## Study Abroad

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Nowadays, it is quite common for Hong Kong secondary school students to study abroad. They travel to other countries to carry on their studies. Some students go to America, Britain or Australia. I have several friends who are studying abroad. Therefore, I can tell all of you the reasons for studying abroad and list some advantages of studying overseas.

Under the education policy of Hong Kong, we complete nine years of compulsory education. And then, in Form Five, we have to sit for HKCEE. After this examination, there is no doubt that most students whose results were below standard (lower than 14 points) will not be given a place to study Form Six. At that time, the students who cannot continue their studies in HK would choose another way: to further their studies overseas. Studying abroad requires a lot of money, including the cost of traveling and the cost of the rent. It is so expensive that not every Hong Kong family can afford it. In addition, some parents who don't like the Hong Kong education system would like to pay for their children to study abroad at an earlier age. But in the same way, the family would be very rich, wealthy enough to pay for it.

There are many advantages to studying abroad. First of all, you can learn more English in foreign countries. They provide a lot of chances for you to make an improvement in English. For example, you can listen to the native speakers who speak in fluent English. Or, if you are studying in Mainland China, you can listen to Putonghua. Since you would listen to them every day regularly, you will get used to it. In addition, if you speak English every day, it will boost your oral skills. That's a great way to learn! It is the most effective way to learn a foreign language.

Secondly, you can make friends with students of other countries. It is important that you can widen your horizons to have friends in different countries. Also, you can communicate with them and learn more about their cultures and customs. It is essential to enrich yourself while you study abroad.

Thirdly, after graduation, you return to Hong Kong equipped with skills such as high-tech knowledge, and fluent English or Putonghua. They are essential if you want to apply for a job and make every effort to contribute to

a company. Also, you will get a higher salary if you have studied abroad. It is true!

Although there seems to be many advantages of studying abroad, you should try your best while studying in Hong Kong. Try hard to get good results in HKCEE and HKALE first, but do consider studying abroad even if it is just a second choice when you have no way to turn. I consider studying in Hong Kong one of the most comfortable and convenient choices.

Teacher's Feedback: A systematic analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad from a HK student's point of view.

(Miss Yau Ka Lun)

Food For Thought: The student's analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad is like a warm piece of sharing. He talks to us, just like friends, of those first-hand information and experiences. It is worthwhile for those who are planning to study abroad to read and consider the pros and cons before they make their final decision.

