



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Research

Older Adults' Use of Urban Parks in Hong Kong's Low-Income Areas

Spatial justice, specifically accessibility, universal design, and protection of the dignity of vulnerable groups, is increasingly deemed relevant to the study of public spaces such as urban parks which often exclude the elderly. Researchers of the School of Design examined everyday activities of older adults in urban parks, focusing on a low-income, high-density and public space-scarce neighbourhood in Hong Kong. Highlighting the critical role of landscape infrastructure for healthy ageing societies, the study concluded that

hostile design prevents full use of seating facilities and affects group size. They also found, however, that sittable edges may directly contribute to park use by older adults with canes and walkers, particularly for those who are waiting at street crossings.

Diversity and Inclusion: Impacts on Psychological Well-Being among LGBTQ Communities

A team of researchers of the Department of Applied Social Sciences and the School of Nursing has analysed the literature that examines why society fails to provide

enough support to LGBTQ students and how such adolescents interact with others in the learning environment. It has also explored issues of violence and prejudice, which are fundamental causes of psychological problems among LGBTQ adolescents. As such, it is crucial for schools to ensure that all children and adolescents realise that maltreatment is unacceptable, thus cultivating more positive and inclusive learning environments for this minority group.

Education



Inclusion Awareness Activities

In the 2021/22 academic year, more than **1,200 attendances** were recorded for activities and training on inclusion awareness, with the aims to raise students' awareness and prevent harassment on campus, encourage them to embrace diversity and provide peer support to students with special educational needs (SEN). The "Limitless" Festival, the University's signature event for enhancing inclusion awareness on campus, has been held annually since 2016. Students and staff can also visit the Diversity Resource Centre which showcases assistive devices and resources to enhance understanding and acceptance towards students with SEN and people with disabilities.

Showcasing the Power of an Inclusive Community

Hosted by the School of Fashion and Textiles, the service-learning subject "Community Engagement through Expressive Textile Arts and Fashion" aims to reduce inequalities and raise awareness of the need to build a harmonious and inclusive society. Through an interactive co-design process, students work with service participants to create expressive fashion prototypes, adopting fashion creativity and expressive textile arts as a caring medium. The completed prototypes are showcased at a presentation catwalk that increases public awareness and an understanding of individuals with special needs, helping them better integrate into society and receive more opportunities and support.



Subject: Engaging with Diversity

The service-learning subject is hosted by the Department of Applied Social Sciences. Working with groups who are often excluded by society, including schoolchildren from an ethnic minority background and people who are disabled or chronically ill, students engage in a variety of planned and spontaneous activities, including video shooting, online tutoring, and remote care service. Through these activities, students and the service targets both develop a deeper mutual understanding of how social inclusion and integration can be fostered in the Hong Kong society.

Engagement

Webinar for Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong: COVID-19

In March 2022, the World Health Organization Collaboration Centre for Community Health Services, operated by the School of Nursing, hosted the webinar with presentation delivered by Professor Alex Molassiotis, former Director of the Centre and former Head and Professor of the School of Nursing. It aimed to provide ethnic minorities with a more thorough understanding of COVID-19 symptoms and the effects of the disease on the human body, and help ensure they have more equal access to up-to-date health-related knowledge.

Undergraduate Admissions Seminars for Students from Developing Countries

Organised annually by the Global Engagement Office, each seminar is tailor-made for a specific country including developing countries such as Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Ghana and Nigeria. These seminars provide an exclusive opportunity for prospective students to learn about PolyU, the admissions arrangements and entry scholarship packages. There is also a panel session facilitated by current students from developing countries on their experiences in preparing themselves for a successful study journey.

Policies and Operations

Cultural Ambassador Scholarship

The scheme was established in 2021/22 for non-local students of under-represented nationalities to further strengthen and enhance the University's diverse undergraduate student body. Eight students from Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Venezuela were granted a one-off scholarship for the 2022/23 intake. Recipients will reach out to prospective students and their parents worldwide to promote PolyU and its undergraduate programmes.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The University is committed to equal opportunity in academic pursuit and employment and to eliminating any form of discrimination against all staff members, students and other persons who have dealings with the University. No discriminatory acts against a person on the grounds of gender identity, breastfeeding, marital status, pregnancy, disability, family status or race will be tolerated by the University.

Campus Accessibility

All buildings on campus comply with the statutory regulations for "Buildings to be Planned for Use for Disabled Person". Most buildings are accessible via ramps or lifts, which are also available to facilitate people with a disability or special needs to travel within campus. Improvements to access have been and will continue to be made to improve accessibility and safety.

