RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AT HKUST

Background
Residential life plays an important role in each student’s University education. HKUST Residence halls offer students opportunities to participate in a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular hall activities. Under the guidance of Hall Education Teams, comprised of Residence Masters, Hall Fellows, Faculty affiliates, Residential Life Officers and Tutors, students will be welcomed into a community dedicated to an open and inclusive environment with opportunities to interact with and to learn from fellow students of diverse backgrounds. Residential halls provide much more than a place to live and are key to the “whole-student” experience of HKUST undergraduates.

Objectives
1. To increase the number of Yr-1 students with a full year (two-semester) residential life experience until a growing majority of Yr-1 students can partake in a full-year of campus residency.

Currently the University provides one-semester of residence to Yr-1 local students, except for those participating in the full-year First-Year Experience Program (Please refer to FAQ Q1 for further details).

2. To provide all non-local students with University housing during their first two years of study at HKUST in order to support them in further adapting to the life in Hong Kong.*

3. To offer all students an opportunity to catalyze their engagement in academic, co-curricular, and social pursuits by making University Housing available by a housing allocation system open to all HKUST undergraduates not already provided with housing.

*Non-local students in their 3rd year or above of study are eligible to apply for University housing, but without guaranteed priorities. In these years, students should expect to rent housing in the private housing market or apply for University-arranged off-campus housing, if available (Please refer to FAQ Q3 for further details).

Local Students

i) Yr-1 students will join a collegial community of fellow students, staff, and faculty dedicated to their effective adaptation to the University environment and preparation for the new challenges they will face at the University. In 2017-18, the University guarantees at least one semester of residence hall housing to all first-year local students. Students may also apply to the HKUST First-Year Experience Program. Students accepted into this program will automatically receive one-year of guaranteed housing in 2017-18 and are expected to complete all aspects of the program as a condition of their residence. This program will continue to expand to encompass an increasing number of Yr-1 students guaranteed a full year of housing.

ii) Yr-2 and above students may apply for University housing according to the housing allocation method which is currently under review. The results of the review will be finalized and announced in Fall 2017.

Non-Local Students & Local Students without a Home Base in Hong Kong

i) Yr-1 and Yr-2 students: The University guarantees housing to all Yr-1 and Yr-2 students without a home base in Hong Kong. Yr-1 non-local students are also welcome to join First-Year Experience Programs together with local students to form diverse and vibrant residential communities in their halls. Faculty and student staff will provide help, advice, and support as the students adapt to their new home away from home.

ii) Yr-3 and Yr-4 students: After the two-year transition period living in Hong Kong, students will not be guaranteed University housing and should seek accommodations in the private housing market of Hong Kong. The University offers assistance to students seeking accommodations off campus. (All students not already provided with University Housing are welcome to apply for available University housing according to the housing allocation method, which is currently under review. The results of the review will be announced in Fall 2017).
FAQ

1. **What is the HKUST First-Year Experience Program?**
   This is a pilot program led by the Residence Master, a member of HKUST faculty. 600 Yr-1 students (both local and non local) will join this program in August 2017; each student will live in a peer group together with an undergraduate student peer mentor (SUG). The program will aid Yr-1 students in the transition to University life and facilitate active engagement with the rich diversity of the HKUST student body, the University community, and the Hong Kong environment. The program also encourages students to take advantage of co-curricular opportunities and to pursue a self-directed path of personal growth. Yr-1 students who join this program are expected to participate in an array of activities, such as the two-day Hall Orientation camp, the Green Trekker program, the Hall language buddy program, and other activities.

2. **I am a new student interested in participating in the First-Year Experience Program. What are the commitments I am expected to fulfill during the year if I join the First-Year Experience Program?**
   Attendance in the Hall Orientation Camp 18-19 August 2017 is compulsory for students joining the Program. Throughout the year, expectations for students vary from hall to hall, depending on the individual Residence Master’s program design and educational vision. In general, students will be expected to demonstrate personal initiative by actively participating in the program and learning experientially from hall-based activities.

