

HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

Student Workshop Reports

(Total 2 participants)

①

Report items

① Overview of the program and the host university/organization abroad

I participated in the HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp under the AEARU quota. The theme of this year's bootcamp was Advancing Health & Medicine through AI & Technology. It was a week-long program where we learned entrepreneurship skills through lectures and site visits, and applied them to a group project. In our group, people from different universities, countries, genders, and backgrounds worked together for five days. On the final day, we pitched our business ideas, focusing on health problems affecting the elderly or children, with solutions aimed at establishing a startup.

Photos of this year program can be found from the official homepage:

<https://ec.hkust.edu.hk/news/hkust-entrepreneurship-bootcamp-2025-global-innovation-experience>

② Pre-departure preparation

The program provides transportation, accommodation, and meal coverage upon arrival at Hong Kong airport. We only needed to arrange our own flight and follow the pre-departure regulations provided by International Affairs at Science Tokyo, such as processing the application through the school system and purchasing insurance. Other things to consider are currency exchange and a SIM card. I booked the SIM card together with my flight through the airline. Cash in HKD is still needed in some situations, so I used a travel card to withdraw HKD from an ATM in Hong Kong after arrival. This gave a better exchange rate than most money exchange shops in Japan.

③ Academic activities during study abroad: courses, research, etc.

It was a one-week-long workshop, so we mainly followed the arranged schedule. The program focused on embracing entrepreneurship and the steps involved in starting a business — from identifying a problem statement, creating a business model canvas, to wrapping up the project with a time-limited pitching technique. In parallel, we worked on a group project to apply these skills, based on the theme of using AI to address health problems affecting the elderly and children. Step by step, we received constructive feedback from the supervisors and committee.

④ Episode in which you experienced personal growth or development

I experience the most growth when facing competitiveness. This involves two key aspects: challenges and rewards. Throughout the workshop, prizes were awarded almost every day in different sections, so I always did my best, with the simple goal of not finishing in last place. I felt pressure working with teammates I had just met, each with different backgrounds, beliefs, perspectives, and working styles. As the group leader, I had to maintain my leadership while also demonstrating creativity, since much of our time was spent ideating and discussing. Reflections from both peers and instructors had a significant impact on me, helping me gain a clearer understanding of my own perspective in comparison to others.

Photos: certificates and rewards obtained. This umbrella in the middle is our group prototype. The photo on the right is rewards I obtained from subsections.



⑤ Study abroad expenses

A round-trip flight with Hong Kong Express costs around 50,000 JPY. The living cost is similar to Japan, but transportation fees are slightly cheaper than in Tokyo. Public transportation in Hong Kong includes the subway (MTR), buses (Citybus, minibus, Airport Bus), and ferries—all with comparable fares. Since most expenses were covered by the program, I only spent money on personal sightseeing trips. There is generally no consumption tax in Hong Kong, so a tax refund is not necessary.

Photos: Food support provided by the program



Photos: Food available at the school canteen where we spend the coupon to buy lunch and dinner. The expense is also covered by the program.



⑥ **Accommodation at the destination**

The dormitory at HKUST's Water Bay Campus was provided by the host university. Unfortunately, it appeared to be one of the oldest dormitories on campus, likely due to many summer camps are held at the same time. The rooms were very compact, with two-story bunk beds. Since the campus is located on the easternmost part of the island, it takes more than an hour to reach downtown and about 30 minutes to get to the nearest shopping mall.

Photos: View from the dorm



⑦ **Language at the destination**

The program was conducted in English, but about half of the participants could also communicate in Chinese. Most tourist spots have English information, but some local restaurants may use only Chinese, so it's more convenient to travel with friends who speak Chinese.

⑧ **Recognition of credits which you took at the university**

I didn't plan to obtain any credit through the program.

⑨ How do you make use of your study abroad experience in your future life?

