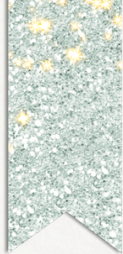


MSA[!] freshers' guide



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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MasaaJid

in Hong Kong

Kowloon Mosque and Islamic Centre

Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

- One of the largest mosques in Hong Kong
- Located right **next to Tsim Sha Tsui MTR station exit A1** - CONVENIENT!!!

Directions from HKU:

Take the Island Line from HKU to Central, then interchange to the Tsuen Wan line from Central to Tsim Sha Tsui station.



Masjid Ammar and Osman Ramju Sadick Islamic Centre

Wan Chai, Hong Kong Island

- **Islamic Centre Canteen** on 5/F -
HALAL CANTONESE DIM SUM!!!!

Directions from HKU:

Take the Island Line from HKU to Wan Chai.
Exit via exit A3, then walk ~10 minutes eastward **OR** take bus 23 from Chiu Sheung School to Tonnochy Road, then walk ~5 minutes.



Jamia Mosque

Mid-Levels, Central, Hong Kong

- **Oldest mosque in Hong Kong** -
built in 1890, rebuilt in 1905

Directions from HKU:

Take the Island Line from HKU to Central. Exit via exit D2, then take the Mid-Levels escalator up to the mosque, **OR** take bus 23 from Chiu Sheung School to Raimondi College, then walk ~5 minutes.



Chai Wan Mosque

Chai Wan, Hong Kong Island

- Opened in 1963
- Has a Muslim cemetery nearby

Directions from HKU:

Take the Island Line from HKU to Chai Wan.
Exit via Exit A, then walk ~15 minutes.



Stanley Mosque

Stanley, Hong Kong Island

- Located inside Stanley Prison (Restricted area)
- Prior permission required for entry - email stanleymosquehongkong@gmail.com with full name and HKID



Directions from HKU:

Take the Island Line from HKU to Admiralty. Exit via exit B, then walk ~5 minutes to Admiralty Garden. From there, take bus 6 towards Stanley Village, and alight at Stanley Prison.

Jummah prayer timings (As at August 2025)

HKU

First congregation *khutba* at 1:00 pm, prayer at 1:10 pm
Second congregation at 2:30 pm

Other mosques in HK

First congregation is usually between 1 and 1:30 PM.

Note: *Arrive as early as possible to ensure you do not miss the khutbah or the prayer. The earlier you arrive, the greater the reward.:*)

Regular prayer timings

Check on apps such as Athan+ for the most updated prayer timings



Prayer Spots

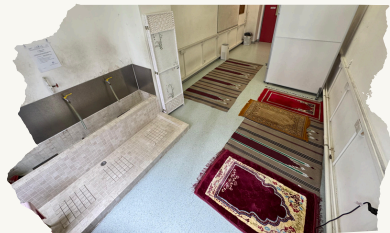
As responsible Muslims, we must set aside some time within our busy schedules to pray our Fardh (obligatory) prayers on time. While it certainly is important to attend our classes, meetings and labs, in doing so, we should never neglect our obligations as Muslims. During the semester, you might find yourself praying a lot of the Fardh prayers on campus, so it is crucial you know all the possible spots to pray:

The Prayer Room

(Room 1A11, 1/F, Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre)

Alhamdulillah, we are blessed enough to have a designated prayer room on campus. Equipped with wudhu (ablution) facilities, this is the best place to pray on campus and to connect with other fellow Muslims.

The prayer room is segregated into two sections, one for brothers and one for sisters. If you find someone else in the prayer room with you, do not hesitate to ask to pray in congregation, more barakah for everyone! If you have some time to spare, increase your knowledge by reading the Qur'an or any books available on the bookshelves.





Prayer Spots

While the prayer room is great, it might be difficult to reach if you are on the other side of campus and are running short on time. Well, the religion has been made easy for us and it actually is not obligatory for us to pray in designated prayer spots.

