SYA Project

Conference on Credit Transfer Practices in Higher Education: Partnership for Success

27 November 2020

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About Us

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- Participating Universities
- Project Objectives

Project Title

UGC-Funded Teaching & Learning Project:
Enriching Senior Year Places Students' Learning Experience through Curricular and Co-curricular Activities in Hong Kong's Universities (PolyU6/T&L/16-19)

Project Participating Universities

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

Dr Kin Cheung
Associate Professor
The School of Nursing
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Dr Bin Li
Associate Professor
Department of Linguistics and Translation
City University of Hong Kong

香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Prof Peter Benz
Associate Professor
Academy of Visual Arts
Hong Kong Baptist University

香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Prof Chow Ka Ming
Assistant Professor
The Nethersole School of Nursing
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Project logo

SYA stands for

“Senior Year Admitted Students”

Background

- Senior year places in universities are allocated specifically for graduates of sub-degree programmes.
- They are admitted to the university based on a credit unit transfer system to complete their studies in 2 years.
- SYA students are suffering from a “mismatch” between their learning needs and institutional offerings.

Project Objectives

Identify the learning needs of SYA students, both academic and non-academic, before, during and after transition.

Establish territory-wide support systems for SYA students' transition and subsequent study success.

Project Findings

- Academic Aspect
- Social Aspect
- Mental Health Aspect
- SYA Students' Performance

Academic Aspect

Heavy Study Loads

- Credits & Courses per semester significantly higher than non-SYA;
- Zero-credit subjects;
- 8 courses per semester

Imperfect Programme Alignment

- Ineffective recognition of prior learning
- Repeated learning
- Lack of credit transfer and articulation agreements

Transfer Shock

- Drastic GPA drop in first semester
- Change of teaching & learning style
- Personal factors

Social Aspect

Challenges to self-identity & social integration

Self-stigmatization
Perceive themselves as incompetent or inferior or as “losers”

Campus Shock
Struggle with unfamiliar environment, online systems, campus culture, etc.

Inactive Participation
Detach themselves from students’ communities for study

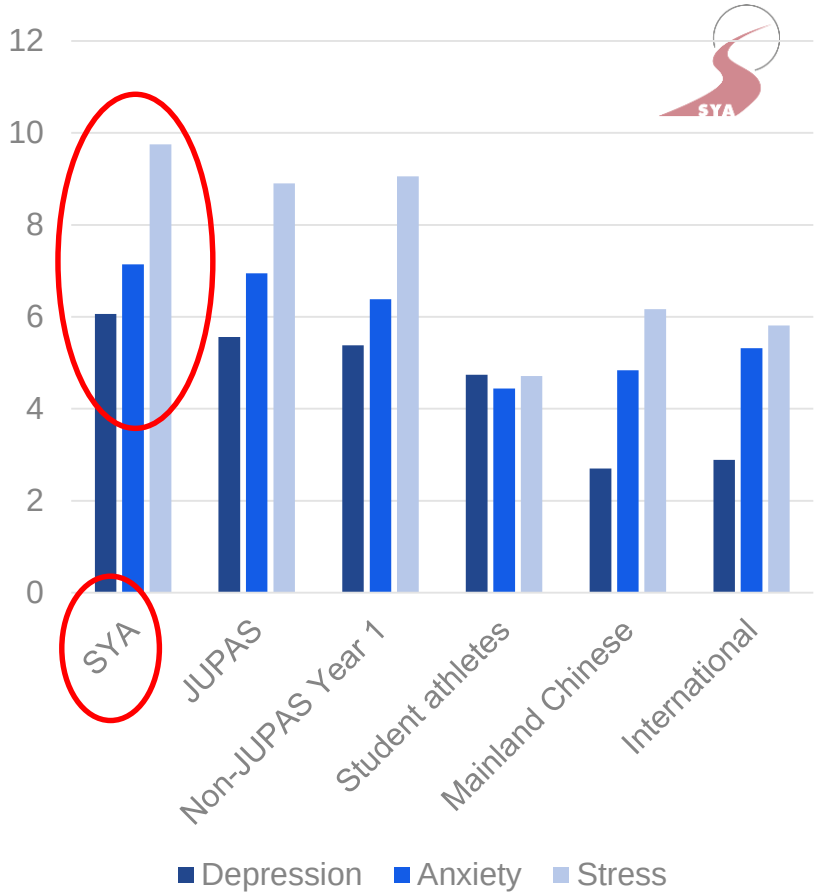
Limited Social Network
Lack of interaction with other SYA and non-SYA students

Mental Health Aspect

Psychological challenges

- Poor self-perception
- Unsuccessful adaptation
- Heavy workload

Stress
Anxiety
Depression



Cheung, K. et al. (2020). Depression, anxiety and stress in different subgroups of first-year university students from 4-year cohort data. Journal of Affective Disorders, 274, 305-314.