I had the opportunity to connect with amazing students from top universities. They were all incredibly talented, and I'm grateful to have gotten to know them. Discussing about research projects with graduate students, most of which were related to medical or AI themes, impressed me how diverse the world is and how much more there is to explore. I hope these connections will last and continue to broaden my perspective through their experiences. Personally, I developed valuable business skills, and I believe that having a basic understanding of business is important regardless of the career path I choose. Entrepreneurship and leadership also help build soft skills, which are beneficial in any profession. Additionally, I was introduced to several incubator and venture programs, which will be helpful if I decide to launch a business in the future, as I now have a better idea of where to start.

⑩ Indicate trouble or issues (if any) you experienced during study abroad

Since my passport was valid for less than six months when entering Hong Kong, I consulted with both the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Japan and Japan Immigration. I was able to enter without any issues because Thai passports require only 30 days of validity. It is still recommended to apply for a new passport if you have enough time.

⑪ Advice to other students

The HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp offers valuable knowledge and experience for students who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs—or simply want to understand what entrepreneurship is. No specialized knowledge or prior experience is required to participate. The host university gave their all in accommodating us, and the food in Hong Kong was amazing. Additionally, Science Tokyo provided a study abroad scholarship for qualified students, so if you have the chance, definitely go for it!

Photos: Hong Kong food and sight-seeing





報告事項

① 留学先(参加プログラムおよび受入れ機関)の概略

Overview of the program and the host university/organization abroad

The HKUST Entrepreneurship Bootcamp was hosted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HKUST Entrepreneurship Center from 06–12 July 2025. The theme for this bootcamp is related to health and medicine with AI and technology. Throughout the program, interactive lectures and group works were conducted to have us better understand about entrepreneurship and the basic steps of starting a business.

② 留学前の準備

Pre-departure preparation

留学情報の入手方法、専門分野・語学の準備方法、留学先の研究室に所属した場合は、留学先大学の指導教員との準備、ビザ取得方法、住居の探し方など。

How did you obtain information relevant to your study abroad, such as how to acquire a visa, how to find accommodation, how to find a host supervisor at the university, how to prepare for study abroad in terms of field of study, language study. etc.?

All the information regarding studying abroad was kindly provided by the International Division. As for visa, relevant information could be checked through immigration website of Hong Kong, and for my case, visa was not required. Accommodation was directly provided by the host university. After participation was confirmed, person in charge from the Entrepreneurship Center of the host university added all participants to a WhatsApp group for easier communication. Information such as the program flow and shuttle bus pick-up schedule arranged by the host university was sent through email. Prior to the program, I searched for relevant articles, news, research papers, and videos to get myself prepared for the theme.

③ 留学中の勉学・研究

Academic activities during study abroad: courses, research, etc.

履修した授業、研究内容等についての感想。留学中に行った課外活動（観光やスポーツ等）がある場合は、併せて記入してください。

Describe your classes and research (if relevant) abroad. If you participated in any extracurricular activities, such as sightseeing, sports, etc., please describe those experiences as well.

We had workshops about entrepreneurship, the startup ecosystem in Hong Kong, design thinking, as well as business model and pitching. After the lectures and talks from guest speakers, we had slots for team discussion every day to work on our prototype, business model, and final presentation. We also had games and activities to practice the newly learned knowledge, which I think was very helpful for me to understand the content better.

Besides that, we also had opportunities for site visiting. On the second day of the program, we went to the Lingnan University Jockey Club Gerontechnology-X Lab and we had volunteers and staff explaining about the silver economy (economy by elderly population) and the technologies developed so far to help elderlies live independently. After the final presentation on the last day, we visited the Hong Kong Science & Technology Park to explore different startups and the technologies they are developing. One of the companies we visited was the Hong Kong Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases where breakthrough for Alzheimer's disease was made possible through the big data analysis for blood proteins.

The local participants also kindly showed us around for sightseeing. Other than visiting famous tourist spots, they also brought us to local restaurants to try out authentic local foods. We also interacted with participants from other countries through talks and games to know more about their cultures.

