

OUTSTANDING STUDENT, FACULTY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 2017

Miss CHAN Ying Laam

BA (Hons) in Social Work



It is my greatest honor to be selected as the Outstanding Student of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences this year. The journey in PolyU has transformed me in a great extent. It goes without saying that this award is a testament to my years of breakthrough and growth. It has encouraged me to continue to strive for the best! I would like to extend my immense gratitude to my family's everlasting love, friends' support, schoolmates' company, teachers' sincere guidance and PolyU's nurture.

I value tertiary education and strongly believe in life-long learning. To me, tertiary education is not only about qualification and grades, but also a chance to cultivate global perspective and positive attitude towards life. And only through life-long learning, I will be able to improve my knowledge, skills and competences as a professional social worker.

Qualification and Grades

I have received a number of scholarship throughout my studies in PolyU. I am deeply grateful for the Donors' generous donations. These scholarships not only acknowledged my effort put into studies and recognized my proactive role in extra-curricular activities, but also encouraged me to work harder to become a zealous social worker and inspired me to give back to the community.



Cultivate a Global Perspective through participating activities in school

I have also engaged in a wide range of extra-curricular activities in PolyU, through which I have cultivated my interests of appreciating diverse culture, unearthed my potential of expressing myself and serving others, and lived a fruitful university life.

I am always eager to serve the University as well as my fellow students. With my outgoing personality and strong interpersonal skills, I have taken part in the Peer Mentoring Programme and Mental Health Ambassador Programme where I acted as mentor and shared my personal experiences with my juniors and service targets. I have not only learned the importance of team spirit through cooperation with different stakeholders in organizing various activities under the programme, but I have also become stronger and more patient because of the experiences.

Besides acquiring knowledge from books, attaining experience and developing a global perspective through activities are also vital.



Therefore, I have taken part in a number of study tours in the past two years, to places like Japan, Cambodia, Inner-Mongolia and Russia. My most memorable experience was participating in China-Japan-Korea SERVE Initiative 2017. I once questioned the value of the elderly to the society. After serving the elderly in Miyama, a remote, rural area in the mountains north of central Kyoto, Japan, through this study tour, I changed my views and realized that “elderly were never a burden on society”. They can continue to contribute to the society as long as they are given the chance and support.

PolyU has provided me with great opportunities to meet peers around the world. I have served as a Global Student Ambassador at the “Global Student Challenge 2017”, a buddy for a foreign freshman at the “Buddies for Inbound Exchange Students Programme” and a language partner at the “Language Partner Programme”. All of these activities have broadened my horizons and widened my social circle. Certainly, I underwent memorable experiences of cultural exchange and I cemented enduring friendship!



Cultivate a Positive attitude towards life through participating community services outside school

In order to unearth my potential to the fullest, I have done various voluntary works outside school. For example, I was the “Ten Most Remarkable Youth in Hong Kong”, “Yuen Long Student Ambassador”, “Yuen Long Youth Ambassador” and Student Representative of my programme. Through these award and ambassador schemes, I have developed strong leadership and cooperation skills. I am glad that I got the Gold and Silver Awards in Volunteer Service and the Excellent Volunteer in the Yuen Long District. As an individual who is closely connected with society, I am eager to understand how society operates. Furthermore, I am the volunteer of “Against Child Abuse” for 5 years and “Yuen Long Town Hall” for 10 years. Getting in touch with different minorities like hidden elderlies, new arrivals and children from grass-roots families in Hong Kong and learning about their unique stories, I am keen to promote social justice in our society as well. By doing so, they can know more about their rights and responsibilities as a resident and enhance the sense of belonging to Hong Kong.

My Dream

Undoubtedly, PolyU is a place where I made my dreams come true. Graduating from PolyU means turning a new page to the start of my coveted career, yet there is still a long way to pursue. In short, I want to join the workforce after graduation as a social worker who walks with the clients in the face of great hardship, encourages and inspires them with my positive attitude towards life. I vow to make every effort to help the people in need. I specifically would like to immerse myself in elderly services. Not only do I hope to understand more about the knotty problems related to the elderly in society, but also I am eager to take action to tackle the issues and hopeful to establish a social enterprise in the future.

Taking this golden opportunity, I would like to express my sincere and profound gratitude to the people who have accompanied me through this wonderful yet challenging journey, and to the ones who have always stood by me and shown me the greatest support. The splendid memories I had in PolyU will stay with me forever!