SYA Students' Performance

Although SYA students face various challenges, they attain

- Higher award GPA
- Lower dropout rate

than Non-SYA students

	SYA Students	Non-SYA Students
Award GPA	**3.16 ± 0.32**	**3.11 ± 0.33**
Dropout Rate	**3.3%**	**6.9%**

Project Deliverables

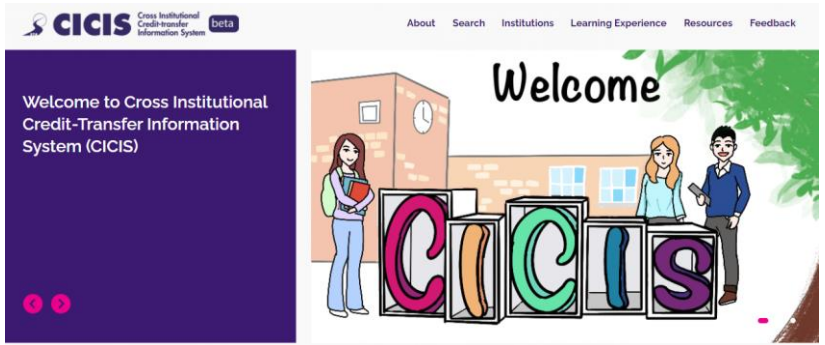
- Online Platforms
- Curricular and Co-curricular Activities