3. **What is the difference between “University-arranged off-campus housing” and “University housing”?**
   University-arranged housing is housing arranged for students at a location not owned or operated by the University – like the Hong Kong Adventist College (HKAC) on Clear Water Bay Road. The University often pays the vendor (like HKAC) directly; HKUST students pay the University (HKUST) rather than the vendor. University housing is defined as housing that the University wholly owns and manages. For Undergraduates, this includes UG Halls I-IX and the Jockey Club Hall at Tseung Kwan O. Housing options are available at SHRL website with detailed descriptions at the following link: [http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/detail.php?catid=3&sid=18&tid=73](http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/detail.php?catid=3&sid=18&tid=73)

4. **If I am a non-local student and NOT provided with University housing, i) Does the University offer any assistance to me? ii) Can the University arrange other off-campus housing for me, if I can’t find any accommodation in the Hong Kong private market?**
   i) The Off-Campus Housing Section (OCHS) of SHRL provides general assistance to HKUST students in their search for off-campus accommodation. Students who wish to obtain information about self-arranged off-campus accommodation -- such as residential districts near HKUST, different housing options, real estate agent information, and the logistics of tenancy agreements -- and students who seek any other advice pertaining to living off campus, are welcome to consult representatives of the OCHS: [http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/detail.php?catid=2&sid=16&tid=9](http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/detail.php?catid=2&sid=16&tid=9)

   ii) Yes, the University has arranged enough bed spaces in the Hong Kong Adventist College (HKAC) dormitories located on Clear Water Bay Road, 15-20 minutes away by bus number 91. The monthly rental rate for 2017-18 is HKD2,900. If you are interested in applying for housing at HKAC, please contact HKUST SHRL. More information on HKAC is available here: [http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/individual.php?catid=2&sid=13&id=56](http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/individual.php?catid=2&sid=13&id=56) Please note that our University does not manage the dormitories at HKAC.

5. **Are students who live more than two hours travelling time from their home to the campus automatically guaranteed University housing?**
   No, they are not guaranteed student housing after the first year. However, such students may still apply for student housing by applying to the housing allocation system, details of which are currently under review. The results of the review will be announced in Fall 2017.
6. **I am a Yr-2 non-local student, am I guaranteed University housing?**
   Yes, you are guaranteed University housing. However, please be aware that only Yr-1 students are guaranteed housing in one of the nine undergraduate halls (Hall I-IX) located on the Clear Water Bay campus. Yr-2 non-local students may be assigned to UG Halls I-IX or to Jockey Club Hall, which has approximately 500 bed spaces and is located in Tseung Kwan O, about 20-25 minutes away from the main campus by bus. The University provides regular shuttle bus service between Jockey Club hall and the University campus.

7. **What is the average monthly cost of housing in the private market as compared to University housing?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Market, Single Occupancy in Shared Flat</th>
<th>HK$ per month</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HKUST Hall VII-IX Single Room</td>
<td>$3,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKUST Hall VII-IX Double Room</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCH Double Room</td>
<td>$2,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKUST Hall I-VI Double Room</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKUST Hall V Double Room (bunk bed)</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>HKUST Hall II-IV &amp; VI Triple Room</td>
<td>$1,349</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*estimated rates quoted are for the 2017-18 academic year for a bed space in a shared flat in the Tseung Kwan O rental areas or in a village house in the Tai Po Tsai area; additional examples of rental cost in other districts are available at the following link: [http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/individual.php?catid=2&sid=16&tid=9&id=19](http://shrl.ust.hk/eng/individual.php?catid=2&sid=16&tid=9&id=19)*

8. **Besides the rental cost, what other additional expenses should I expect while living in private housing as compared to living in University-provided housing?**
   Residence fees in HKUST Housing include some of the basic utility charges (e.g., water and internet service), but residents are expected to pay for air-conditioning and laundry charges. Students renting in the private market should expect to pay for all of their utility charges and internet service (estimated at minimum to be HKD200-HKD400 per month in a shared apartment).

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**Enquiries**

Student Housing and Residential Life Office  
Website: [http://shrl.ust.hk](http://shrl.ust.hk)  
Phone: (852) 2358 6664

Email: ughousing@ust.hk (for UG Housing Admission)  
Office: G/F, UG Hall II, HKUST  
Hours: 8:45am – 1pm & 2pm – 5:30pm, Mon to Fri except public holidays

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*Memo revised 13 July 2017.*