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 (SL) courses at the higher education level. SL 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.

SL has been shown to be a high-impact educational practice. It has been demonstrated to be effective at training students’ empathy and sense of social responsibility because students are immersed into the community and get first-hand experience of community and societal needs. Since students work on real projects that impact real people, SL 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. SL has also been shown to be able to develop students’ cross-cultural sensitivity and global citizenship, because many projects bring students to work overseas.

This course consists of seminars, discussions, and on-site experience in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The seminars will cover theories and practices in SL, effective SL design, and SL assessment. The on-site experience will bring you to observe students working on service projects in the community. You

Key Dates

| Information sessions | 8 & 18 Mar 2019, 6:30-8:00pm |
| Application deadline | 22 Mar 2019, 12:00nn |
| Admission results | 29 Mar 2019 |
| Briefing session | 8 Apr 2019, 6:30-8:00pm |
| e-Learning & self-study | May 2019 |
| On-site experience in Cambodia | 2-8 Jun 2019 |

Course Fee

HK$9,000.00 covering airfares, ground transportation, meals, and accommodation in Cambodia

Eligibility

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

Application

[Complete online application form]
will have an opportunity to interact, and potentially interview our students, their teachers, and the service community. You will also visit NGOs, get hands-on practice in designing your own project, and have an opportunity to receive feedback on your project proposal.

Cambodia hosted PolyU’s first overseas SL and leadership hubs. In 2019, 185 students will serve there on seven SL projects. This affords participants of our short course opportunities to observe projects of different natures and from different disciplines.

About the Instructors

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

The course will be delivered by Drs Grace Ngai and Stephen Chan, the Associate Head and Head of the Office of Service-Learning, respectively. Since PolyU made academic service-learning an institutional strategy for all-rounded education in 2012, Drs Ngai and Chan have demonstrated outstanding academic leadership in helping university management to conceptualise SL as an integral component of the PolyU undergraduate curriculum and to 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 past six years, PolyU has gone from having six service-learning courses enrolling 200 students to almost 70 courses enrolling 4,000 students annually. They have increased the coverage of PolyU’s service projects from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland to Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Rwanda, and Vietnam; 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 Course Activities

Seminars, discussions, reflections

Visiting NGOs, slum walk, observing students working on service projects

Service activities: English lessons, music class, expressive textile arts

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.

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