6,814 undergraduate, postgraduate and exchange students from outside Hong Kong were admitted to The University of Hong Kong for the academic year 2012-2013, a figure that is 20 times higher than that of 10 years ago.
We are now attracting some of the world’s most talented students to HKU. They have academic achievements that are outstanding at a global level.

Professor John Spinks

Under One Roof

The University of Hong Kong (HKU), which has long attracted the highest quality of students, faculty and staff, is drawing an ever-more diverse group of international students. This multi-national student body is enriching the campus with a cross-cultural fertilisation of ideas and adding vibrancy to the academic programmes, helping HKU reach its goal of becoming a global university in a global city.

“This is an exciting time for HKU and its rapidly advancing global reputation,” said Professor John Spinks, Chairman of the University Admissions Committee. “We are not just drawing applications in increasing numbers year on year, but we are now attracting some of the world’s most talented students to HKU. They have academic achievements that are outstanding at a global level.”

More international than ever

Internationalisation has always been part of HKU’s broader mission, and there has been a sharp acceleration in the number of international students studying at the University in the past few years. In 2012, over 18,000 applications were received from outside Hong Kong from 96 different countries.

The University eventually enrolled the highest number of international students in its history, across the three-year and four-year curricula. One in nine non-local applicants were offered a place, and at the start of the 2012-2013 academic year, 6,814 non-local undergraduate, postgraduate and exchange students were admitted, a figure that is 20 times higher than that of 10 years ago.

Among the non-local students, 363 undergraduate students were from Mainland China, and 21 of them were Zhuangyuan students, those who achieved the highest scores in the Mainland’s National Joint College Entrance Examination, which was taken by around 9 million students. In addition, 3,158 Mainland students were admitted to research and taught postgraduate studies. Another 1,100 students joined HKU through various collaborative programmes with partner universities around the world, with HKU students going on exchange to those same institutions.

The University’s ongoing outreach efforts have resulted in students from India, Korea and Malaysia becoming the largest population of international undergraduates on campus. Students from Costa Rica, Mauritius and Morocco are represented in the undergraduate population in the year 2012-2013 for the first time.

* Non-local students are those who will need student visa to study in Hong Kong.
In 2012, HKU admitted students from Argentina to Zambia.

Costa Rica, Mauritius and Morocco are represented for the first time. Students from India, Korea and Malaysia comprise the largest population of international undergraduates.
Global ranking

International students cite many reasons for choosing to study at HKU, not least its high ranking in regional and global university league tables.

In 2011, the Times Higher Education scale ranked Hong Kong as having the best universities in the world when adjusted for population size and gross domestic product. Four of Hong Kong’s universities were ranked in the QS Top 100 World University Rankings for 2012. Amongst the four, HKU has been ranked as number one (and Asia’s leading international university) for a number of years.

Strategic location

However, it is not reputation alone that draws international students. “I choose HKU not only because it is one of the top-ranked universities in Asia with outstanding job prospects, but also because of its uniquely diverse culture, a blend between East and West, which gives me the best of both worlds,” said Malaysian Jason Chan, who is studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantitative Finance.

Business and finance students are particularly drawn by the University’s strategic location. “The first thing that caught my interest about studying in Hong Kong was the exposure to the world of international trade, especially to China, that would enhance my career opportunities, since the market in China is booming,” said Jeanette Evaline from Indonesia.

HKU’s position as the most prominent English-language university in China also appeals to international students. “I wanted to study China, and the Chinese economy in particular, in English,” said Frederik Traut from Germany.

Cost and benefit

Fees at HKU are highly competitive compared with other academic institutions of equal rank, and for bright students in need of a helping hand, there is a scholarship programme. “HKU’s generosity in offering scholarships to international students has helped to make my undergraduate education more affordable and fulfilled my dream of studying abroad,” said Annie Chai, a third-year Bachelor of Science student from Malaysia.

