

Before You Apply

Why CUHK?

- **A collegiate University**

CUHK distinguishes itself from other universities in Hong Kong by being the only collegiate university in Hong Kong, where each college has its own distinguished societies, history and culture. It is only under such system that events like “四院會師” are possible. On the other hand, CUHK has more libraries than most other universities because every old college has its own library (except Shaw) with collections of books with a unique theme. For instance, the Ch'ien Mu Library (New Asia College) has a distinctive feature of having many Chinese literacies and books which make sense because of New Asia College's historical background. The benefit of being a collegiate university does not limit to those mentioned above but do please experience it yourself and I can assure you that you will not be disappointed.

- **Award-winning courses**

CUHK offers many courses that are not only unique but also fascinating. While the courses offered from your major's department is important, CUHK also wants you to learn knowledge in other disciplines. For instance, award-winning courses like “In Dialogue with Nature” and “In Dialogue with Humanity” is not only a course that teaches you the history of thoughts, development of philosophies, science and religions, it is also a course that engages you into an intellectual discussion and helps students to develop academic curiosity.

- **Career and post-graduation study**

Without a doubt, CUHK is one of the best universities in Hong Kong. Every year, thousands and thousands of competent students graduate from CUHK and enter the job market. Many of them became pillars of Hong Kong over the years. These graduates have formed a very powerful alumni network that is going to benefit every future CUHK graduates. On the other hand, CUHK graduates have a very strong reputation that builds confidence in employers, thus making CUHK student very competitive in the job market after graduation.

On the other hand, for those who want to pursue further academic studies in the future, CUHK is also one of your best choices because of the academic atmosphere, facilities and qualities of lectures here. CUHK is ranked the #46 in QS ranking 2020 with very high research output. It is also known for its global vision and a mission to combine tradition with modernity, and to bring together China and the West.

Why the Department of Economics?

- **Specialties and varieties**

The Department of Economics of CUHK is known for its research in the area of Chinese economy. Many of the professors here have a deep understanding of Chinese economy. Even if you are not interested in Chinese economy, Department of Economics also provides many courses that range from financial economics to game theory, so there is always some going to fit your interest.

- **Liberalistic policy**

The Department of Economics of CUHK is also well-known for its liberalistic policy where Economics major students have a tremendous degree of freedom to arrange time between studies and pursuing other interests, in other words, there are very little predetermined courses that requires students to attend at a specific time. Whereas many other majors and even other universities give their students limited autonomy in picking courses.

- **Academic exposure**

The Department of Economics of CUHK has excellent connection with well-established economists from all over the world where they will come to other universities to either give a talk or lecture often. This provides students opportunities to learn at the forefront of the academic field of economics.

Requirements

Basic requirement:

GPA: Generally, a cGPA of 3.7 in your sub-degree programme is preferred, it is also true if you are applying for other top universities in Hong Kong like HKU and UST. However, one should keep in mind that while having a good GPA will be a plus, you still stand a chance if you have a lower GPA. In fact, my GPA is slightly lower than 3.7, but a combination of reference letters from lecturers in my previous school and satisfactory interview performance certainly help me to get into CUHK.

DSE Grade: DSE grades are less relevant but they still play a role in your application process. Consult the Economics Department and do your research on their website to check the requirement of the DSE grades.

English and Chinese languages: Please click [here](#) for the requirements of CUHK. If your DSE grades do not match the requirement, you can take other international tests to replace it. However, do pay attention to the application deadline and result release date because they usually close pretty early, wherein IGCSE case, there is only one to two exams every year, so pay attention to it early on. You don't want to miss your opportunity to study in CUHK missing the deadline.

Reference letters: Speaking of reference letter, a renowned university like CUHK do generally take it quite seriously as it is one of the few ways for the university to know about you personally, so do take it seriously and try to reach out to your lecturers for reference letters. They usually are willing to help.

Interest in the university and major subject: One of the worst things you can do is that you show no genuine interest and understanding of the school and the major that you are applying to. It is like yelling "I don't care if I get in or not." So, buckle up, and learn about your dream university and the subjects as much as you can before you apply and interview.

Importance of interview:

As I have mentioned above, it is one of the only few ways for CUHK to get to know about you personally. So please take it seriously and be prepared for it. One-minute self-introduction, questions to ask after the interview and hard copies of personal statement etc, be prepared and show your interest and desire to study economics in CUHK. Also, remember to dress up appropriately because it is the easiest thing you can do to show our professors that you value the opportunity.

Choice of courses in sub-degree:

It is generally better for you to take some economics-related courses at your school. Especially courses with student projects because it can be used as a piece of evidence to show your interest in studying economics. On the other hand, economics-related courses also equip you with knowledge and skills to study in CUHK because every other classmate here is going to be smart and hardworking and the courses here are generally harder. In general, try to take more econ-related courses. Nevertheless, courses that interest you but not econ-related is okay as well because that is what studying is for!

Others:

Make good use of the resources that are available to you: Very often, students who want to continue their study at university overlook the importance of assistance from their current school. The lecturers and staffs there can be very helpful to you because they have been doing this for years. In my case, they even have a dedicated office to help students to prepare themselves. Therefore, consult your school's lecturers and office. I can never emphasize their importance enough.

Application Procedure

Date	Procedure	Remarks
Sep - Feb	Online Application	Documents to be prepared during application: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Statement• DSE Transcript• Transcript of your sub-degree programme• Transcript of language tests (if your DSE does not satisfy the requirement)• Awards and Certificates• Reference Letters• Application Fee HK\$450 (If you have not received your exam results when you apply, simply leave the exam score section blank and label that it is still to be taken/ on its way, and upload the real result/s when you receive it/ them.)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please click here for the requirement of CUHK
December-August	Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will arrange several interviews from December-August.
December-August	Offer Confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admission Offer Letter• Upload Certificates (if applicable)• First Installment of Deposit HK\$5,000