

H L C Ian LINK

Issue 6 | 2022

True blue
True Pass-some!



Enter Good
EXIT BETTER

IVAN MAN KA HO

A WAKEUP CALL
in Time

TONY LEE KUI TAK



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

It is a great honour for me to share with you my thoughts here in this magazine. Especially during the pandemic, time flew by quicker than usual with our daily activities restricted and suspended. I cannot believe it has already been two years since my graduation. It is my pleasure to continue to provide support and service for my fellow HLCians as a part of the Alumni Association, giving something back to the College that made me who I am today.

Back then, not a week went by without my classmates and I wishing to graduate as soon as possible and escape from the endless schoolwork and exams. Yet when I finally got into university and was living the seemingly exciting “U-Life”, I could not help but look back on those simpler days. With the company of my schoolmates and the immense support provided by teachers, the time I spent in HLC will always have a special place in my heart.

After graduating from HLC, we always look for opportunities to be of service to our alma mater. As a secretary of the HLC Alumni Association, I hope that I can contribute to the communication between graduates, present HLCians, and the College. Along with our principal, teachers, parents, and students, I believe HLC will continue to nurture leaders of tomorrow in a happy and encouraging environment.

Chan Yan Tung Viola

Secretary of the 2nd HLC Alumni Association
Graduate of 2020

A young man with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and black shorts, stands in the shallow ocean waves at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the waves are white and foamy. A large green abstract shape is on the left side of the image.

Enter Good **EXIT BETTER**

Interviewed by:

Helen Wang, Heidun Fu (Students)

IVAN MAN KA HO

The University of New South Wales
Bachelor of Actuarial Studies & Bachelor of Law
(2022-2026)

Ivan had studied at HLC formerly and has been studying abroad in Australia since then. Back in HLC, he was part of the MC committee, prefect team and STEM club committee, which has helped him with his interpersonal as well as communication skills. His electives at HLC were Economics, Business, Accounting & Financial Studies, Biology and M1 while he studied General English, Chinese, Math Extension 1, Legal Studies, Accounting and Economics in Australia.

He has just graduated from high school and is considering a double degree in Actuarial studies and Law in the University of New South Wales. Notwithstanding how tough and difficult double majoring can be, he still decided to do it after discussing with the agency and hearing about cases of having difficulty in finding a job for actuarial work. Even though a double degree can provide you with more choices and opportunities in the future, he personally thinks that a double major might not be suitable for everyone owing to its workload.

School Life in Australia

One of the biggest differences between the education of Hong Kong and Australia is its focus. Hong Kong's education system is exam-oriented; students get assessed based on their performances during important tests like the DSE. In contrast, Australia has a more open and flexible approach. Internal assessments account for 75% of the final score for humanities and business subjects, while public exams only account for 25% of the final score, unless you are taking science subjects. The scope in public examinations is also a lot narrower unlike the HKDSE. An example of an internal assessment would be project assignments that require research on different topics with a 2000-word limit. This is equivalent to the SBAs in Hong Kong, except with greater weighing and not in the traditional monotonous form of pen-and-paper assessment. To him, the Australian mode is a lot less stressful than that of Hong Kong. "Instead of cramming intensively months before public exams, I really prefer the internal assessments in Australia," Ivan concludes. Communication skills are relatively more important. There are regular discussions in lessons and especially during assignments, so interactions between schoolmates are non-avoidable.

Living in Australia

When it comes to studying abroad, money is always a major concern for students and parents. Tuition fees for international students can be quite expensive due to the lack of government subsidies. For instance, local Australians typically pay AUD 10,000 every year for tuition, whereas it is four times that amount for international students. Nonetheless, for living expenses, it really depends on your lifestyle and personal preference. If you enjoy cooking at home rather than dining out or if you live in big cities or areas with more Asians, the costs are still reasonable and relatively affordable. However, a typical meal at a restaurant would cost an average of AUD 30, which definitely isn't the most affordable option for students. Fortunately, for students who are on a budget, the student visa in Australia allows students to work for 20-30 hours per week, with a minimum salary of 20 AUD per hour. Ivan estimates that living expenses every week would cost about 500 AUD. Luckily, for Ivan, he lives in a boarding house in a regional town, and he often cooks his own meals, so expenses aren't too daunting. So, he recommends that you really consider the financial situation of your family before going abroad as it can get costly.

