

Project Title : Student Innovation for Global Health Technology  
(SIGHT)

Leading University : The Hong Kong University of Science and  
Technology

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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Student Innovation for Global Health Technology (SIGHT) is proposed as an interdisciplinary, cross-institutional (HKUST and Medical Faculty of CUHK) undergraduate education platform to motivate, engage and deploy student innovations. With the motto “Simple Technology, Big Difference”, SIGHT challenges students to create and implement solutions against a broad range of healthcare problems for resource-limited communities. Methodologies in design thinking are used to empower students not only to brainstorm ideas but also to deliver user-centered solutions. Students are engaged in activities to understand the needs of users, continuous prototyping and repeated testing, with the aim of allowing students to transform a creative idea into a solution with genuine impact. Through long-term partnerships with NGOs and government units, students deploy the innovations to communities in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Southeast Asia. This provides a strong impetus for students to commit in the innovation process.

Founded on the successful pilot experiences since 2014 at HKUST, we propose that the platform will combine a semester-long design thinking training (SIGHT camp), credit-bearing coursework for the generation of functional prototype and project implementation, as well as study trips for on-site field-testing and deployment of student innovations. Based on the fruitful experience of past collaboration, we propose to expand the platform of SIGHT to include students from HKUST and the Medical School of CUHK. The collaboration provides an opportunity to tailor the

pedagogy for delivery to a different group of students. Clinical perspectives from CUHK complement the existing strengths of HKUST in science, engineering and business, further injecting energy for radical collaboration emphasized by design thinking, and with particular relevance for the design and deployment of medical technology. Through the collaboration, we also anticipate an increase in the impact made by SIGHT students on the society, as they will gain more opportunities to outreach different communities with student-driven innovations.

We will collect feedback from students, faculty and partnering NGOs/government units to evaluate the success of this pedagogy to nurture student innovations. We believe that the real implementation of student innovations for helping communities in need will lend strong support. The teaching and learning experience from SIGHT will be disseminated via conferences, exhibits, workshops, and online sharing of education modules developed for SIGHT students.