④ 留学を終えて、自分自身の成長を実感したエピソード

Episode in which you experienced personal growth or development

他国の学生等との交流、海外における勉学・研究等の学校生活や日常生活を経験して、自身の成長を実感したことと思います。留学前に立てていた目標に対する達成度や苦労話など、何でも結構ですので、自身の成長を実感した中で一番記憶に残っているエピソードを記入し

て下さい。

Indicate the episode in which you most strongly felt your personal growth, i.e., through study, research, cross-cultural experiences, activities, daily life and so on.

The whole program was in general inspiring and mind-changing. Starting from the first day, I have learned that entrepreneurship emphasizes on turning thoughts and ideas into actions. During the first activity, we were asked to brainstorm without considering about the feasibility and consequences. Having educated and trained in a strong engineering environment, feasibility and solutions have always been the priority for engineers. Therefore, it was enlightening to learn about other perspectives and mindset, and I think that it will be useful for my future career path as well.

⑤ 留学費用

Study abroad expenses

渡航費、生活費、住居費、保険料、奨学金の有無など。

Indicate travel expenses, living expenses, accommodation fees, insurance fees, and whether or not you received a scholarship, etc.

Flight ticket (round-trip)	Around 53,000 yen
Octopus card (transportation and can be used in restaurants and shops, like IC card in Japan)	Initial fee: 200 HKD (150 + 50 deposit) Top-up: around 200 HKD Total: around 400 HKD (~7600 yen)
Insurance fee	3,100 yen
Meals during sightseeing (other than the ones provided by host university)	~540 HKD (~11,000 yen)
Souvenirs	170 HKD (~3,200 yen)
Total	~77,900 yen

Scholarship provided by Science Tokyo Fund Scholarship: 90,000 yen

⑥ 留学先での住居

Accommodation at the destination

寮の有無、申し込み方法、ルームメイト、その他。

Indicate whether or not your host university had a dormitory, the application process, reflections on your roommates, etc.

Accommodation was provided by host university at their dormitories: Hall V at HKUST

We did not have to go through application process, and I was paired with a Hong Kong local

student as my roommate. She kindly showed me around the campus during the first day and we talked a lot about our cultures as well.

⑦ 留学先での語学状況

Language at the destination

例えば、授業、研究には〇〇語が必須だが、生活は〇〇語を利用。留学前の TOEFL 等語学試験は、〇〇だったが、十分であった(最初の数週間は苦労した)など。

Indicate how you experienced the language environment at your destination, i.e., the language required for research activities, language(s) used in daily life, etc. and if you felt your language skills were sufficient.

The main communication language was English for this bootcamp, so I had no problems communicating with the other group members or lecturers. For the staff inside the campus, they can generally understand English but are probably more comfortable with their local language (Cantonese) or Mandarin. I could speak both so it was not a big problem for me, but I did notice that some international students had a little trouble while the staffs were in a hurry. Therefore, I think that knowing a little about the local language might help with smoother communication, but it is not necessary.

⑧ 単位認定(互換)

Recognition of credits which you took at the university

留学中に取得した単位の認定(互換)を Science Tokyo で行ったか(行う予定か)。

Indicate if you were able to / are planning to transfer credits you earned during study abroad.

Not applicable.

⑨ 留学経験を今後、どのように活かしたいか

How do you make use of your study abroad experience in your future life?

Through this bootcamp, I had the opportunity to strengthen my skills of communicating with people of different academic and cultural backgrounds. Now that I understand more how people of different fields think, it will be very useful for me to apply it in my future career.

⑩ 留学先で困ったこと(もしあれば)

Indicate trouble or issues (if any) you experienced during study abroad

Nothing in particular.

⑪ 留学を希望する後輩へアドバイス

Advice to other students

I think the most important thing would be to open up and make friends. In my opinion, one of the keys to making good friends is to first respect others. We might sometimes disagree with others' cultures but the important thing is to respect them so that we can further communicate and understand each other. Through this bootcamp, I have met wonderful people and made a lot of new friends from various countries, and we still keep in touch with each other.