



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

STUDENT VISA APPLICATION

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Before applying for your student visa

Do I need to apply for student visa/entry permit to study in HKU?

All applicants without the **right of abode/right to land** in Hong Kong must apply for a student visa for the purpose of education from the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD).

All Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Short-term programmes(including Exchange programmes, Summer programmes and Visiting programmes) are inclusive.

There is no need to apply for a student visa/entry permit if one

- has a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card , or
- holds a valid visa permit issued by HK ImmD which allows the holder to study in HK (e.g. dependents, IANG, TTP etc), or
- has been granted an "unconditional stay" in Hong Kong.

However, students are responsible to check and confirm the eligibility and validity of their own visa for study purpose with ImmD by themselves.

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What is the processing time for application of student visa/ entry permit?

ImmD normally takes **at least 6-8 weeks** to process your visa application. **Students from the Mainland** should allow for **at least 2 additional weeks** to apply for the Exit-entry Permit for Traveling to Hong Kong and Macao (EEP) 《來往港澳通行證》 and Relevant Exit Endorsement 《逗留D簽》 from relevant Mainland authorities, before departure to Hong Kong. Approval of your application is at discretion of the Hong Kong Immigration Department. You may refer to the Hong Kong Immigration Department's website (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/study.html>) for more information.

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What kind of financial proofs will be accepted by the Hong Kong Immigration Department (ImmD)?

You are expected to provide financial proofs showing that you have sufficient means to cover your total cost of academic and living expenses for at least a year or during your study period in Hong Kong. Listed below are some of the common documents:

- student's latest (within 3 months) bank statement(s) and/or income proof(s) (e.g. pay slip)
- parent's latest (within 3 months) bank statement(s) and/or income proof(s) (e.g. pay slip together with a supporting letter signed by your financial sponsor, and a copy of his/her passport showing the same signature as the one in the letter / copy of Census Record for mainland citizens

All financial proofs should be in English / Chinese. Please provide official translation if necessary.

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When should I submit the documents for my student visa/ entry permit application?

Students are responsible for applying for their visa/entry permit in time. The processing time for student visa will be longer during summer peak season. Students are advised to submit their visa applications with all required documents **at least 10-12 weeks prior to their registration date**.

All non-local students should apply for a student visa/entry permit **after accepting an admission offer regardless conditional or firm offer**. Students are advised to apply their student visa/entry permit **as early as possible** to prevent late arrival caused by late visa application.

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How much is the visa application fee? How do I make the payment?

The visa application fee is HKD 990 and is payable upon submission of your student visa application. The payment can be settled by **debit card/ credit card (VISA/Master/Union Pay) , Alipay, WechatPay** online by logging in to the online visa application system. Please note that the visa application fee is **non-refundable and non-transferable**.

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Can I apply with a conditional admission offer from HKU?

You may apply for entry for study with Conditional Admission Offer. However, upon the receipt of the Firm Admission Offer, if available, you are required to upload the copy of the Firm Offer to the online visa application system. Otherwise, Admissions Office will not send the student visa/entry permit to you.

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Can I apply for a student visa/entry permit on my own not via HKU?

For **Mainland students**, you are not allowed to do so. Please apply student visa via the Mainland application system upon receiving an admission offer. Please [Click here](#) for more information.

For other **non-local students who are holding a FIRM admission offer**, may choose to submit an application at the HK ImmD platform on your own. However, HKU will only be responsible for online visa sponsorship. You have to monitor the application progress and collect your visa permit by yourself.

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What should I do if I accepted multiple offers?

For students who have accepted two or more **summer programmes** with consecutive dates of study, please register for only ONE application account and contact the summer institute to issue an appropriate offer letter for your visa application.

For **undergraduate and postgraduate students**, please select your most intended programme of study to proceed with your visa application. You should apply for change of programme afterwards if the final programme you chose was not the same as the one you declared for your visa application.

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When your visa application is processing

How can I check my application status? Or if there is anything missing?