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

“The entire earth has been made a place of prayer, except for graveyards and washrooms.” (Sunan al-Tirmidhi 317)

So, remember to always carry a prayer mat with you, especially on those days when you’re running from one place to another!

Here are some of our recommended spots to pray on campus^{**}:

The Centennial Garden

The Centennial Garden, located on the 3rd floor of Jockey Club Tower in the Centennial Campus is a peaceful and calming place to pray in the outdoors. Just find a place to perform wudhu nearby, grab your prayer mat and you should be all set!



Empty Classrooms

You can always find some empty classrooms around campus, especially if you are around the Centennial Campus. These can certainly serve as quiet, clean spots for praying.

Staircases/Fire Exits

If you are really struggling to find a place to pray and are running out of time, fire exits can sometimes be lifesavers. While they may not be the most glamorous place to pray, they sure do the job

^{} These are just some suggestions. You can of course choose to pray in any clean area on campus that’s not too crowded or loud to avoid distractions (e.g a corner in the library or Chi Wah)**

Halal food

Alhamdulillah, a number of **new Halal restaurants** have recently opened in Hong Kong thanks to community initiatives. You can access and download the complete **list of Halal-certified restaurants**, verified by the Board of Trustees, at the following links:

- <https://islamictrusthk.org/list-of-halal-certified-restaurants-in-hong-kong--macau-br>
- https://www.iuhk.org/images/Others/Halah-Food/Halal-List_en.pdf

Some popular choices are:

Islamic Centre Canteen

[5/F, Masjid Ammar and Osman Ramju Sadick Islamic Centre, 40 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai](#)

Wu Zhi Jian Beef Noodles – Wan Chai

[Shop A2, G/F, 298 Hennesy Road, Wan Chai.](#)

Ebeneezer's

Multiple branches

27 Kebab House

Multiple branches



Personal

There are several Halal meat suppliers in Hong Kong. Some of these suppliers offer both in-store and delivery services, while others specialize in just one of those options.

There is also a WhatsApp group where HKU students make orders in bulk from **Waqas Provisional Store**. [Join the group](#).

Besides these, here is a list of suppliers you can get in touch with to find out more about their products and delivery options:

Mehran Halal Meat Shop (Wan Chai)	6152 4439 / 9159 5495
Chakwal Meat Ltd (Tsim Sha Tsui)	6373 3861

Groceries

Nearby **HKU MTR Station Exits B1, B2, and C2**, you will find a variety of supermarkets, wet markets, household goods stores, and dispensaries, where you can get groceries and more. Notable establishments include: **Wellcome** (supermarket), **JHC** (household goods), and **Mannings** (pharmacy). Keep an eye out for these as you explore the area!

Daily Necessities

Household essential

For your dorm room, you will need basic household items like storage boxes, hangers, cleaning supplies, and kitchen tools. These are available near campus and online.

Nearby HKU MTR Station Exits B1, B2, and C2, you will find a variety of household goods stores, supermarkets, and dispensaries. Notable establishments include: **JHC (household goods)** and **Mannings (pharmacy)**. Keep an eye out for these as you explore the area!

JHC (near Exit B2) sells storage boxes, hangers, slippers, kitchenware, and cleaning supplies. **Daiso (located in Causeway Bay or Central)** is a fixed-price store offering bowls, organisers, and stationery. **Wellcome and ParkShop** sell detergent, tissue, trash bags, and basic cleaning supplies.

First Aid & Medicine



For minor illnesses and injuries, you can find medicine and first-aid supplies at pharmacies near campus. It is a good idea to keep a small kit in your dorm.

Nearby HKU MTR Station Exits B1, B2, and C2, you will find several pharmacies. Notable establishments include: **Mannings (pharmacy)** and **Watsons (pharmacy)**. Keep an eye out for these as you explore the area!

You can buy pain relievers, cold medicine, plasters, thermometers, and hand sanitizer at Mannings or Watsons. If you take prescription medication, bring a doctor's letter and keep it in the original packaging for customs. HKU also has a **University Health Service** on campus that is affordable and easy to register for.

