

## **A New Dimension in Study Abroad – Service Learning**

Katherine Wan

Office of International Student Exchange

The University of Hong Kong

Internationalization is a strategic goal of many universities around the world. One of the more sweeping forces shaping higher education today is the movement of student across borders. This flow of students, who will become leaders in their home countries, enables cross cultural understanding, personal development and global integration. The University of Hong Kong, like all its partners, is committed to nurturing its students to become global citizens with commitment and social responsibilities to their society and the world at large.

Student exchange and study abroad programmes are well established in many universities. In order to increase the number of outgoing students across faculties (especially those who are in professional faculties with restrictive curriculum requirement) and to be able to offer more diverse overseas learning experiences to enhance students' international perspectives, service learning programme is getting more popular and serves as an alternative to semester-based exchange programme.

In my presentation, I would like to share with colleagues some of the service learning programmes that we are currently running on our campus. We welcome collaboration with our partners worldwide. The challenges we face ahead are how to find more resources to support service learning initiatives and how to devise tools and evaluation schemes to gauge the impact of such experience on our students before and after their graduation.

## A New Dimension in Study Abroad – Service Learning



presented by  
Katherine Wan  
Programme Director  
Office of International Student Exchange  
The University of Hong Kong



- “To excel in the core functions of teaching and research so that we will be recognized globally as an international, research-led university of world-class standing that engages the community we serve.”

## The First and Foremost University – HKU 香港第一學府 – 香港大學



- 1887 - The establishment of Hong Kong College of Medicine
- 1910.3.16 – The Foundation of the University of Hong Kong
- 1911 – The University of Hong Kong incorporated by ordinance. The first two faculties were Medicine and Engineering

## Dr. Sun Yat-sen at HKU



## HKU Main Building



## A Comprehensive Research-led University with 10 Faculties

- Architecture
- Arts
- Business and Economics
- Dentistry
- Education
- Engineering
- Law
- Medicine
- Science
- Social Sciences

## Key Statistics of HKU in 2007/08

- 13,345 students for degree programmes
- 4,909 regular FT staff of which 1,934 are teaching & research staff
- 2163 RPs (FT + PT)
- 1189 TPGs (FT + PT)
- Over 2000 non-local students on campus



## A Truly International University

Half of the teaching staff are from outside HK, representing nearly 50 countries  
(5th best in the world, according to the THES rankings on international faculty)

Member of international universities consortia, e.g. U21, APRU

Extensive student exchange programme with over 160 partners worldwide



## Why Internationalize?

- Academic goals – excellence in research, teaching and learning
- Economic and entrepreneurial goals – revenue and resources generating
- Social goals – nurture global citizens and future leaders with international perspectives
- Global goals –foster cross cultural understanding and world peace

## Teaching & Learning

- New curriculum structure – 4 year undergraduate curriculum in 2012
- English as the medium instruction
- Curriculum design – joint programmes with overseas partners
- Campus facilities
- Quality assurance and International benchmarking
- Broad education to train leaders

## International Opportunities

- Exchange opportunities to universities in Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada and the UK
- Include Oxford, Cambridge, Berkeley, UCLA, Chicago...
- 160 exchange partners
- Credit transfer to HKU degree programme
- Internship opportunities also available