You may log in to the online visa application system which shows the latest visa application status. The Admissions Office will follow up with the Hong Kong Immigration Department regularly to monitor the progress of your visa application. We will also be sending you confirmation emails, status updates, missing information and/or documents, etc to your registered email address. You should **check your registered email regularly to avoid any delays**.

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Can I attend classes as a visitor before my application for student visa/entry permit is approved?

You are **not allowed** to study in Hong Kong if your visa/entry permit is not yet approved. Please note that the 90 days visa-free period travelling with your passport is for **visiting purpose only**. Students are not eligible to study in Hong Kong with visitor visa. Holding a visitor visa to study at HKU will be regarded as an illegal act, and you will be prosecuted by HK ImmD. Please make appropriate visa arrangements before entering Hong Kong.

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After downloading your e-visa

How do I activate my student visa?

For International students

Please present the “Notification Slip for Entry Visa / Permit” (e-visa) together with your valid travelling document at the immigration counter.

For students from Mainland China

According to the guidelines from the Hong Kong Immigration Department, you must use an "Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao" (EEP) 【《往来港澳通行证》】 as the travelling document, and a relevant exit endorsement 【相關赴港簽注】 from relevant mainland authorities. You should present **(1) the EEP card which is bearing the relevant exit endorsement(逗留D簽)** and **(2) the “Notification Slip for Entry Visa / Permit” (e-Visa)** to enter Hong Kong to activate your student visa.

Please ensure that you receive a landing slip and check the following information listed on it:

- 1) Student – Permitted to remain until “dd/mm/yyyy” --> This will be your visa expiry date
- 2) Studying the approved course at THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
- 3) Your English name
- 4) Travel document number
- 5) Arrival date

For part-time students

Please note that you should follow the number of days stipulated on the visa permit for each entry to Hong Kong and you should enter Hong Kong on or BEFORE the latest entry date as listed on the permit. The maximum no. of entry days regarding your visa is stated on the approval letter issued by HK ImmD.

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What should I do if I have forgotten to activate my student visa/entry permit?

Please note that if you do not enter Hong Kong prior to the latest activation date printed on your visa label, you will be required to submit a new application for the visa to enter Hong Kong. No change on the latest activation date or arrangement for any re-issuance of student visa could be done.

If you are currently staying in Hong Kong, you must visit the ImmD as soon as possible as this will be regarded as illegal overstaying. You will also have to contact our office to re-apply for your student visa and prepare a letter to Director of Immigration to explain your reason for missing the activation deadline.

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My e-visa states “Good for single journey”. Will I have to apply for re-entry permit if I want to travel or return home during my study period?

If you will return within the permitted limit of stay and if your residential status remain unchanged, you are **not required** to apply for a re-entry visa/entry permit to enter Hong Kong

For Taiwanese students, after entering Hong Kong on your single entry permit, you have to apply for a 'Multiple Entry Permit' (MEP) and transfer the endorsement onto the MEP to facilitate your future travels to and from Hong Kong. You may apply for the MEP in person at ImmD.

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When and how should I apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card?

If your length of stay in Hong Kong is more than 180 days, you need to apply for a HK Identity Card within 30 days of arrival/or upon acquiring such permission to stay. Please refer to the website of the Hong Kong Immigration Department [here](#) for the application procedure. You may make an appointment via the online booking system or by phone beforehand.

A note to all student visa holders under the age of 18:

If your parents have nominated a relative to be your local guardian, you should be accompanied by that local guardian when you submit your Hong Kong Identity Card application at ImmD. If your parents have nominated “The University of Hong Kong” to be your local guardian, you can submit your application to ImmD on your own. You will be asked to fill in a declaration form.

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Am I eligible to work in Hong Kong?

Non-local students of full-time programmes at undergraduate level or above whose study period is not less than one academic year will be notified the internship arrangement individually by a No Objection Letter(NOL) of which will spell out the type(s) and conditions of employment that the student may take up.

All *undergraduate students* (except short term/ exchange students) should have their NOL for on-campus part time and summer job and apply for their internship NOL which must be study/ curriculum-related and up to one academic year. Whereas *postgraduate students* would be temporarily exempted from the restrictions till October 2025. Please refer to your NOL for further details.

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