance.php

G. Visa/Residence Permit

It is vital to note that you **MUST** enter Hong Kong with a student visa. If you do not have this type of visa you will be stopped at the airport.

Chinese student visa information can be found at:

http://www.ln.edu.hk/omip/incoming_stu/application-and-visa.php



H. Credit Transferring

When you are done with your semester or year in Hong Kong, you will need to have your transcript sent back to Augustana. It is important that you have the exchange university send the transcript back to the Registrar's office directly. The Registrar cannot accept a transcript or grade report that has been sent to you. It must be mailed to this address:

Office of the Registrar
Augustana College
639—38th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

It is essential for you to have the host university send your transcript to Augustana because Augustana will not accept any transcript not sent from the host university.

In order to receive credit for the courses you take in Hong Kong, you must receive a grade of a "C" or higher. The grading system is a little different in Hong Kong; however, the host university will send your transcript back with letter grades when asked. You may wish to talk to your professors about this or someone in the International Programs Office at your University.





III. Pre-departure Information for Lingnan University

A. Money Matters

Items you will pay for out of pocket once in Hong Kong include: meals, transportation to/from/within Hong Kong, student visa, insurance, discretionary spending. Making a budget for your time abroad would be a good idea so that you have a grasp on your spending habits and how much you can spend on certain things while over there.

B. Food

Meals are paid for out of pocket. This means that you can buy groceries for yourself, purchase meals at university cafeterias, or handle food in any other way you deem best based on your particular lifestyle and eating habits. Determining which is best varies on a student to student basis.

C. Recommended Packing List

Important Documents

- Passport
- Driver's License
- Augustana I.D. (for student discounts in museums)
- Airline Tickets
- Train Tickets
- Eurail Pass
- Debit/Credit Cards
- Other banking info (contact info for lost cards)
- Health insurance cards

Luggage: Regulations regarding overseas luggage allow for one large suitcases at about 50 lbs. —but you will need to be under or a surcharge will occur—and one carry-on bag (potential to vary with different airlines, but this is standard). This must be under a certain size. You may wish your carry-on bag to double as a weekend bag. Do not take more than what is necessary, as it will only be more you will have to lug around with you. Most students do fine with one large suitcase and a smaller second suitcase with a carry-on bag. Regulations regarding luggage restrictions vary from airline to airline, so check with your airline as these are subject to change! Most students discover that they don't end up wearing everything that they pack. Keep in mind that extra space in your luggage going over is not necessarily a bad thing because it can be used to bring back souvenirs, books, etc. It is very expensive to ship packages back to the States.



Carry-on notes: When packing your carry-on, make sure to pack your important documents, purse/wallet, a change of clothes, some underwear, bras, all electronics, all prescription medicines, a few toiletries, and contacts and/or glasses. If you wear contacts full time, bring a bottle of lens drops for the plane (and regular use.) Basically, pack anything that you may need for 2-3 days should your suitcase get lost. Remember that certain items are not allowed in your carry-on luggage. This includes razors, scissors or knives of pretty much any size as well as most liquids or gels. You are allowed to have some liquids in clear 3 oz. bottles in a quart-size zip-lock bag for most airlines. Again, check the airline regulations before packing. Plan to pack larger quantities of shampoo, toothpaste, and other toiletries which are liquids and gels in your large suitcase.

Weather: Hong Kong has a subtropical climate which does not demonstrate the same 4 seasons as you encounter in Illinois. The climate is generally warmer with a distinct dry and rainy season, you will need to consider weather when packing for the program.

Average high/daytime temperatures in Hong Kong range from the Mid 60's to the 90's, with highest average temperatures from May through September (averaging in the 80's and 90's) and lower temperatures from November through February, but nothing like a winter in Illinois. Daytime temperatures in these months will still be in the 60's.

The rainiest months in Hong Kong are also the summer months from May through September, when heavy rain, even monsoons, are possible. Far less rain is expected from October through March, the main months of the academic year.

Clothing: Since Hong Kong's weather is significantly warmer than Augustana's, especially in the winter months, you should plan on dressing for Spring and summer weather. It is highly recommended that you also pack a small umbrella or rain jacket. The weather changes frequently, and storms can be quite common. If you have a smart phone with a weather app, you could check the weather daily so as to be best prepared.

- It is recommended that you pack in color schemes so that you can wash laundry easier. For instance, take black and blue clothing that can be washed together or colors that can be washed together – remember to pack smart and layer, that way you can utilize items in any type of weather and keep your packing light and efficient and make sure you are packing all the right items so you are not over your 50 lb. limit, but are still prepared for any type of weather thrown your way.
- Take clothes that do not need special treatment – you do not want to go through the hassle of trying to dry clean, wash separately, etc. Try thinking as if you were going to just throw everything from your suitcase directly into the washing machine, if it cannot all go in there, you may want to reconsider.



