

Outstanding Student, Faculty of Humanities 2016

Miss NG Chak Ling
BA (Hons) in English Studies for the Professions



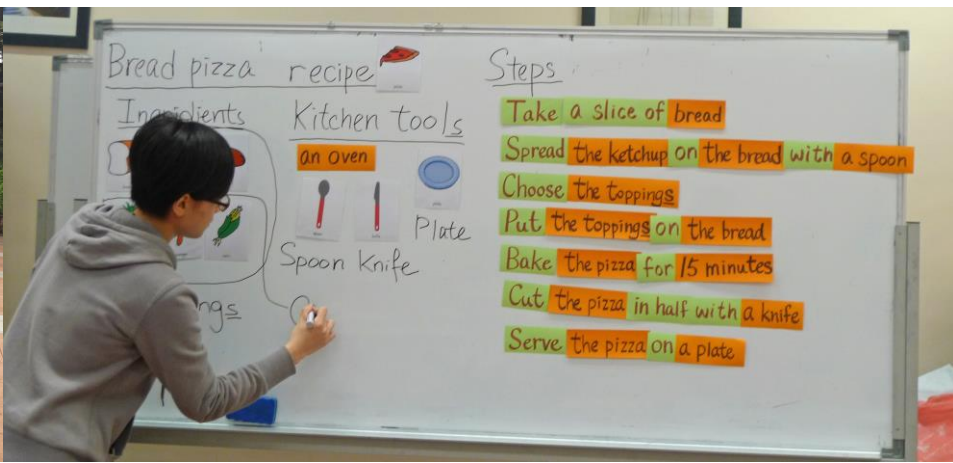
My name is Ng Chak Ling, a final year student majoring in English Studies for the Professions. I treasure the opportunity to study at PolyU and have been striving for excellence in my learning. Hence, it is my honour to be the Outstanding Student of my faculty this year and I feel that my efforts have been fully recognised. During the past years, I have been greatly supported by PolyU and my department which provided me with invaluable learning experiences and encouraged me to aim for transcendence of my academic and personal development. My life at PolyU has been both inspiring and fulfilling.

Academic gains

As a leading academic provider in the field of applied English Linguistics in Hong Kong, the Department of English offered me a sound atmosphere to learn English particularly with exchange students around the globe and quality courses taught by research experts. In my current programme, I have been able to select various proficiency and content subjects which enhanced my professional communication competence in English as well as reinforced my interest in the academic fields of Grammar, Psycholinguistics and Second Language Acquisition, ones with high relevance to my career goal of becoming a speech therapist. Moreover, these courses encouraged self-motivated and project-based learning which enabled me, on many occasions, to exchange ideas with students from different specialities, foster my collaborative skills, and attain intellectual satisfaction with others.

Social service

As reflected in PolyU's motto "to learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind", I believe that we should always be aware of our ability and responsibility to serve the community. Therefore, I always seek to improve my linguistic knowledge, put theory into practice and help people with language needs. In my second year, I participated in a service-learning project called Teaching English as a Service Learning Experience. For this project, I collaborated with my classmates and the Henry G. Leong Yau Ma Tei Community Centre to design and implement a series of tailor-made English reinforcement activities for a group of young local children. These students were from underprivileged families, with limited access to after-school English learning resources, and therefore have a relatively low English proficiency.



These two months of service were rewarding because I was able to apply my knowledge from the English pronunciation and grammar courses to help enhance the children's speaking and writing competence effectively. I was able to serve as a tutor and a companion who gave care and encouragement for their learning, and at the same time, uphold my civic responsibility as an undergraduate student. I believed this programme had helped me to identify my dual role as a citizen who enjoys social equality and also a volunteer who is ready to assist the needy.

Overseas exposure

During my years at PolyU, I was given ample opportunities for offshore language immersion including overseas exchange and placement. For instance, during my third year of study, I joined two learning programmes in the UK. One was my academic exchange at the University of Southampton, and the other was at the Pembroke-King's Programme at the University of Cambridge which was an eight-week international summer programme. Through these experiences, I extended my knowledge of the varieties of English, conducted a mini-research on Hong Kong English textbooks, and had my eyes opened to behavioural ecology, a whole new field of study. Apart from academic gains, not only could I improve my understanding of the UK's history and local customs, but I could also cultivate an appreciation and respect for cultural diversity within such a global community. These programmes fulfilled my genuine interest of studying in European countries, which possess western cultures largely different from the ones in Asia, and they also ensured cultural exchange among the local and foreign students.

Last of all, I would like to thank my family and friends who always showed their love and care to me. I am also grateful to everyone who gave practical advice and support for my studies and career development. These have all contributed to my success.