Another advice from Ivan would be to get a driver's license once you get there. Unlike Hong Kong, Australia's transportation network isn't as adequate and accessible. So, it can be quite inconvenient sometimes. Once you reach 16 years old, you just need 100 hours of supervised driving experience and pass a test, then you can drive anywhere you want with your license.

Of course, studying abroad isn't all rainbows and unicorns. Ivan has encountered some difficulties of his own. When he first arrived there, homesickness hit especially hard as he went straight into quarantine. So, he couldn't make any new friends, which caused him to be extra lonely. He was also very disappointed about the manners of the people there, especially the usage of foul language. He told us that he once got told the "f word" by some random people on the street without any reason. Despite all these negative experiences, he doesn't regret going to Australia as a whole. He has done better academically as the content is easier and he has met few Hongkongers there so life isn't that plain and boring.

Finishing Secondary Education

Graduation is one of the highlights of Ivan's experience of studying abroad. On top of getting signatures on his uniform, he, together with his friends AND the deputy principal jumped into the pool after the last school bell had rung. Water evaporates, but the memory stays in the bottom of his heart.

"Bonus Intra, Melior Exi" is the school motto of Townsville Grammar School, which means "Enter good, exit better". The school has provided Ivan with unique opportunities to transform himself into an even better person.

MESSAGE for HLCians

"Have a growth mindset," Ivan said when asked what is the one thing he wanted to tell HLCians. He wishes students in Hong Kong did not have to remember so many things, but could still perform well academically. On the other hand, Australian education promotes self-directed exploration that there is more schoolwork that involves defining a topic that interests you. Since Hong Kong students seldom get the chance to make explorations on their own, Ivan concluded, "Read something on your own. Do research for something you're interested in."

When asked about study tips, Ivan stressed that...

“ You should get more sleep, and don't believe in multi-tasking. ”

June 2022



2012 - 2017

Wong Ka Tsz	Bachelor of Science (HKU)
Wong Ka Wai	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (HKU)
Lau Sin Ting	Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (HKU)
Lin Angus	Bachelor of Engineering (HKU)
Chung Wing Sum	Bachelor of Science (HKU)
Wong Ka Hei	Bachelor of Nursing (HKU)
Lee Ho Suet	Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Finance (HKU)
Wu Hoi Ching	Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Laws (HKU)
Yam Ning Yi	Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences (HKU)
Yam On Yi	Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences (HKU)
Kam Yuen Yi	Bachelor of Pharmacy (CUHK)
Yeung Yang Hang	Integrated Bachelor of Business Administration (CUHK)
Kwok Shing Him	Bachelor of Business Administration in Global Business Studies (CUHK)
Lee On Yee	Bachelor of Nursing (CUHK)
Lam Ching Hei	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (CUHK)

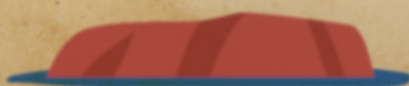


2018

Ho Wing Lam	Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science (HKU)
Pang Ching Yiu	Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (HKU)
Wong Tsz Wai	Bachelor of Engineering (HKU)
Choi Ho Ming	Bachelor of Social Sciences (HKU)
Lam Pui Hong	Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Pun Pui Yin	Bachelor of Business Administration in Insurance, Financial and Actuarial Analysis (CUHK)
Yau Ching Yiu	Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Finance (CUHK)
Lau Ka Ting	Bachelor of Science (HKUST)
Lo Yu Hin	Bachelor of Engineering (HKUST)
Lim Chiu Ngai	Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (Imperial College London)

2019

Lui Yee Ching	Bachelor of Dental Surgery (HKU)
Wong Kai Yiu	Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science (HKU)
Tsang Lok Long	Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Finance (HKU)
Yeung Ching Long	Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science (HKU)
Lo Tin Yan	Bachelor of Arts in English Studies and French (HKU)
So Wing Lam	Integrated Bachelor of Business Administration (CUHK)
Chan Wing Sum	Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics (CUHK)
Tang Wing Yiu	Bachelor of Science (HKUST)
Ng Wing Kiu	Bachelor of Science (HKUST)
Ng Wang Fung	Bachelor of Engineering (HKUST)