- Avoid clothes may easily shrink. Chinese washers and dryers are not the same as in America, and if a Chinese native washes your clothes, they may not understand when you tell them something needs to be washed or dried on cold. This applies to wool sweaters and such. If you really want to take something that does not fit in any load, keep in mind that you may have to wash it by hand for the duration of your trip.
- It is best to pack in layers and to dress in layers. Feel free to add to the list below, but pack lightly – remember you can and will have to re-wear and mix and match clothing items.

When it comes to packing bulkier items such as towels, sweatshirts, and sweaters, using space saving bags is convenient. They can be purchased at a variety of stores and come in handy. You do not need a vacuum in order to use them. Simply roll the air out. Remember, this saves on space, but not on weight. Recommendations: If you are going in the fall, pack these as well.

1-2 pairs of jeans	1-2 Dress shirts	4-5 T-Shirts	Bras
1-3 shorts/skirts	1-2 Sweatshirts/hoodies	Socks (7-10 pair)	Rain Jacket
1-2 khakis/pants	1-2 Summer tops/wraps	Underwear (2-10 pair)	Sandals
Dress outfit	Tennis Shoes	Athletic Clothing	Sleepwear
Dress Shoes	Umbrella (small)	Bath & Hand towels	Belt

Toiletries: Generally, do not pack toiletries in your carry-on except for allowed sizes of toothpaste, etc. At the time this was written, any liquids in a carry-on must be in 3 oz. clear bottles. Put these small containers of liquids together in one one-quart zip-lock and have ready to go through security. But check the TSA website before departure for the most current regulations.

It is best to take only what you need for a couple of days and to buy toiletries when you arrive in Hong Kong. You never know, you may find products that you prefer in Hong Kong. For women it is recommended to pack feminine hygiene products. While they obviously carry these products in Hong Kong, it is easier not to have to search for the right product. Plus, these products will be used up and give you space in your suitcase on the return flight. Deodorant is found in Hong Kong, but it is recommended that you take your own. For a few months ahead of your departure, pay closer attention to how much you use of each product you wish to take with you. For instance, if you use eye drops and you use a whole bottle in three weeks, make sure you take two bottles.

Toothbrush/toothpaste/floss	Deodorant/Anti-Perspirant	Shaving supplies
Soap	Shampoo/Conditioner	Lotion
Sunscreen	Brush/Comb	Hair Gels/Sprays
Contacts/Solution/Drops *	Feminine Products **	Nail Clippers/File
Band-Aids	Prescription Medicines ***	Tissues



Aspirin/Ibuprofen/Tylenol	Neosporin/Cortisone	Vitamins
Allergy/Sinus/Cold Medicine	Make-Up	Aloe

*Think about getting daily contacts, which save on solution and hassle. Both contacts and products for contacts are more expensive in Asia so it is advised that you take enough for your entire stay. Keep a copy of your glasses/contact prescription with you. It has been noticed that the price for contact solution has decreased in the last few years. It is now more close to the American price.

**Might not be the same as in the US, pack accordingly.

***Put together in a zip-lock but always pack them in their original prescription bottles, not loose or combined into one container. Make sure these go in your carry-on! Take with you a copy of all prescriptions with the chemical name, not just the brand name. Make sure you alert your insurance company about any travel several months in advance and keep on them. If you do any travel before or after the program, you may also need to be on top of the insurance company. They do not like issuing multiple months of some prescription drugs, even with notes from a doctor

Miscellaneous:

Camera/Charger	Batteries (if necessary)	iPod/MP3 Player/Headphones
Small Flashlight	School Supplies *	Dictionary/Translation Book
Travel Alarm Clock **	Journal (track experiences)	Adapter for Electric Devices
Cords for electronics	Eyeglasses Kit	Earplugs
Laptop/Tablet/Chargers	Toilet Paper***	Pillow

*2 notebooks, 2 folders, pens, pencils – also available in shops in Hong Kong.

**Remember, your phone may not work as your alarm clock in Hong Kong.

***You may wish to bring a roll of toilet paper. Depending on your location and date of arrival, you may not have toilet paper in your room and may not have the chance to buy any. Hong Kong does not have a 24 hour Walmart. You may have to be prepared for a weekend without toilet paper.

D. Plan Ahead

You will get the most enjoyment out of traveling by planning ahead and learning about the destinations you are going to visit. Be informed. Find out all you can about a city or place. This might be your only visit there, maybe for the near future or forever, so get out of it everything that you can. Use the internet and travel guides. To avoid frustration, plan travel before you go. Determine how many people would be traveling, how long you plan to stay, where to go, and what to see. Remember that when you leave Hong Kong for other parts of China, or if you wish to visit other East Asian or Southeast Asian nations, you will likely need to apply for a visa to enter those countries.



E. Safety & Security

You need to be cautious and well aware of your environment when you are traveling. Don't leave a back pack or suitcase unattended in order to go to the bathroom. If you plan to sleep some while on a train, and you are traveling alone, you need to make sure your belongings are secure. It is not a bad idea to have your suitcase lock(s) with you to use if you do not feel safe. When traveling, be extra careful regarding your wallet or backpack or wherever you carry your ID, money, credit cards, and other hard-to-replace items. In your suitcase, in your room or in your backpack should be a second photocopy of your passport, contact information for your credit cards, and emergency contact numbers. You have to be prepared for the worst, like a backpack being stolen. Be smart, travel safe. But enjoy! Traveling, seeing new places is one of the best experiences you will have while abroad, so take advantage of it.

