

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 a 3-day retreat (non-overnight) in a hotel in Hong Kong. The seminars will cover theories and practices in SL, effective SL design, and SL assessment. The 3-day retreat will provide you an opportunity to interact with our students, SL teachers, and even the NGOs. You will be able to get hands-on practice in designing your own project, and have a chance to receive feedback on your project proposal.

To learn

About service-learning –
What it is,
how to do it, and how it
impacts students.



To examine

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



To explore

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



\$ Course Fee

HK\$ 2,500

Eligibility

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

Application

Complete online application form



Enquiries

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Key Dates

Information session (online)

13 July 2020,
5:30 – 7:00pm

Application deadline

17 July 2020,
12:00nn

Admission results

24 July 2020

Briefing session (face-to-face)

4 August 2020,
4:30 – 6:00pm

A 3-day Retreat (non-overnight)

10 – 12 August 2020



About the Instructor

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 Head and Consultant of the Service-Learning and Leadership Office, 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 eight 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.

