

During the fall semester 2023 I had the honor to complete an exchange semester in Hong Kong thanks to a partnership between my home university Linköping University and City University of Hong Kong (CityU). Before leaving for my semester abroad, I was one of the privileged to receive a scholarship from the Swedish School in Beijing.

As a Swedish student, it was a huge opportunity for me to study a semester in Hong Kong. It was both exciting and a bit frightening to attend a new school with a totally different academic environment and to live in a big city with a different culture than I am used to. However, the scholarship eased my financial worries, and allowed me to fully focus on this one in a lifetime opportunity. The scholarship funded my accommodation and living expenses in Hong Kong, which allowed me to explore the city and join after school activities without worrying about finances. Also, it helped fund my plane tickets, allowing me to go through with the exchange semester.

I had an incredible experience during my semester abroad. I was able to balance my schoolwork with going on hikes, going to the different beaches around Hong Kong and just eating my way through the amazing city.

In Linköping I study a M.Sc. program in Business and Economics, and in Hong Kong I had the chance to choose my own courses. I chose courses within management, marketing and sustainability. I really enjoyed the teaching methods they had at CityU. The courses contained more practical elements and in-class discussions than my school in Sweden. By being able to choose the courses I was interested in, I had the opportunity to tailor my semester to my liking and future. The courses I chose involved me building prototypes, starting a company with other exchange students from all over the world, making my own social media campaign and forming a report of different environmental problems both in Hong Kong and in Sweden.

After graduating, I would like to work internationally with sustainable development and help guide companies to work as environmentally friendly as possible. My semester at CityU helped me gain valuable experiences and knowledge that I will be able to look back to when I start working. During my exchange in Hong Kong I also made meaningful connections with other students from all over the world, and also with professors that made it clear to us that we always can reach out to them in the future.

I have grown a lot as a person during my exchange semester. My English has improved, I feel more confident when talking in front of people, and I have learnt about a new interesting culture. I am very grateful for receiving the scholarship and I look forward to making the most of the experiences and knowledge I gained during my time in Hong Kong.

Best Regards,
Ellen Greve
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