

## Outstanding Student, Faculty of Humanities 2018

**Miss CHIU Lok Yi**

*BA (Hons) in English Studies for the Professions &  
Minor in European Studies*



I am Lois Chiu, a final year student majoring in English Studies for the Professions and minoring in European Studies. Being selected as the Outstanding Student of the Faculty of Humanities this year, I feel deeply honoured and extremely thankful as this is not merely an award but also a great encouragement which motivates me to continue to do my best and strive for excellence.

### Discovering my interests

From performing arts to visual arts, and from classical literature to modern prose, my interest in arts is wide and deep. Thus, choosing to study English Studies for the Professions, a discipline which I am strongly passionate in, is perhaps the best decision I have ever made. The four-year undergraduate studies at PolyU not only equipped me with professional English knowledge and effective communication strategies but also helped me to develop cultural sensitivity through discovering the world and the society with the lenses of language and culture. In addition to my academic enrichment, I am so grateful to have met many professional and inspiring teachers as well as making lifelong friends who are loving and supportive in these four years. They all make my learning experiences at PolyU exciting and rewarding.

### Stepping out of my comfort zone

The half-year international exchange at the University of Birmingham (UoB) is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience which I would never forget. Academically, I learnt more about the causes and symptoms of different language impairments by studying Clinical Linguistics. I have also gained hands-on experience in communicating with patients who suffered from communication disorders. Through exploring English Literature, I had an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of English theatre and arts by engaging in a wide range of cultural activities such as watching musical performances and Shakespeare's plays. Apart from acquiring new and practical skills for my academic studies, I have made new friends with people from varying cultural backgrounds explored the history of different countries. All these experiences further broadened my global vision, boosted





my interpersonal competence as well as enhanced my cultural awareness. Most importantly, I consider this exchange programme as a valuable chance for fostering my personal growth and development. Having the courage and ability to face unexpected challenges and setbacks on my own, I am gradually transforming from a passive girl to a mature and independent person who is well-prepared to face the uncertainties and determined to achieve future goals.

### Realising my dreams

*'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'*

This famous quote from Nelson Mandela is always my motto since childhood. From primary school to university, I am so grateful to have met many great teachers who demonstrated how teaching can inspire and influence. Their passion for nourishing the younger generation and their empathy and sensitivity towards the needs of students have motivated me to realise my dream of becoming a successful English teacher in the future.

With my passion in education, I have been actively involved in English teaching such as working as a private home tutor and an instructor at education centre as well as organizing voluntary service learning projects related to English teaching. These teaching practices not only enriched my teaching experience but also provoked my interest in further studying after graduation especially on the practical theories for handling learning disparity and assisting students with special education needs. I understand that it may be difficult and frustrating for students with special needs to learn and express themselves at schools but I believe that there is something that school teachers and speech therapists can do to help these children to face their difficulties. I genuinely hope that I can become one of these teachers, nurturing and guiding my students to a better and brighter future during my lifelong education journey.



### Grasp every single opportunity

Throughout my four-year undergraduate study, I treasured every single opportunity to learn and explore new things. Studying at PolyU, I am always amazed and surprised by the enormity of the academic world. There are many disciplines that I have not yet explored and this serves as my motivation to learn extensively and strive for academic excellence. Through involving in community service projects, I realised the importance of shouldering social responsibilities. A seemingly small act can eventually create a big impact in our society! With my strong belief, I would spare no effort to create this little change by grasping every chance to serve the community continuously. Last but not least, I hope that every PolyU student can cherish the time studying at PolyU, unleash their potentials extensively and most importantly, have the courage to dream the impossible dream and make it come true.