

CUHK Physics Study Tour 2026 Plan

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From 2016 to 2020, the [CUHK Physics Study Tour](#) was organized annually. Each year, we bring a number of CUHK Physics undergraduate students to visit world-class research facilities, such as CERN, PSI, Kitt Peak National Observatory, Caltech, and U.C. Berkeley. Students were asked to conduct hands-on experiments related to the visits, and lectures were organized both before and during the trip to ensure the study tour was an authentic experiential learning experience. Students were enrolled in PHYS3630 and earned 1 unit, and they were financially supported (partially) by the department. The CUHK Physics Study Tour gained popularity, but it was halted due to COVID-19 (the 2020 study tour, originally scheduled to visit CERN, was canceled). In 07/2025, the CUHK Physics Study Tour was resumed and carried out in parallel with the CUHK Astrophysics Teacher Program, with 18 students and 16 secondary school physics teachers participating. The response from the students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

We are planning to organize the CUHK Physics Study Tour again in 2026, bringing approximately 16 CUHK Physics undergraduates on a one-week study tour to Europe in August 2026. We plan to visit world-class research facilities, including [CERN](#) and [PSI](#). The estimated budget is in Table 1, and the tentative program is listed in Table 2.

Students participating in the study tour will be asked to undertake group projects in particle physics. CUHK students will be registered in PHYS3630 (1 unit). They will also interact with researchers and alumni to learn about life as researchers first-hand. We will arrange three pre-trip workshops, comprising three hours of lectures and six hours of hands-on practice, in May and June 2026. Students will be grouped into four groups, and each group will design its own data analysis and science reporting projects. Students will be selected based on interview and/or performance in STOT or other physics courses. Tom Cheng, M.-C. Chu, Po Kin Leung, and Kenny Yip will lead the group.

Table 1. Budget estimate for CUHK students

item	Expense per student (HKD)
Air ticket and ground transportation (HK $\leftrightarrow$ Switzerland)	8,000
Hotels (6 nights, 2 students in a room)	4,000 for students
Bus	1,000
Meals (HKD300 per day)	1,800
Miscellaneous and contingencies	1,200
Total	16,000 for each student

Table 2: Tentative study tour program, 02-09/08/2026.

Date	Time	Activities (L: lecture, V: visit, W: workshop)	Persons in charge
Sunday 02/8	am	Gather at Hong Kong Airport	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny
	pm	Arrival at Zurich, Switzerland, check into hotel	
Monday 03/8	am	Visit Swiss X-ray Free Electron Laser (SwissFEL) and Swiss Spallation Neutron Source (SINQ) at PSI (V)	TBA
	pm	Travel to Bern. Visit the Einstein Museum and Einstein House in Bern (V)	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny
	evening	Travel from Bern to Geneva, check into hotel	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny
Tuesday 04/8	10:00 – 15:00	Tour Geneva (L)	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny
	17:00	Welcome reception	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny
	17:30	Objectives of the program	
	18:00	Rules and recommendations	
	18:15	Walk around the CERN site	
Wednesday 05/8	9:00	Introduction to CERN (L)	Luis
	9:45	Coffee break	9:45
	10:00	Fundamental physics (L)	TBA (CERN)
	11:15	Particle detectors (L)	TBA (CERN)
	12:30	Lunch break	
	14:00-18:00	Antimatter Factory (V), Data Centre (V), Cloud Chamber workshop (W)	TBA (CERN)
Thursday 06/8	8:30	Particle accelerators (L)	TBA (CERN)
	9:45	Experimental particle physics (L)	TBA (CERN)
	11:00	Coffee break	
	11:20	Computing at CERN (L)	TBA (CERN)
	12:30	Lunch break	
	14:00-16:00	CERN Control Centre and Neutrino Platform (V)	TBA (CERN)
	16:00	Coffee break	
	16:45	Synchrocyclotron and ATLAS Control Room (V)	TBA (CERN)
Friday 07/8	9:00	Questions and Answers session	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny
	10:00	My life at CERN	alumni
	10:55	Coffee break	
	11:15	The dark side of the universe (L)	TBA (CERN)
	12:30	Lunch break	
	14:00-17:30	CMS Service Cavern (V)	TBA (CMS)
Saturday 08/8	am	Check out hotel; travel to HK, arriving on 09/8	Tom, M.-C., PK, Kenny



Paul Scherrer Institute PSI, near Zurich, Switzerland. Credit: PSI.



The CMS detector at the Large Hadron Collider, CERN.



The Einstein Museum in Bern.



Globe of Science and Innovation at CERN.



The ATLAS control center at CERN.