

OFFICE OF SERVICE-LEARNING (OSL)

Service-Learning in Higher Education: Teacher Development Course



About the Course

This course is for teachers who are interested in developing and teaching service-learning courses at the higher education level. Service-learning is a form of experiential learning that brings students into the community to do meaningful projects that both benefit the community and illustrate academic concepts and theories.

Service-learning has been shown to be a high-impact educational practice. Because students are immersed into the community and get a first-hand experience of community and society needs, service-learning has been demonstrated to be effective at training students' empathy and sense of social responsibility. Because students work on real projects that impact real people, service-learning also has been shown to build up students' problem solving skills, their teamwork and communication skills, their leadership and collaboration skills, and, in many cases, their professional ethics. Because many projects bring students to work in overseas countries, service-learning has also been shown to be able to develop students' cross-cultural sensitivity and global citizenship.

This course will combine seminars and discussions with an on-site experience in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The seminars will cover theories and practices in service-learning, effective service-learning design, and service-learning assessment. The on-site experience will bring you to



Schedule and Important Dates

Information Sessions:	6 Mar 2018, 7pm (BC201, PolyU) 9 Mar 2018, 7pm (BC202, PolyU)
Application Deadline:	23 Mar 2018
Notification:	30 Mar 2018
Preparation Workshop:	17, 24, 29 May 2018 6:30-9 pm
On-site experience in Cambodia:	5-12 Jun 2018

Cost

The estimated cost for this program is \$9000. This will cover airfare, ground transportation, accommodation and meals in Cambodia. Staff are responsible for securing their own travel documents, visa and associated travel immunizations. *

Eligibility

All academic and teaching staff from higher-education institutions in Hong Kong are welcome.

* There is some funding available for participants from UGC-funded institutions. Interested applicants should indicate their intention to be considered for this funding at the time of application. For enquiries, please contact Miss Alison Ip at OSL (alison.ip@polyu.edu.hk)

observe students working in service projects in the community. You will have an opportunity to interact and potentially interview our students, their teachers, and the community residents. You will also visit NGOs and get hands-on practice in designing your own project. Finally, you will also have an opportunity to do your own project.

Cambodia hosts PolyU's first overseas service-learning and leadership hubs. In 2018, 130 students will serve there in 5 service-learning projects and 2 leadership classes. This affords participants of our short course opportunities to observe projects of different natures and disciplines.



About the Instructors

Drs. Grace Ngai and Stephen Chan were the recipients of the UGC Teaching Award in 2016.

Stephen is Head of the Office of Service-Learning (OSL) and Grace is the Associate Head. Since PolyU made academic service-learning an institutional strategy for all-rounded education in 2012, Dr Ngai and Dr Chan have demonstrated outstanding academic leadership in helping university management to conceptualise SL as an integral component of the PolyU undergraduate curriculum and implement SL as an institutional teaching and learning strategy. They thus have transformed the learning experience of thousands of PolyU students and supported the development of many academic colleagues. Over the last 8 years, PolyU has gone from having 6 service-learning courses enrolling 200 students to almost 70 courses enrolling 4000 students annually. They have increased the coverage of PolyU's service projects from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland to Cambodia, Myanmar, Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan, improving the lives of people in need and inspiring the students involved to become responsible professionals and global citizens. They have also pioneered innovative pedagogical practices such as multicultural student teams through partnerships with local NGOs, service-learning exchange and internship programmes and an innovative 'global SL classroom' initiative that allows PolyU students and their overseas peers to attend the same lectures and develop project ideas via video conferencing, and then implement projects together in person at the service location.



Previous Staff Development Activities



Workshops and Collaborative Forums



Reflections and Discussions: Cambodia Staff Project, 2016



Staff Project: Textile and Art Exposure for children



Staff Project: English lessons for Cambodian children to learn English vocabulary



Staff Project: Learning through games and songs

1

TO LEARN

about service-learning - what it is, how to do it, and how it impacts students.

2

TO EXAMINE

different service-learning courses and projects, and speak with teachers and students.

3

TO EXPLORE

different NGOs, what they do, and how to design a project.