

SERVICE-LEARNING at POLYU: Staff Activities

Service-Learning in Higher Education: Teacher Development Course

2024

★ Highlights:

Fundamental principles and theories + Pedagogical project design + Research-based findings + Case studies sharing + On-site experience in HK + Project proposal

About the Course

Service-Learning (SL) is an experiential learning pedagogy that integrates community service with academic study and reflection. SL has been shown to be a high-impact educational practice over the years. It has been demonstrated to be effective at training students' empathy and sense of social responsibility because students are immersed into the community and get first-hand experience of community and societal needs. This course is devised for teachers or practitioners who are interested in developing and teaching SL courses at the higher education level.

This course integrates lectures and discussions with an on-site experience in Hong Kong, in late June 2024. Participants will be able to:

- Articulate the general principles and theories in SL and learn about effective SL design and assessment;
- Observe our service projects and interact or interview with our students, teachers, and the local NGO partners; and
- Get hands-on practice in designing their own project and have a chance to receive feedback on their project proposal.

With over 10 years of development, PolyU's Service-Learning has witnessed a tremendous expansion from 6 SL subjects and 200 students in 2012 to over 70 regularly-offered subjects and more than 4,500 students annually. In the academic year 22/23, over 3,700 students completed their SL projects of different natures and disciplines in Hong Kong. PolyU is ready to work with teachers and practitioners to make SL a meaningful and crucial part of higher education.

To learn

About SL – What it is, how to do it, and how it impacts students



To examine

Different SL courses and projects, and interact with teachers and students



To explore

Different NGOs, what they do, how to design a project and how to incorporate SL elements with academic disciplines



\$ Course Fee

HKD 5,000 / USD 640

**The cost will cover the course fee, course materials and a closing dinner.*

#Travel grant will be available for participants from developing countries or who have financial needs.

Eligibility

Teachers / practitioners who are interested in developing and teaching SL courses / projects in higher-education institutions

Application

Application form



Enquiries

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Key Dates (HKT)

Information session (online)	5 Apr 2024 (Fri) 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Application deadline	22 Apr 2024 (Mon) 11:59 pm
Admission results	30 Apr 2024 (Tue)
Briefing session (online)	3 May 2023 (Fri) 3:00 – 4:00 pm
E-Learning & self-study	31 May 2024 (Fri)
On-site experience in HK	25–28 June 2024



About the Instructors

- Service-Learning at PolyU has been awarded the Winner of THE Awards Asia 2022: Teaching and Learning Strategy of the Year, as well as the QS Reimagine Education Awards 2017/18.
- SLLO won the 2020 International Research Award of International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE).
- Dr Grace Ngai and Dr Stephen Chan were the recipients of the University Grants Committee (UGC) Teaching Award in 2016.

The course will be delivered by **Dr Grace Ngai** and **Dr Stephen Chan**, the current and founding Heads of the Service-Learning and Leadership Office, respectively. Since PolyU made academic service-learning an institutional strategy for all-rounded education in 2012, Dr Ngai and Dr Chan have demonstrated outstanding academic leadership in helping university management to conceptualize SL as an integral component of the PolyU undergraduate curriculum and to implement SL as an institutional teaching and learning strategy.

PolyU's service projects have expanded from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland to Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Rwanda, Vietnam, Tanzania, The Philippines and so on; improving the lives of people in need and inspiring the students involved to become responsible professionals and global citizens. Many innovative pedagogical practices have also been pioneered, such as multicultural student teams through partnerships with local NGOs, service-learning exchange and internship programmes, and an innovative 'global SL classroom' initiative that allows PolyU students and their overseas peers to attend the same lectures and develop project ideas via video conferencing, and then implement projects together in person at the service location.



Dr Grace Ngai –

Head of Service-Learning and Leadership Office (SLLO) and Associate Professor of Department of Computing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Dr Stephen Chan –

Founding Head of SLLO, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Board of IARSLCE