

Comparison between different types of major housing in HK for study abroad students

Housing type/ condition	Village House apartment (村屋)	Student apartment (學生公寓)	Down town “suites” (市區套房)	Standard apt in modern building (私人單位)	Serviced apt/ Hotel (服務式公寓/酒店)
Examples	Tai Po Mei 大埔尾, Sha tin Wai 沙田圍	Chek Nai Ping 赤泥坪	Tsim Sha Tsui 尖沙嘴, Jordan 佐敦, Mongkok 旺角, Prince Edward 太子, Shamshuipo 深水埗	City One Shatin 沙田第一城, Jubilee Garden 銀禧花園	Horizon Suite Hotel 海澄軒
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION					
Distance from CUHK Shatin campus	Depends. 20 minutes by walking to 20 minutes by subway.	10 minutes walk from Central campus (Tai Po Road).	Depends. Usually 30 minutes by subway.	Depends. 20- 30 minutes by subway or van.	15 minutes by van.
Distance from downtown	Public transportation needed for basic shopping.	Nearest shopping at CUHK supermarket only, or otherwise travel to Shatin down town.	The closest. Shops in walking distance.	Shops in walking distance.	Shops in walking distance.
General Environment	Low density. Usually near to lush and greens.	Low density. Usually near to lush and greens.	High density. Usually close to subway station and located inside a over 30-years-old private mansion.	Medium density	Medium density
Closest public hospital/ outpatient clinic	Wales Hospital, 2 clinics in Tai Po, 3 clinics in Shatin	Wales Hospital, 2 clinics in Tai Po, 3 clinics in Shatin	Kwong Wah Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 3 clinics in YauTsimong district	Wales Hospital, 3 clinics in Shatin	Wales Hospital, 1 clinic in Ma On Shan
GENERIC INFORMATION					
Apartment size	15-35 sq.m. 0-1 bedroom	Small size at 5-9 sq. m, divided from a big village house.	Small size at 9-15 sq. m. divided from a big apartment.	20-40 sq. m. 1-2 bedrooms	60 sq.m. 2 bedrooms
Floor mates	Local residents	Floor mates with CUHK students from the mainland.	Short term residents usually from mainland China or South East Asia	Local couples and families. Some CUHK mainland students	Local couples, CUHK professors, business expats.
Security	OK. Due to its low-rise built nature, sometimes susceptible to theft.	OK. Due to its low-rise built nature, sometimes susceptible to theft.	Some locations may have complicated environment in terms of security and hygiene.	Usually good	Best
Hygiene	May have pests from the nearby woods	May have pests from the nearby woods	Depends on neighborhood	OK to good	Best
RENTAL INFORMATION					
Monthly rental	Relatively cheaper. HK\$4000-6000	Cheapest: HK\$1500-2000	Relatively cheaper: HK\$3000-6000.	HK\$6000-9000	Monthly rental at HK\$9000 up for 1 year agreement
Rental Terms	At least 6 months	Minimum 6 months rental.	Flexible rental from 6 months up. Sometimes 3 months rental is allowed.	At least 1 yr	At least 1 month
Utility charges	Depends. Some may include utility charges	Mostly included (except internet)	Electricity and internet not included	Not included	Electricity and internet not included
Rental means	Through agent/ landlord/ OHIS website	Through agent/ OHIS website	Through agent	Through agent	Direct booking

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FACILITIES					
Furniture and fittings	Depends. Some include bed and wardrobe	Bedroom for each student with bed and wardrobe.	Depends. Some include bed and wardrobe	Depends. Some include bed and wardrobe	Well furnished
Household appliances	Depends. Some include fridge & TV	Communal living room equipped with fridge & TV.	Not included	Availability of electrical appliances depends on owner	Full set of household appliances.
Bathroom	Shower only	Shared bathroom. Shower only	Shower only	With bath in some apt.	With bath
Cooking	Allowed	Simple cooking only	Simple cooking only	Allowed	Allowed
Laundry	In apt or laundry shop	Communal washing machine	laundry shop	In apt or laundry shop	In apt or laundry shop
Other facilities	Some may include Internet	Nil	Nil	Club house facilities sometimes available	Club house facilities available
OTHERS					
Special note	Typhoon and raining seasons can be a problem in commuting.	Limited supply.	Many suites are newly renovated. Some do not have windows.	Utility deposit needed and one should settle the different utility charges on his/ her own	Free shuttle bus service between CUHK and apt.