

ENGAGEMENT: INTERGENERATIONAL INNOVATION FROM YESTERYEAR TO FUTURE



Background

Hong Kong is facing the challenges of a rapidly ageing population as with other developed regions. Our community partner, the LinkAges Centre focuses on implementing intergenerational practice in Hong Kong. Through purposefully structured intergenerational interactions, positive attitudes between generations and intergenerational solidarity can be enhanced. HKU students can interact with elders, and help address social issues arise from the ageing population.

Possible Experiential Learning Projects and Activities

- **“Grandpal Recipes”**: Students can collect life stories from the elders on family food culture. Students will record both the recipes and the stories, and produce a cookbook named “Grandpal Recipes”.
- **Budget Cooking for Elders**: Elders are always considered as frugal; therefore, they tend to neglect the importance of eating healthily. Eating healthily on a cheap budget should be advocated to prevent elders’ malnutrition with the assistance of community cooking experts – women.
- **Apps for Elders**: More elders are willing to use smart phones or tablet PCs, however with the rapid advancement of technology, some elders find it hard to follow. Students are expected to develop Apps for elders or to propose suitable ideas for Elderly Apps development in Hong Kong.
- **Clubhouse for all Ages**: The project aims to collect innovative ideas from students in order to create a clubhouse for public housing estate, which is suitable for people of all ages.
- **Special Education Training for Tutor**: Teach with Fun Voluntary group consists of elders, retirees and women who provide after school care for children in needs. Students are expected to teach the children with volunteers and provide trainings for volunteers to equip them with a better understanding on special education and class management.

Some professional training and support to students on project implementation.

- **Simulation Programme on Ageing (SPA)**: This is an one-off experiential learning activity that participants are able to experience the life of an elderly person in their 70s/80s by wearing special gears. Participants will then undertake a series of tasks to experience real scenarios and hardships faced by the elderly. Elder volunteers will also interact with the participants in different settings.
- **Trainings, Workshops and Support on Implementing community projects**: A working manual with details on how to implement intergenerational programmes will be provided as a reference. Training workshops to facilitate students’ understanding of the needs of different/ specific age group as well as the skills on implementing community projects can be provided.

Summary

Students are invited to collaborate with the community partner to have direct contacts with the elders. There will be a first hand simulated experience of aging through a one-off introductory session. Students can also communicate and collaborate with elderly people to devise a range of projects, activities and/or products to enhance elderly’s daily life. Students should be able to develop better interpersonal and social skills communicating with the elderly. They are expected to show more respect and appreciation to the elderly after these creative interactions with them. More importantly, students will have the opportunities to reflect and investigate the aging issues in Hong Kong.



PROJECT LOCATION



Southern District,
Hong Kong

COMMUNITY PARTNER



Aberdeen Kai-
fong Welfare
Association



KEY AREAS



Intergeneration, Aging Society, Nutrition, Food Culture, Oral history, Elderly Empowerment, Special Education, Elderly Empowerment, Apps, Social Issues, aging, elderly, education

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