

TOP ASIAN DESTINATIONS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS · #5 OF 6

Study in Hong Kong

Eligibility · Cost · Language · Courses · Post-Study Work · Scholarships

Best known for	English-medium instruction, global finance hub, 5 universities in QS World Top 100
Typical annual cost (tuition + living)	Generally lower than the UK/US but higher than mainland China — HKD 145,000–200,000/year tuition alone at public universities
Language of instruction	English (HKU, HKUST, CUHK, PolyU, CityU teach almost entirely in English)
Post-study work	IANG (Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates) — 24 months, open work rights, no employer sponsorship or job offer required
Flagship support	No single centralized "Hong Kong government MEXT-style" award — funding is mainly via individual university scholarships and entrance awards

Eligibility

- UG/PG: IELTS 6.5 typically required across HKU, HKUST, CUHK, PolyU, and CityU (6.5–7.0 for PG, higher for competitive Business/Law programs); TOEFL iBT 79–100 depending on university and level.
- Standard Class XII (UG) or a relevant Bachelor's degree (PG) with a strong academic record; admission is competitive given Hong Kong's small number of universities relative to demand.
- Financial proof covering tuition + living costs is required for the student visa; processing typically takes 6–8 weeks.

Cost breakdown

- Non-local UG tuition at public universities: HKD 145,000–200,000/year (~₹18.5L–25.5L); e.g., HKU charges around HKD 198,000/year.
- Sub-degree/self-financing programs: HKD 80,000–130,000/year.
- Postgraduate tuition varies widely by program and university — one-year Master's programs are common and often cheaper overall than equivalent 2-year UK/Australian degrees.

Popular courses

- Finance, Business & Management

- Computer Science & Technology
- Law and International Relations

Post-study work

- IANG: Hong Kong's flagship post-study route — 24 months, unrestricted work rights, no job offer or employer sponsorship needed at the point of application.
- Eligible for full-time, locally-accredited undergraduate-or-above graduates (including some Greater Bay Area pilot campuses); as of April 2025, over 172,000 IANG applications had been approved historically, reflecting how well-established the scheme is.
- Since November 2024, non-local students in full-time accredited programs also have (temporarily, extended through end of 2026) unrestricted work-hour permissions during study itself — no 20-hour/week cap.
- Permanent residency becomes possible after 7 continuous years of residence, with study time counting in full.

Job options & career outlook

- Hong Kong's job market is finance-heavy: the top employers cited by graduates are the HKSAR Government, HSBC, Google, Hospital Authority, MTR, and the Hong Kong Jockey Club, with banking/insurance/finance the single most popular field (around 12–16% of graduates target it).
- Average graduate starting salary sits around HKD 17,000–19,000/month across sectors, with entertainment/leisure, medical/pharmaceutical, banking/insurance/finance, accounting/audit/tax, and construction/engineering paying the highest premiums (HKD 20,000+).
- IANG's biggest structural advantage is that it grants open work rights with no employer sponsorship or job offer required at the point of application — graduates can job-hunt from inside Hong Kong rather than needing an offer lined up before leaving university, unlike most of the other destinations here.
- Finance, consulting, and fintech roles benefit most from Hong Kong's position as a gateway to both mainland China and global markets.

Accommodation

- On-campus hostels are limited and highly competitive — most Hong Kong universities cannot house all non-local students, so many students end up in private housing from year one or two onward.
- Private shared flats and rented rooms are the norm off-campus, but Hong Kong's housing market is notoriously expensive and space-constrained even by Asian-city standards — this is the single biggest budgeting surprise for new students.
- Students commonly split costs by sharing flats with 2–3 flatmates, often coordinating through university housing offices or informal student housing groups.

Social life & student community

- English as the primary medium of instruction at HKU, HKUST, and CUHK makes Hong Kong one of the easier Asian destinations for Indian students to settle into socially, unlike mainland China, Japan, or Korea.
- Hong Kong has a long-established Indian community, including historic Sindhi and Punjabi trading families, with Indian temples, restaurants, and cultural associations well integrated into the city.
- The city's East-meets-West culinary and cultural scene — dim sum alongside Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Thai food — is a frequently cited quality-of-life draw for international students.
- Compact geography and an excellent public transit system (with a student-concession Octopus card) mean socializing across universities and neighborhoods is easy without a car.

Scholarships

- Predominantly university-specific: entrance scholarships and need/merit-based awards from HKU, HKUST, CUHK, PolyU, and CityU — apply directly through each institution's financial aid office alongside admission.
- The Hinrich Foundation MA in International Journalism at HKBU is a notable named award open to Indian applicants.

Other relevant details

- Roughly a 6–7 hour flight from most major Indian cities — a meaningful convenience factor versus Western destinations.
- Hong Kong has a long-established Indian community (including historic Sindhi and Punjabi trading families), which eases cultural adjustment.

Verify before you apply

Visa and post-study work rules change often, and several changed more than once during the 2026 cycle. Tuition and living figures are indicative. Always confirm current terms with the official immigration source and the university before making a decision.

Explore Hong Kong. Discover your possibilities.

Not sure if Hong Kong is the right fit? Book a free counselling conversation with Aurevia.

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