2020

Leung Hoi Ching
Cheung Lok Yan
Siu Wing Yu
Woo Yeuk Hei
Kwok Tsing Nam
Lau Sze Hin
Chan Yan Tung

Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Medicine (MBChB) Programme (CUHK)
Bachelor of Business Administration in Insurance, Financial and Actuarial Analysis (CUHK)
Bachelor of Business Administration in Insurance, Financial and Actuarial Analysis (CUHK)
Bachelor of Arts in English Studies and Bachelor of Education in English Language Education (CUHK)
Bachelor of Business Administration in Professional Accountancy (CUHK)
Bachelor of Science in Economics and Finance (HKUST)
Bachelor of Engineering (HKUST)

Kwok Ching Nam
Chan Shun Hei
Cheung Yin Yee

2021

Chung Hiu Kwan
Yung Ching To
So Chak Man
Tang Siu Wun
Lau Vivian
Hon Wai Hin
Ng Wai Kei
Ma King Lok
Cheung Wing Ka
Lam Yam Yin
Wu Ming Chun
Wong Ngai Fung

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (HKU)
Bachelor of Law (HKU)
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies (HKU)
Bachelor of Science (HKU)
Interdisciplinary Major Programme in Global Economics and Finance (CUHK)
Bachelor of Social Science (CUHK)
Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature (CUHK)
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology (CUHK)
Business and Management Programme (HKUST)
Business and Management Programme (HKUST)
Bachelor of Science (HKUST)
Bachelor of Science in Global China Studies (HKUST)

some of our
Mighty Alumni

A WAKEUP CALL in Time

Interviewed by:

Sue Lee (Student)

This is an inspiring journey of how a rebellious HLCian became a doctor. Tony Lee graduated from HLC in 2012, as he underperformed his public exam, with little knowledge of biology he went to the UK to study Biomedical Sciences at the University of Liverpool during 2012-2016. Currently, he is studying Doctor of Medicine at the University of New South Wales, Sydney during the pandemic lockdown in Australia.

Waking up

Unlike those who excel in their studies with flying colours and aced their conduct marks, Tony was the polar opposite - he was playful, cheeky and even rebellious from time to time. He did not mean to harm but could be a headache to his teachers. He was so infamous that all teachers in HLC knew about him. It was the second day of Form 5 turned his life around. He had a huge conflict with another student and had 9 conduct marks deducted. The principal and vice-principal arranged a meeting with his parents. It was the first time he saw disappointment in his parents' eyes, knowing that he could be expelled from the school. It



TONY LEE KUI TAK

University of New South Wales, Sydney
Doctor Of Medicine (2020-present)
Doctor

was then he realised he had been taking advantage of the kindness and patience of the teachers and parents.

In the meeting, he finally saw his father's heart and soul into nourishing his child albeit his fragile health. He felt ashamed for his actions and took this lesson as his wakeup call. Approaching the teachers one by one, day by day, he studied hard and aimed to become a doctor for his father. With perseverance and teachers' guidance, he was admitted by a university in the UK. And that was when he truly felt how fortunate he was to be cared and loved by his parents, teachers and friends in school.

Overcoming Obstacles

His path of becoming a doctor was anything but smooth sailing. As Tony did not study biology in secondary school, he hardly had any foundation in Biomedical Sciences - the program he studied at the University of Liverpool. In an attempt to conquer these barricades and not to become a burden of his parents, he burnt the candles at both ends by staying in the library till 3 am every day and going to class at 7 am. Unfortunately, neither his grades obtained in his degree nor in his DSE are enough to get his hands on the entrance tickets of medical school. For this very reason, in order to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor, he decided to take the A-Level exams and to start over his studies from scratch.

After obtaining his first degree, his father's health condition deteriorated, thereby, he returned home to look after his father for roughly 3.5 years. During that period, he took care of his father from day to night and started his revision after his father was asleep. After the long journey of ups and downs, he gained the best scores in all his subjects - Chemistry, Biology and Maths and finally got into the doctor of medicine at the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

“ If you truly desire to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse. ”

Studying the doctor of medicine is utterly hectic, and needing to attend virtual lessons at home is like adding fuel into the flames. Thanks to the time difference between Hong Kong and Australia, Tony wakes up at 6 am, resists all temptations and has one goal - study.