F. Travel

It is best to buy your airline tickets at least 2 months in advance to secure a seat (earlier if possible to ensure lower pricing). Arranging to fly together is the best option if others will be attending the same program. Flights are typically overnight, so plan accordingly when determining what day you want to arrive- consider time change. Arriving one day in advance is the safest bet, but you must arrange early arrivals with the university you will be attending, and you want to factor in jet lag for your first day or so.

To purchase tickets, students can use on-line agencies, such as Expedia, Travelocity, etc., students discounters, a local travel agent, or the airline directly, such as SAS, United, etc. These sometimes have cheaper airfares than those posted on Expedia, etc. Discount websites such as Kayak, CheapTickets, and Expedia do occasionally have good deals; however, their fares may often include inconvenient connections, times, and are sometimes higher than published fares on the carrier's website. The best way to ensure that you are getting the best deal is to comparison shop. You have to weigh cost and convenience with possible cheaper fares and inconvenience and make the call. It is recommended that you take a direct flight because the more connections you have, the higher the chance of losing baggage and running into further complications.

As a college student you are actually entitled to special discounts because of your "student status". StudentUniverse and STA Travel offer students very competitive discounts on airfares that other carriers do not offer. Discounts can range from a few dollars cheaper to several hundred. However, to purchase tickets through STA Travel you must possess a valid ISIC (International Student Identification Card).

The ISIC card is valid for one year and costs under \$30. The value/use of this card does not stop with booking plane tickets. It is a guaranteed way to ensure discounted admittance to museums and other things all over the world, hence the reason why it is an International Student ID. We recommend that you get one, but it is not mandatory. Just remember that an Augustana



student ID will often serve the same purpose. More information about this card and purchasing information can be found at <http://www.isic.org/get-your-card/>.

As always, comparison shopping is the best way to ensure the best fare. Typically, fares ranging from \$1,800-\$2,400 especially when departure is still during the summer high season. Booking well in advance is advised, and is usually cheaper. Remember, however, that these tickets are usually non-refundable and come with a steep price for making any changes. Be sure your travel dates are firm to avoid penalties – check and double check. It is also recommended that you buy travel insurance when purchasing your ticket, should an issue arise. If something happens and you need to change your flight, it is much cheaper and easier to do with the flight insurance than if you had not purchased it.

G. Cell Phones & Internet

Cell phones are an integral part of society today. You will need to give a cell phone number to the Office of International and Off-Campus Programs before you leave or as soon as you can when you arrive. There are several options and each need to be considered. It is possible now to use most smart phones in Asia; HOWEVER, this gets very expensive if you use your plan. Data, calling, and texting charges add up very quickly. If you are going to be bringing your smartphone overseas you want to remember to turn the data roaming off, as that can begin to add up over time as well if you forget.

Utilizing your phone for internet features is what many students decide to do, while purchasing a phone in Hong Kong for calls among that area. There are many applications for smartphones (including Viber and WhatsApp) that will allow you to make international calls (when in areas with internet) for free. This is a good idea for calling back to the US while a Chinese prepaid phone may be better for calling within Hong Kong. However, the choice is up to you and differs based on your cell phone providers international plan.

It is also possible to purchase a pre-paid cellphone for the month. It is worth it to some, but not necessary. When you go to the cellphone store, ask about an international pre-paid plan if your intention is to primarily call home. It will cost more to call friends in Hong Kong with an International plan. If your intention is to communicate with others in Hong Kong, the international plan is not as ideal for you and you should get a normal plan. International calling with an international pre-paid plan is very cheap.

Pre-paid phone cards may be found in most drug stores, grocery stores, post offices, etc.... Keep in mind, pre-paid phones are more commonly used because phone plans throughout Asia are more expensive. As always, comparison shop for the best phone and internet deals.



H. Other

Language: It may be useful to learn a few Chinese phrases. Knowing extensive Chinese is not necessary, but some basic conversational questions and phrases could be useful for your time there.

Remember that you will likely hear a mix of two distinct Chinese languages in Hong Kong. Most locals speak Cantonese, while most mainland Chinese and many locals will also speak Mandarin (the language taught at Augustana). So, as you learn key phrases you might want to be sure that you know some of them in both Mandarin and in Cantonese.

Some key phrases to learn may be:

Do you speak English?

Please/Thank you

Hello/Goodbye

Do you have a room free?

How much does ____ cost?

I would like _____. (Ordering meals and buying items.)

Of course, as a former British colony (until 1999) and as a very international and cosmopolitan city, Hong Kong has a lot of English speakers. While we do not believe you will need to use Cantonese or Mandarin to move about the city, shop, eat or visit sights, knowing just a few key phrases can help you make friends and feel welcomed by locals.

