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Scholarship the passport to knowledge

ONE semester studying in Hong Kong has opened up the world for a young South Australian.

Sebastien Ananian-Cooper, 22, of Burnside, has just arrived home after 14 months of travel, including time in Hong Kong as a recipient of a Cheung Kong Foundation scholarship.

"It's been an unbelievable experience and I would love to do it again," he says.

"Without the scholarship I would never have got to Hong Kong and now I want to go back there to work. I'm already applying for jobs there.

"When I talked to people at uni they said most local students tend to go to England, the U.S. or countries in Europe.

"A lot of people don't think of going to Asia, but I am really thankful I took advice to give Hong Kong a go."

Mr Ananian-Cooper is in his final year of a combined commerce and economics degree at the University of Adelaide and is looking for a job in the finance sector.

"Even though I have not learnt Mandarin well, I have learnt a lot about the culture and also had the chance to understand issues from a Chinese perspective."

He stayed at the University of Hong Kong, where he met Chinese students as well as fellow exchange students.