

SERVICE-LEARNING Teacher Development

Certificate in Service-Learning Pedagogy and Practice

2026

Manila, the Philippines

★ Highlights:

Fundamental
Principles and Theories

Pedagogical Project
Design

Research-based
Findings

Case Studies
Sharing

On-site experience
in Manila

Project Proposal
Development

About the Course

Service-Learning (SL) is an experiential learning approach that combines community service with academic study and reflection to nurture students' empathy and social responsibility.

This course is tailored for educators and practitioners at the higher education level. Face-to-face components will be held in **Manila, the Philippines** from **5-9 January 2026**.

A PolyU Continuing Education certificate will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the course.

What will you learn?

- General principles and theories of academic SL
- SL and other forms of community-engaged experiential learning
- High-impact pedagogical factors, potential pitfalls, and risks
- Designing effective SL programs
- Assessing student performance and facilitating reflection
- Research and evaluation of SL programs

On-site service-learning project visits:

- AI education workshop for primary school students
- Vision screening for the community
- Health promotion and assessment for elderly with cognitive impairment

Course Components

- 1 E-Learning module and concept test
- 2 Face-to-face lectures, seminars, and on-site visits (40 hours)
- 3 Design your own SL program with professional feedback

Course Fee

USD 500

**Includes course fee and materials.*

**Participants who demonstrate financial need may be eligible for financial aid upon satisfactory completion of the course.*

Eligibility

- Bachelor's degree awarded by a recognised institution
- Priority will be given to teaching/academic staff at higher education institutions

Application

Information
Session
(Online)



Course
Registration



Enquiries

E: sllo.tdc@polyu.edu.hk



Key Dates (Hong Kong Time)

Information session (online)

10 Oct 2025 (Fri)

Course registration deadline

17 Nov 2025 (Mon)
11:59 pm

Admission results

21 Nov 2025 (Fri)

E-Learning & self-study

Starting from
25 Nov 2025 (Tue)

Face-to-face components in Manila

5-9 Jan 2026
(Mon to Fri)



Why choose PolyU?

With over a decade of development, PolyU's SL has grown from 6 subjects and 200 students in 2012 to **over 60 subjects and more than 4,500 students annually** now.

Our service projects have expanded beyond **Hong Kong** and the **Chinese Mainland** to countries such as **Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Rwanda, Vietnam, Tanzania, and The Philippines**. These projects improve the lives of people in need and inspire students to become responsible professionals and global citizens.



Award-Winning Excellence

- Silver Winner of the QS Reimagine Education Awards 2024
- Winner of THE Awards Asia 2022: Teaching and Learning Strategy of the Year
- 2020 International Research Award from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE)



About the Instructors

Both Professor Ngai and Professor Chan have been instrumental in integrating SL into PolyU's curriculum, expanding projects globally, and pioneering innovative pedagogical practices.

Innovative pedagogical practices pioneered:

- Multicultural student teams through partnerships with local NGOs
- Service-learning exchange and internship programs
- Global SL classroom, allowing PolyU students and their overseas peers to:
 - Attend the same lectures via video conferencing
 - Develop project ideas collaboratively
 - Implement projects together in person at the service location



Professor Grace Ngai –

Head of SLLO

Associate Professor of
Department of Computing,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic
University

Professor Stephen Chan –

Founding Head of SLLO

Board Member, IARSLCE