RGC Ref. No.:
UGC/IIDS16/H01/14
(please insert ref. above)

RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IIDS)

Completion Report
(*for completed projects only*)

Submission Deadlines:	1. *The unspent balance, if applicable, and auditor's report: within **six** months of the approved project completion date.*
	2. *Completion report: within **twelve** months of the approved project completion date.*

Part A: The Project and Investigator(s)

1.   Project Title

Research Capability Enhancement Programme (1) for the Self-financing Degree Sector of

Hong Kong

2.   Investigator(s) and Academic Department/Units Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Prof. IP Yiu Keung / Associate Vice President (Academic Support and External Links)	The Open University of Hong Kong
Co-investigator	Prof. CHENG Kin Fai / Vice President (Academic)	Centennial College
Co-investigator	Prof. WANG Fu Lee / Vice President (Research and Advancement)	Caritas Institute of Higher Education

3.   Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC Approval (*must be quoted*)
Project Start Date	October 2014	January 2015	25 September 2014 (see Appendix I)
Project Completion Date	September 2015	December 2015	
Duration (*in month*)	12	12	
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	30 September 2016	31 December 2016	

Part B: The Final Report

5.   Collaboration with other Self-financing Degree-awarding Institutions / Schools

Collaborating self-financing institution/ school	% of participation	Distinctive element(s) that the institution / school is responsible for the project
The Open University of Hong Kong	65%	• Initiated organization of the project • Oversaw the overall project planning and ongoing development • Hosted and managed six seminars in the series • Developed webpages • Arranged video recording and editing of the videos • Provided registration services • Prepared reports
Centennial College	30%	• Helped in the overall project planning and development • Hosted and managed two seminars in the series
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	5%	• Supported the promotion of the series

6. Project Objectives

6.1 Project delivery

The original project period was 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015. A revised project period was approved by the RGC on 25 September 2014 (see Appendix I). The revised project period was 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

Timing	Original Milestones	Revised Milestones	Date of RGC Approval (*must be quoted*)
October 2014	• Confirmation of speakers • Promotion and publicity work • Recruitment of support staff	(In view of the revised project period, the milestones were revised to be completed in December 2014.)	25 September 2014
December 2014	• Seminar on "Proposal Development for Research Funding Applications"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in January 2015.) • Confirmation of speakers • Promotion and publicity work • Recruitment of support staff	
January 2015	• Seminar on "Research Methodology Design"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in March 2015 because of the speaker availability.) • Seminar on "Proposal Development for Research Funding Applications"	
February 2015	• Seminar on "Professional Communication Skills for Research Publication (Creating and Managing Research Space)"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in May 2015 because of the speaker availability.)	
March 2015	• Workshop on "Quantitative Data Analysis: SPSS (Basic)" • Workshop on "Quantitative Data Analysis: SPSS (Advanced)" • Workshop on "Quantitative Data Analysis: AMOS"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in July and October 2015 respectively because of the speaker availability. To accommodate the approved budget, which was smaller than the budget applied for, and to accommodate more participants, the three workshops were revised to two seminars.) • Seminar on "Research Methodology Design"	

May 2015	• Seminar on "Qualitative Data Analysis: NVivo Essentials" • Seminar on "Qualitative Data Analysis: Further Analysis in NVivo"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in August 2015 because of the speaker availability. One seminar was eliminated due to the reduction of funding.) • Seminar on "Research Ethics" • Seminar on "Professional Communication Skills for Research Publication (Creating and Managing Research Space)"	
July 2015	• Seminar on "Research Ethics"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in May 2015 because of the speaker availability.) • Seminar on "How to Write Research Reports and Papers with High Quality – Some Personal Perspectives" • Seminar on "Quantitative Data Analysis: SPSS and AMOS"	
August 2015	• Seminar on "How to Write Research Reports and Papers with High Quality – Some Personal Perspectives"	(The original milestone was revised to be completed in July 2015 because of the speaker availability.) • Seminar on "Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo"	
October 2015	(As the project was first proposed to be completed by 30 September 2015, no activity was planned in October 2015 in the original milestone.)	• Seminar on "Quantitative Data Analysis with SPSS: Regression Analysis, Analysis of Variance and Non-parametric Statistics"	

