

Pre-term Common Orientation Programme for Freshmen

The campus in late August is usually quiet, at least on the outside, for students are not here yet. But the August we just had was a bit different. The usual quietness was gone. We saw many young faces, all glowing with the desire to explore the many possibilities that U-life can offer, gathering all over the campus.

Freshmen this year have experienced something different as well. Their U-life no longer starts with a half-an-hour ceremony or lecture. Instead, they attended a full-day programme, meeting with academic staff and fellow students, and enjoying a range of activities.

All because of the first pre-term Common Orientation Programme staged from 24 August to 1 September.

The Programme, supported by all faculties/schools, academic departments and Student Affairs Office, hopes to help

freshmen to aim high for their university study and learn the keys to leading a meaningful and rewarding U-life.



The one-day orientation of individual faculty/school started with a welcome session hosted by President Prof. Timothy W. Tong. It incorporated an inspirational talk given by speakers who are distinguished in their professional fields. Speakers included Mr. Lam Chiu-ying, former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, and Ms. Audrey Eu, Senior Counsel and Legislative Councillor, to name but a few. The Student Affairs Office also put on a special multi-media programme featuring success story sharing by outstanding students, and Taekwondo and dance performances. It sought to inspire new students to progress, to plan, to persevere and to participate with passion.

After sitting in an auditorium for a few hours, freshmen enjoyed some action by joining the fun-filled team activities during lunch hour. In the afternoon, students went to the departmental/programme orientation where they met with their programme leaders, and found out everything they want to know about their programme of study.

A large number of senior students acted as peer mentors taking the freshmen through the day, leading team activities and providing support and guidance for the freshmen.

The transition from secondary school to university can be challenging. Everything is so different here. The Common Orientation Programme hopes to fill the gap and help you settle in. But as you progress, you will soon discover that no one is watching you. No prefects. No monitors. No class masters. You are to seek out the right information at the right time from the right sources. It is up to you as to how to spend the next few years of your lives.



Stay cool!
Be the BEST you can be!