Daily Necessities

Online Shopping for Non-Food Items



If you don't want to carry heavy items from the store, you can order non-food essentials online. Delivery is available to HKU dorms.

HKTVmall sells household goods, storage boxes, and cleaning supplies with a delivery fee of ~\$40–60 HKD and a minimum order of \$200–400 HKD. **Taobao (HK version)** is very cheap for storage boxes, organizers, and stationery, but shipping takes 3–7 days. **Pandamart (via Foodpanda)** offers fast delivery within 1 hour for urgent small orders like medicine or tissue, with a fee of \$20–40 HKD.

Address tip: Write your hall name and room number so couriers can find you easily.



Budget-Friendly Tips

Here are some ways to save money on non-food essentials in Hong Kong.

Buy only essentials first; start with adapters, bedding, and toiletries, then add more later. Join hall group chats and the HKU "Free & For Sale" Facebook group — seniors often give away or sell second-hand items cheaply.

Shop at JHC or Daiso for cheaper household items. Order in bulk with hallmates to share detergent, tissue, and cleaning supplies. Bring your own bag to avoid the \$1 HKD plastic bag fee.





The Hong Kong Islamic Youth Association (HKIYA) is a youth organisation for Muslims under the Islamic Union of Hong Kong (IUHK). They often hold activities for the youth and recently even launched *Speechless*, Hong Kong's first Muslim public speaking debating and MUN team. Stay connected through their Instagram below!

 [@hkiya1973](https://www.instagram.com/hkiya1973)



Serving Islam Team (SIT) holds diverse Islamic activities, ranging from book clubs to Quran classes to their most famous annual "At The Peak" Islamic conference where various renowned Islamic scholars are invited. Keep an eye out for their upcoming ATP!

 [@servingislamhk](https://www.instagram.com/servingislamhk)



The Muslim Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) is most known for its street Dawah around Tsim Sha Tsui, they're also the major source of Dawah materials in Hong Kong. If you want a Quran translation or leaflets on diverse Islamic topics (in Chinese too!) then they're the ones to go to.

 [@muslimcouncilhk](https://www.instagram.com/muslimcouncilhk)

University Life

Course Selection

As a freshman, course selection is one of the first exciting steps in shaping your academic journey. Here are some tips to help you start strong, إن شاء الله.

1

Understand Your Syllabus

Carefully review your program's syllabus and fully understand its requirements. You can access details on specific courses through your HKU portal under Course Information.

2

Choose Your Courses

It's time to build your schedule! Use the Course Schedule Planner in HKU Portal to check for time clashes and review course details. Visit [RIC](#) for student reviews on courses. Optimize your choices for grades, lifestyle, and balancing Deen and Dunya.

3

Key enrollment Dates

Timing matters for course selection. Check your HKU email for August registration dates and act fast to secure courses as some fill up quickly. Use the Add/Drop period (first two weeks of each semester) to adjust your schedule if needed. Stay on top of key dates!

4

Make Life Easier

Depending on your background, you may qualify for exemptions or credit transfers:

Exemption: If exempt from a course, take another to meet credit requirements.

Advanced Standing: Prior studies (e.g., A-Levels, IB) may reduce your course load.

Confirm eligibility with your Faculty.

Deadlines are usually early so don't miss out!

University Life

Balancing Studies with Islamic Obligation



Prioritize Prayer

Schedule your day around the five daily prayers to maintain discipline. Use breaks between classes to pray in campus prayer spaces or other suitable locations if more convenient

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

Indeed, performing prayers is a duty on the believers at the appointed times.