“I wake up at 4 am every morning to exercise in the park, then I shower and prepare myself for the 6 am lessons. After that, I would give myself a short break and continue my revision till night.”

Tony remembers what his teacher at HLC told him: if you are determined enough to do something, by nature you would give up those are less important in life. Additionally, the key to consistency is to always set tiny goals for yourself. As he believes that the most efficient way to keep oneself going is to take baby steps each time than to make a great leap forward.

Future Goals

When asked about what field of medicine he is interested in, Tony replied he would like to work in the internal medicine ward or the geriatric ward, as he is motivated by his passed away father who has suffered from sickness for a long period of time.

Furthermore, Tony envisages himself returning to Hong Kong after graduation. “My dreams are constructed here and my father placed money, time and effort to bring me into such a position, so it is my obligation to serve this society.” He also added that he would like to bring a whole new perspective back to Hong Kong to take the medical field up a notch.

June 2022

ALUMNI MESSAGES

JOE LI

University of New South Wales
BE (Hons) / ME Electrical Engineering
Year 1

I have studied in HLC for 4 years and finished my year 11-12 in Knox Grammar School in Australia. While HLC did build up my identity, there are different cultures in different places, and I have learnt a lot studying and living in Australia.

Knox has a strong learning atmosphere. The learning atmosphere is especially strong in our Maths Extension 2 class. There are discussions in the classroom and a whiteboard section for people to put their hard questions onto so other people can solve. We even had a class goal for everyone to score 90. During the rush-down, we found lots of past papers from other schools, and we did them together and then peer marked them together.

I have understood that studying wasn't really meant to be torturous all the time. It is painful and effort costly, but it could be treated like a game where you try your best to earn a high score. Working together with friends will make studying a lot less painful. During lockdown, I had a zoom session with my friends just to study together. Even if we didn't have interaction while doing the paper, it is a lot better than doing a past paper alone.



“Go Beyond Imagination”

Hi young brothers and sisters, I graduated from HLC 8 years ago, and have carried on my journey in Tourism Management in PolyU. That has led me to the Airline Industry which I discovered my interest in exploring the world with curiosity and courage. 2 years ago, I travelled to Australia for the Master’s Program in Social Work. Living in the Tropical North Queensland, where I have cultivated plenty of new self care hobbies such as chasing waterfalls during the weekends and reading books at the beach with my rescued puppy! The community here is so friendly that everyone would smile at you as you walk by, and even pay forward for the next person’s coffee at the drive through.

In life, there are lots of uncertainties, so my message to you is never underestimate yourself: your curiosity and courage. According to your perspective, new experiences could either be scary or exciting. But I assure you these new experiences are worth it; at least they have become the memories which have helped me through the darker days. Now come on, go beyond your imagination, follow your intuition. Your journey awaits.

CHERIE LAI

James Cook University
Master of Social Work
Year of 2022

TERENCE LAM

University of South Australia
Bachelor of Aviation
GRADUATE of 2018

HLC is one of my favorite places during my childhood. It not only nurtures me to be a better person but also encourages me to step out of my comfort zone. Studying abroad in Australia was one of my best travel experiences to date. Spending years in another country – living, studying and exploring is an incredible lifetime memory. I always want to study abroad. In my mind I pictured waking up to sun blazing through the window, studying at a modern university and spending the afternoons having a BBQ on the beach with friends.


My life in Australia was exactly that. Australia is a clean, modern and the standard of living is high. Overall, Australians are regarded as friendly, easygoing, outdoorsy and adventurous. Australians love to travel and in return embrace visitors in to Australia which makes it easy to make friends. Personally, I found that people in Australia are happy, less stressed, easy-going and sociable. If you are considering studying abroad in Australia – I hope my experiences will help to inspire your Australian study abroad experience.

“You never change your life until you step out of your comfort zone; change begins at the end of your comfort zone.” — Roy T. Bennett






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