Work opportunities after graduation are another crucial consideration for international students. “HKU graduates have been virtually 100% employed for the last seven consecutive years, a fact that perhaps no other comprehensive university in the world can match,” said Professor Spinks. This can partly be attributed to

It is unsurprising to me how high the standards are for the work that is set for us, especially in my chosen discipline, Chemistry. It is great to be taught and challenged by passionate and dedicated professors. I also admire how hardworking and devoted many of the students are at HKU.

I have made many great and interesting friends from all corners of the globe. Coming to HKU has given me the best possible start I could have ever wanted to my new life as a university student.
to Hong Kong’s buoyant economy and the economy of Asia in general, in marked contrast to the situation in many other parts of the world. Students who choose to stay and work in Hong Kong find that talent is amply rewarded.

The University’s interactive rather than didactic teaching style also appeals to international students, such as Mohammad Junaid Arshad from Pakistan. “I like the hands-on approach of the courses at HKU because it has taken my learning beyond theory,” he said. “I have learnt to apply my knowledge through experience, such as giving presentations, performing lab experiments, working in teams, and active involvement in our tutorials. I feel better prepared to get into the workforce because of it.”

Campus and community

Becoming student ambassadors is one way international students get closely involved in campus life. “Perhaps the most memorable experience for me would be my engagement in the HKU Student Ambassador scheme. It is through this scheme that I met some of my best friends at the University, making acquaintances with students from different races, cultures, religions, universities, faculties and halls,” said Annie Chai. “The scheme not only sharpened my leadership and social skills, but most importantly, it made me feel like I’m really part of HKU’s big family.”

Overseas students also relish opportunities that allow them to introduce more people to aspects of their own culture. Mishty Negi, an undergraduate student from India, helped to bring the vibrant world of Bollywood to the University. “The most exciting experience was to be a part of the Bollywood Dance Group and put forward the traditional Indian dance to the global community at HKU,” she said. Similarly, Evaline introduced her Indonesian culture to HKU through cultural events.

Residential college and hall life

Alumni often look back on residential hall life as memorable, busy and, most of all, fun. “One thing I have noticed is how nocturnal HKU students are,” said Charles Jeffs from the UK. “I had never heard of having dim sum at 3am! However, the food is worth the fatigue, and I definitely recommend everyone try the lau sa bau (melted egg-yolk bun).”

“Thanks to its diverse student body, deep-rooted traditions, and rich alumni network, HKU is able to provide an abundance of opportunities,” says Dieter Wang from Germany.

“My life in the Residential College is a great example. I was allocated to one of the four blocks that make up this young and aspiring college. In total there were more than 1,800 students from all over the world, living and working together with a dedicated tutorial team.”
A group of highly motivated students entrusted me - an exchange student - with the position of their first president! We tackled problems in the college, conducted surveys, published newsletters, organised social events and much more.

Dieter Wang
Germany

HKU admits 16 Zhuangyuan students from Mainland China

HKU has selected the 303 top students from a record number of 12,513 applications by Mainland students for its 2013-2014 undergraduate programmes. Amongst them, 16 are Zhuangyuan, those who achieved the highest scores in the Mainland’s National Joint College Entrance Examination in their respective provinces or cities.

This year, applications were received from 31 provinces, cities and autonomous regions. Among those admitted were three national-level athletes, including a national top-tier athlete in shooting.

港大錄取16名內地狀元

今年港大共收到來自全國31個省、市、自治區的入學申請12,513份，為歷年最高。港大最終錄取的303名學生中包括16位全國高考「省市狀元」，其餘亦是在所屬省、市、自治區中名列前茅的考生，包括一位國家射擊一級運動員及兩位國家二級運動員。
As inaugural president of the College Committee (Block B), Wang was immersed in organising activities. “A group of highly motivated students entrusted me - an exchange student - with the position of their first president! We tackled problems in the college, conducted surveys, published newsletters, organised social events and much more,” he said.

Fast-paced and disciplined

One of the most striking aspects of life here is the city’s fast-paced and disciplined approach that underpins Hong Kong people’s “work-hard play-hard” mentality.