Online Platforms

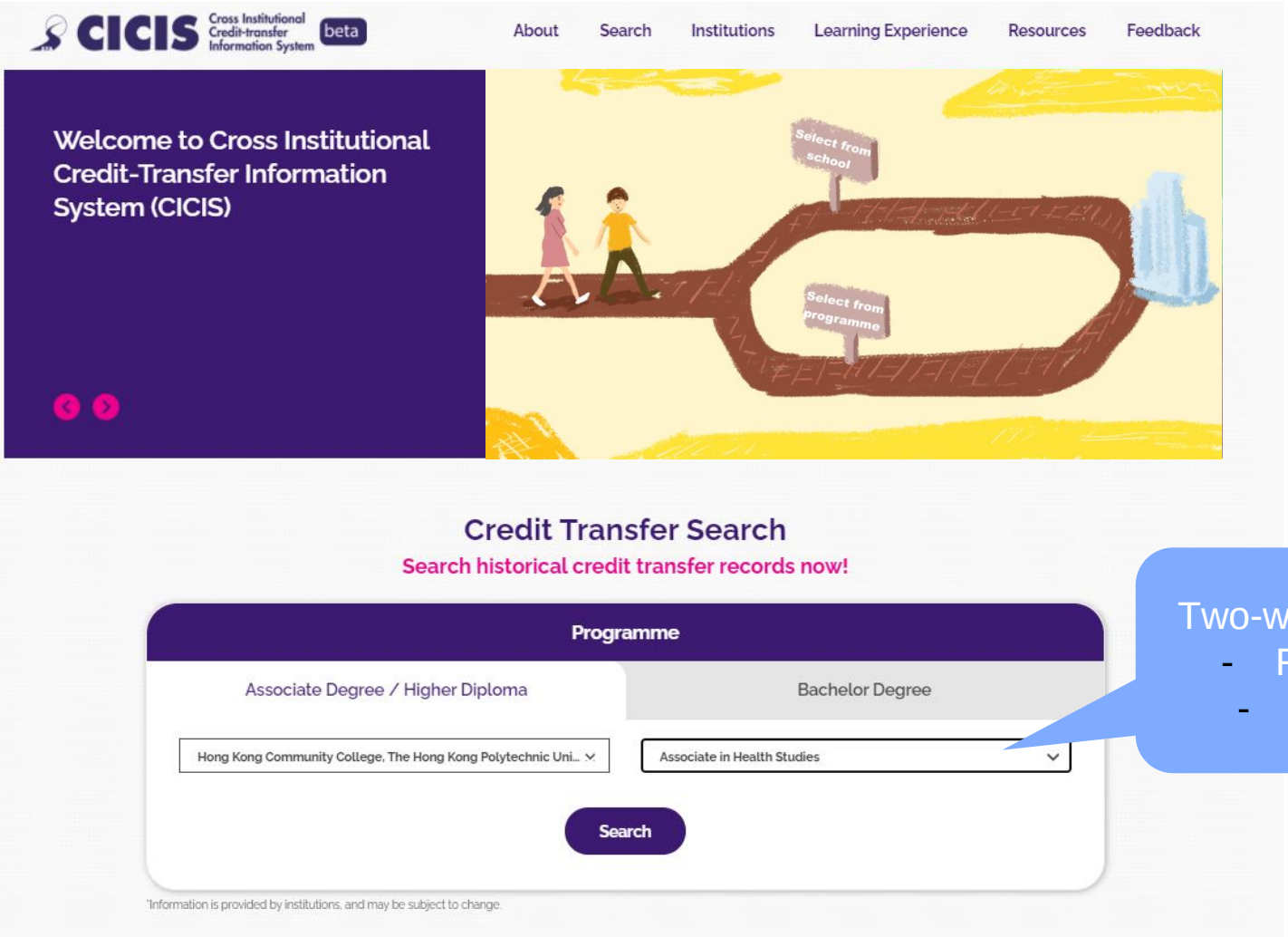
SYA Resources Website

- Online Orientation
- Important Information for SYA freshmen
- Activities for SYA students

CICIS



- Historical records for SYA students' transfer pathway
- Institutional Profiles
- SYA Student's sharing



Two-way search function:
- From sub-degree
- From university

Search Result - By Associate Degree / Higher Diploma

All Universities

Export search result (as PDF)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Proposed Study Pattern

Programme Name: Bachelor of Nursing

HKQR Registration No: 12/000574/5

Programme Code: NURSN

Academic Year	Normalised Minimum GPA	Number of Senior Year Students Admitted
2020/21	Not available	32
2019/20	Not available	41
2018/19	Not available	37

*Information is provided by institutions, and may be subject to change.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Programme Name: Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nursing

HKQR Registration No: 12/001081/5

Programme Code: 53455-SY

Academic Year	Normalised Minimum GPA	Number of Senior Year Students Admitted
2018/19	3.45	40
2017/18	3.36	38
2016/17	3.43	40

*Information is provided by institutions, and may be subject to change.

Export all pathways in PDF

Proposed study pattern for SYA students

Previous transfer records

Basic programme information

Admission records (minimum GPA and admission figure) for student's reference

Curricular and Co-curricular Activities

Peer Mentoring Programme (PMP)

SYA Freshmen Orientation Activities

SYA Students Monthly Gatherings

Overseas Experience Trip

Today's Programmes

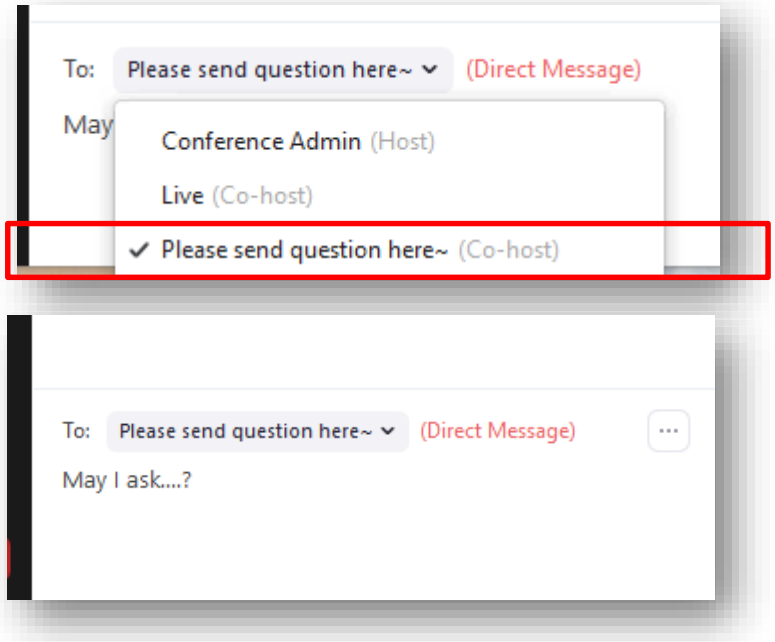
Morning Session

Time	Programme
9:30 – 9:50	Welcoming Remarks & Opening Ceremony
9:50 – 10:05	SYA Project
10:05 – 11:05	Keynote Speeches
11:05 – 12:05	Parallel Sessions

Afternoon Session

Time	Programme
13:20 – 14:30	Keynote Speeches
14:30 – 15:20	Parallel Sessions
15:25 – 16:50	Plenary Discussion Session
16:50 – 17:00	Closing Remarks

Q & A arrangement



- **Please send your questions to this account**
- **Moderators will help to collect and pass to the speakers**

Thanks!

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Project website: https://www.polyu.edu.hk/syaproject/
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