

Outstanding Student, Faculty of Construction and Environment 2020



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I am Maggie Ng, a final year student studying Building Surveying. It is a great honour to be selected as the Outstanding Student of the Faculty of Construction and Environment this year. I really want to thank PolyU for providing me with this fruitful learning journey, and all my teachers, family and friends for giving me their unconditional support during the past four years.

PolyU is a place that witnessed my transition and growth, it not only equipped me with professional knowledge as a future surveyor, but also broadened my horizons and unleashed my potential.



One of my most unforgettable experiences is the Service-Learning trip to Kyrgyzstan that we served as volunteer teachers to teach the local students about nutrition. Before the trip, we have done some research about this Third World country and somehow got the impression that the local children were shy and quiet. Therefore, we planned to get familiar with them through interactive games and by inviting them to share their thoughts with us. However, it turned out quite different from what we expected. The local children were adorable, active and optimistic. Even though we spoke different languages, they were still good at showing their love and care through hugs and drawings.

We had so much fun together and there was laughter all the time. The two-week teaching really brought me new insights and overturned my impression towards underprivileged country.

I still remember on the first day of our service, the school headmaster reminded us not to drag the chairs while moving them in order to prevent scratches on the floor. This request seemed trivial but reflected how the locals cherished things they owned. Their positive attitude towards life made me reflect on myself and realize how lucky I am living in Hong Kong and it is my responsibility to serve and contribute more as the luckier one. This service trip triggered me to actively participate in various volunteer works after returning to Hong Kong. And all the volunteering experiences shaped me to become a more mature and responsible person.



Apart from serving the community, I also grabbed the opportunity to contribute PolyU as the Student Ambassador for two years. Besides helping out in different events like Information Day, I also shared my learning journey to the secondary school students through school visits and manning the education booths. Having gone through the process of overcoming my anxieties and confusions about the future study path when I was in secondary school, I was happy to share my own experiences with the future university students so as to help them know more about PolyU and their interested study programmes. This not only gave me a sense of satisfaction, but also strengthened my sense of belonging to PolyU.



I encountered many “first” times during the two years I served as Student Ambassador. I got various exposures and opportunities, such as making appearance in the PolyU promotion video, which boosted my confidence and helped me identify my strengths and weaknesses.

Every little step counts

*“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”
Vincent van Gogh*



While I was reflecting the past four years of my university life, what popped into my mind was the moment that I struggled and worked hard for various tasks, course assignments and preparation work for competition and volunteer programme. I often asked myself questions like: “Is it really worth my time and effort?” or “Can I just give it up and let go?” It is super easy to give up and doubt ourselves when we struggle or face difficulties. However, when I looked back at the past four years, I would say it has been an incredible journey and all the hard work was totally worth it. All the tiny efforts that did not seem significant at the time might turn out to be great treasure to us someday.

I hope that I can continue my commitment in serving the community and keep pursuing excellence in my life and future career.