“It is the vibrant culture and unique mix of East and West that make Hong Kong such a wonderful place to live, and these are the reasons why I chose to stay after finishing my programme,” said Canadian alumnus Austin Menyasz.

Justin Chan, twin brother of Jason, is also a Bachelor of Science student in Quantitative Finance, said the fast pace of life in Hong Kong was unexpected. “The shock for me here in Hong Kong was definitely the pace of this place, from the swift-walking locals in the hustle and bustle of the streets to the extremely efficient service at the Immigration Department,” he said. “I was dumbfounded by how much efficiency is emphasised in nearly everything.”

Close to the community

Being able to get close to the local community was much-cherished experience for Mishty Negi, who became a volunteer in tutoring children through a neighbourhood partnership project. “Volunteer tutoring and service opportunities were instrumental in bringing me closer to the local culture and people,” she said.

Mishty Negi
India

The most exciting experience was to be part of the Bollywood Dance Group and put forward the traditional Indian dance to the global community at HKU.

Volunteer tutoring and service opportunities were instrumental in bringing me closer to the local culture and people.
Cities offering the best overall return for overseas undergraduates – Hong Kong #3 in the world

Hong Kong ranks third out of 80 cities worldwide, and number one in Asia, in potential returns on international undergraduate education, according to a recent report by The Economist Intelligence Unit. Beijing, Seoul, Singapore and Taipei also made it into the report's top 30 cities, a sign of Asia’s growing global influence.

The report ranked cities according to five factors. Education returns received the highest weighting, since this factor is likely to influence people’s decisions more strongly than any other. Work experience was weighted second highest, followed by social experience, financial return and real estate return.

Andreas Schleicher, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation's deputy director for education and skills and special advisor on education policy to the OECD’s secretary-general, stated: “Hong Kong is very impressive in terms of what they have been achieving.” The city also has one added advantage – location, sitting as it does on China’s doorstep.

### Top Ten Overall Rankings:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>72.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Zurich</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>New York</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: seaturtleindex.com
Coming from Germany, a cold country with low buildings and a lot of space, I started to love this busy city and its narrow streets.

Frederik Traut
Germany

I choose HKU not only because it is one of the top-ranked universities with outstanding (post-graduation) job prospects, but also because of its uniquely diverse culture, a blend of east and west.

Jason Chan
Malaysia

I have come to the end of my exchange year and I’m leaving behind a city full of new friends.

Hong Kong has been a great place to discover new things, meet new people, make lifelong friends and get some brilliant life experience.

Louis Wright
United Kingdom
Louis Wright from the UK found the city to be so hospitable and comfortable that adjusting and making friends was effortless. “Whilst I’ve spent a year studying at the beautiful HKU campus, I’ve simultaneously been getting a taste for local food and culture, visiting Hong Kong’s impressive countryside and travelling to the Philippines, Japan and the Mainland in my study breaks,” he said.

HKU and Hong Kong experience

Eventually, all international students will leave HKU and move on to the next stage of their lives. As they take their place in the ever-growing circle of HKU alumni, international students will always cherish their time at the University.

“Coming from Germany, a cold country with low buildings and a lot of space, the first few weeks in Hong Kong were quite strange,” said Frederik Traut. “But eventually I got used to it, and I really started to love this busy city and its narrow streets, and I wouldn’t want to have missed my experiences in Hong Kong,” Louis Wright recalls that he chose to come and study in Hong Kong precisely because he did not know what to expect. “Nevertheless I was surprised quite how the Hong Kong experience has left such an impression upon me,” he said. “I have come to the end of my exchange year and I’m leaving behind a city full of new friends. I’ll be taking with me a year of great memories and experiences. I’ve enjoyed every moment and could never have anticipated quite how much I’ll come to miss my time here. Simply put, Hong Kong has been a great place to discover new things, meet new people, make lifelong friends and get some brilliant life experiences.”