

## **Making the most of my university life** by *Cristina Ochoa Leon*

### A new adventure

After living abroad for two months, I realized how enriching learning from other cultures was. My story starts when I moved to England and many things called my attention: the mix of different cultures, studying in a new university, new food and the possibility of improving my communication skills using English.

After those two months, I decided that instead of going back to Spain to continue with my degree, I could try to do my degree abroad and, not just in Europe, but in another continent. After thinking about it and talking with many friends, I decided to come to Hong Kong to study.

Asia attracted my attention since the beginning, as a completely different culture where I could learn a lot. After thinking and asking for advice, I realized that Hong Kong would be the best place: it is also a hub of cultures, given its multi-layered history, it is also one of the most important business centres in the world, and, from what I heard, people were very warm and welcoming. Therefore, I decided to accept the offer from CityU, knowing that it was among the best 50 universities in the world.

### Landing in Hong Kong

After many months looking forward to arriving in Hong Kong and researching about the city, I finally arrived. As soon as I got off the plane, I felt the high humidity levels that I had heard about.

During my first days, I went to visit different places in Hong Kong. The skyscrapers of the Hong Kong Island side called my attention since the beginning. I am from Seville, a city in the south of Spain where there is just one skyscraper. Thus, this was something that I hadn't seen before. Moreover, what I like the most about Hong Kong is not the skyscrapers, but the contrast among them and the many mountains that you can find in Hong Kong, as well as the sea. This gives one the opportunity of going hiking, going to the beach and, at the same time, visiting different places such as the Big Buddha as well as Cheng Chau Island. It is amazing how many beautiful things one can discover when travelling around the world!

### Learning from other cultures

Little by little, I started to discover the many differences that one can face when going to another country, and not just another country but another continent! Among them, the food is quite different from Spanish food. I wasn't used to eating so much rice, although gradually I started to need it in all my meals. In Spain we have rice just once or twice a week, but not every day and certainly not in almost every meal. In the beginning everything for me was "strange" but then I realized that things were not "strange" but "different".

Luckily, I have met many people in these two years. The university is very international; thus, I had the chance of meeting people from many places. That helped me to adapt myself by meeting other international students, even



other students from Europe while, at the same time, I was meeting many local people. It is amazing to discover the many differences among people but also the many things that we have in common!

To finish with, I would love to encourage all those students that are thinking about studying abroad or coming to Hong Kong to be brave. There is a lot that can be learnt from other cultures and these lessons will help us enjoy our university life and prepare ourselves to work in the future in this globalized world!



Coming to CityU to study has been a unique and wonderful experience. I am from Spain, but I decided to come to Hong Kong to study. Hong Kong has become my second home during my years of university at CityU.

Thanks to the CityU international atmosphere I was able to feel very welcomed since the beginning. I made friends with people from all over the world, as well as many locals that helped me discover the local customs and places. I am very grateful to CityU and all the people who I have met, they have given me all the help I need to adjust to this new continent.

I chose the Human Resources Management stream thinking about the impact that good personnel can have in a business. At CityU, I have learnt to appreciate its importance and develop efficient HR strategies to facilitate company success and employee satisfaction.

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