— Surah An-Nisa 103

Dedicate Part of Your Day to Ibadah (worship)

Set aside time each day for I'badah, such as reading Quran, performing Dhikr, Salah, or seeking Islamic knowledge. Even 10-15 minutes daily goes a long way. *The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "The most beloved of deeds to Allah are those that are most consistent, even if small" (Sahih al-Bukhari 6464)*



Don't be a Stranger to other Muslims

Connect with other Muslims, at HKU or elsewhere, through MSAs or mosques, attending events like Jummah or Iftars. A supportive community fosters accountability and helps you stay consistent in Ibadah and studies. A special note to **Brothers**, perform Salah in Jama'ah (congregation) whenever possible.



وَالْعَصْرِ (1) إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ (2) إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ (3)

By the 'passage of' time. Surely humanity is in 'grave' loss, !except those who have faith, do good, and urge each other to the truth, and urge each other to perseverance. — Surah Al-Asr

University Life

Have the right intention

Set the right intention for your studies: to please Allah and serve the Muslim Ummah. View university as one step in your lifelong journey towards an ultimate goal of attaining Allah's mercy. This way, your efforts will become acts of worship for which you shall be rewarded **إن شاء الله**!



The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Actions are judged by intentions, and every person will have what they intended" (Sahih al-Bukhari 1)



Make Dua Regularly

Make dua to seek Allah's help in your studies and work so that Allah can help you achieve your best. Not to mention, Dua on its own is a powerful act of worship.

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمُ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ

Your Lord has proclaimed, "Call upon Me, I will respond to you.

— Surah Ghafir 60

Finances

Budgeting and tracking

As a university student, it is crucial to stay on top of your finances and spend wisely. Use **expense tracking apps** to help you manage your expenses and put them into categories. Having a clear view of how much you're spending in what categories helps you plan and make better financial decisions.

Saving up

To ensure you have enough to stay afloat for the foreseeable future and not fall into debt, try to:

- Allocate some portion of your income to savings
- Eat out less and cook food more often
- Buy used textbooks or borrow them from the library
- Look out for student discounts and deals

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا
وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا

And [true servants of Allah] are those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy, but hold a moderate course between those extremes. — Surah Al-Furqan, 67

Making money

Departments at HKU often post **casual helper** or **research assistant positions** for students. These roles have a fixed hourly rate based on your year of study. Watch for these opportunities in the daily mass email!

Job listings from HKU departments and external entities are also posted on CEDARS' job portal, [NETjobs](#). This is especially useful for finding off-campus opportunities and internships. Your faculty may have a **faculty job portal** too.

CEDARS also offers a [Careers and Placement Section](#), providing career coaching, counseling, workshops, and support year-round. An **annual Career Fair** usually happens in mid-spring.

(As at 7 Aug 2025) The Hong Kong government offers a [STEM internship scheme](#) to undergraduates and postgraduates in STEM-related disciplines. This allows them to pursue government-funded internships at local companies. It can be a great use of your summer time if you plan to stay in Hong Kong! Check out their [website](#) for more information.

Always remember to look for **Halal income** sources. Find companies that refrain from *riba* (*interest*) and engage in *ethical practices*. Once you start earning, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ**, give out **charity** often, even if it is of small amounts. And don't neglect your studies in the process! The opportunity to study full-time is an *amanah* (*entrustment*), so make the best use of it :)

If you are an international student, make sure to check your visa conditions before applying.



رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

Rabbi Zidni Ilma

My Lord, increase me in knowledge.

Surah Taha 114

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي
وَاخْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

Rabbi ishrah li sadri, wa yassir li amri,
wah lul 'uqdatan min lisani, yafqahu qawli

My Lord, expand for me my chest (with confidence), and
ease for me my task, and untie the knot from my tongue
that they may understand my speech

Surah Taha 25-28

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا، وَرِزْقًا طَيِّبًا،
وَعَمَلًا مُّتَقَبَّلًا

Allāhumma innī as'aluka `ilman nāfi`a, wa rizqan ṭayyiba, wa `amalan mutaqqabbala.
O Allah, I ask You for knowledge that is of benefit, a good provision, and deeds that
will be accepted. (Recite in Arabic upon rising in the morning.)

Hisn al-Muslim 95