<b>Canada</b> University of British Columbia McGill University The University of Toronto The University of Alberta The University of Waterloo <b>Europe</b> On Lund University, Sweden Uppsala University, Sweden Institute of Political Studies, France University of Paris - Dauphine, France Albert-Ludwigs University, Freiburg, Germany University of Bonn, Germany Bremen University of Applied Sciences, Germany University of Tübingen, Germany Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria Administration, Austria University of Amsterdam, Netherlands Helsinki University of Technology, Finland University of Helsinki, Finland Maastricht University, The Netherlands University of Bergen, Norway Warsaw University of Technology, Poland Nanyang University Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	<b>United States</b> MIT University of Chicago Mount Holyoke College University of Pittsburgh The University of Kansas Ball State University Tufts University University of California Berkeley San Diego State University Davis Irvine Los Angeles Riverside Santa Clara University Santa Barbara Santa Cruz <b>United Kingdom</b> Oxford University Cambridge University University of Edinburgh University of Glasgow University of Nottingham Bath University University of Manchester University of Southampton Royal Holloway, University of London	<b>Australia &amp; New Zealand</b> University of Melbourne, Australia University of Queensland, Australia Australian National University University of New South Wales, Australia University of New England, Australia Deakin University, Australia Flinders University, Australia Macquarie University, Australia Murdoch University, Australia University of Canterbury, New Zealand University of Auckland, New Zealand University of Otago, New Zealand	<b>China</b> Tsinghua University Peking University East China Normal University	<b>Mexico</b> Tec de Monterrey	<b>Asia</b> Malaysia, Malaysia Science Malaysia National University of Singapore Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Assumption University, Thailand Chulalongkorn University, Thailand Thammasat University, Thailand Yonsei University, Korea Pusan University, Korea Ehwa Women's University, Korea
---	---	---	--	-----------------------------------	--



## Global Citizenship & Social Responsibilities



- Exchange programmes are already an integral part of the undergraduate curriculum
- What other programmes can we offer to our students to equip them to become 'Global Citizens'?

## International Service Learning

- A combination of conventional study abroad with meaningful community service across the world
- Such programmes can take place in various setting in which the service will be
  - Socially useful and provide first-hand experience to the students
  - Sufficient depth and duration to challenge the students assumptions and ways of thinking about the world
  - Linked with relevant academic study and make them reflect on their studies while working in the field

## Service Learning Programmes at HKU

### Some examples:

- **Project SEE** - students form groups to conduct a service project in a developing country in Asia for a period of four to six weeks on the following themes:
  - Gender
  - Health
  - Environment
  - Child Education
  - Human Right
- **Social Innovation Internship** - Compulsory for social sciences major. Work in local and overseas NGOs under expert supervision. Credits are given.
- Volunteering projects in Ghana and Sichuan
- U21 e-health project – clinical placement in Papua New Guinea



## Service Learning

<http://gened.hku.hk/programme/projectsee/>



## Social Innovation Internship

- ◆ Launched by the Faculty of Social Sciences
- ◆ Offer internship placements in over 100 local and overseas partner organisations to enable students to gain professional knowledge and community experience in real work place.
- ◆ Credit bearings with well structured internship programme with a dual system of supervision

## Social Innovation Internship

<http://www.hku.hk/socsci/si2/home.html>



## Volunteering Teaching

English-language education for migrant children and adults from Burma located along the Moei River section of the Thai-Burma border



## China earthquake -Sichuan Aid Project



Source: <http://hku.hk/chinaearthquake>

## Light for Children

- Established in 2005
- Light for Children – Ghana is a non-governmental, child centered, development organization without religious or political affiliation.
- Concern the welfare of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, especially those whom are HIV-positive.
- To raise local and global awareness of the lives of vulnerable children in the Ashanti region.
- To engage a global community of young people with the lives of vulnerable children, empowering a sense of understanding and hope.
- HKU student-initiated project



Source: <http://www.lightforchildren.com>

## Challenges....

- Heavy workload-planning, liaison, on-site supervision
- Risk management –safety and health issues in developing countries, living condition, on-site management and insurance matter
- Funding support for service learning programme may be difficult
- Evaluation and outcome assessment of such programme may not be easy.

## Looking ahead

- Internationalization as top priority
- **Motivation and resources for internationalization initiation**
- Student mobility activities will take different forms, exchange internship, service learning programmes.
- **International curriculum and co-curriculum**
- Diversity of activities / programmes
- **Be open-minded, collaborate with your overseas partners**
- Solicit both internal and external funding to support new initiatives

## One World

- [www.hku.hk/oneworld](http://www.hku.hk/oneworld)
- A publication that summarises HKU students overseas experience
- The valuable experience gained by 47 HKU students through different types of international programmes such as exchange programmes ,services, study trips, and attendance at international conferences.



## Go for it

*“International education opportunities will bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into another culture and world affairs in general, and thereby will increase the chance that nations will learn at last to respect one another and to live in peace and friendship.”*

(Senator J.W. Fullbright)

End  
Thank You