6.2   Speaker(s)

Title / Name (Surname in capital letters)	Post / Institution / School	Title / Topic of presentation / course	Previous research links with Hong Kong institutions / schools (Nature and Date (month/year))
Prof. Horace H. S. IP	Vice President (Student Affairs), City University of Hong Kong	Proposal development for research funding application	Faculty of City University of Hong Kong (1997–present)
Dr Peter CUNICH	Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong	Research methodology design	Faculty of University of Hong Kong (1993–present)

Prof. John BACON-SHONE	Professor, University of Hong Kong	Research ethics	Faculty of University of Hong Kong (1990–1996, 2005–present)
Prof. Vijay BHATIA	President, Asia-Pacific LSP and Professional Communication Association	Professional communication skills for research publication (creating and managing research space)	Professor, City University of Hong Kong (September 1993–May 2001)
Prof. Qing LI	Professor, City University of Hong Kong	How to write research reports and papers with high quality — some personal perspectives	Faculty of Hong Kong Universities: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (1992–1997); Hong Kong Polytechnic University (1997–1998); City University of Hong Kong (1998–present)
Brenda LEE	Business Manager, SBAS (Hong Kong) Ltd.	Quantitative data analysis: SPSS and AMOS Quantitative Data Analysis with SPSS: Regression Analysis, Analysis of Variance and Non-parametric Statistics	Over 10 years' experience in conducting SPSS & AMOS training in Hong Kong
Sue BULLEN	Training and Research Consultancy, Regional Manager, QSR International	Qualitative data Analysis with NVivo	NVivo Training Workshop – Hong Kong (20 February 2014)

6.3   Please provide copies of promotional materials, number of participants, survey/statistics on participants, e.g. country of origin, research background, etc., a copy of evaluation form/questionnaire and the consolidated feedback with response rate. Photos of the event(s) are preferred but optional.

Please refer to the appendix as follows:

Appendix	Description
II	Summary of the seminars
III	Questionnaires used in the seminars
IV	Summary of the evaluation of the seminars
V	Photos of banner stands

6.4   Objectives as per original application

By the end of the project, academics who have participated in the series will be able to:

1. adopt a well-structured framework in planning and managing a research project.

2. conduct an independent research project by:
    – developing a research proposal, and identifying local and overseas research funding sources;
    – evaluating various research designs and methodologies, and identifying the appropriate research approaches for specific projects;
    – applying professional communication skills for literature reviews;
    – analysing quantitative data using SPSS and AMOS;
    – analysing qualitative data using NVivo;
    – observing a high standard of research ethics; and
    – writing research reports and papers of high quality

3. understand the key issues and challenges in each major stage of the research process.

6.5   Revised objectives

No changes were made to the objectives.

6.6   Realisation of the objectives
(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

The seminar series was designed and implemented according to the project objectives — to help participated academics to:

1. adopt well-structured frameworks in planning and managing research projects;
2. conduct independent research from developing research proposals to writing research reports and papers of high quality; and
3. understand the key issues and challenges at each major stage of the research process.

Implementation of the seminars

Topics: The topics of the seminars were chosen to address the project objectives, as follows.

1. Proposal development for research funding applications
2. Research methodology design
3. Research ethics
4. Professional communication skills for research publication
5. How to write research reports and papers with high quality
6. Quantitative data analysis: SPSS and AMOS
7. Qualitative data analysis with NVivo
8. Quantitative data analysis with SPSS: Regression analysis, analysis of variance and non-parametric statistics

(Full abstracts of the seminars are in Appendix VI.)

Speakers: As reported in section 6.2, the speakers for the seminars were all experts in the relevant areas.

Participants: There were 497 attendances, which exceeded the number (i.e. 350) originally proposed.

In addition, four of the speakers agreed that their sessions could be video-recorded and made freely available. The videos and relevant event materials can be accessed on the project webpage at:
http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/wcsprd/Satellite?pagename=OUHK/tcSingPage&c=C_URC&cid=1385174042702&lang=eng

Evaluation

Evaluation was conducted for all the seminars, which showed that they were very well received by the participants. The participants showed a high satisfactory level in aspects including the relevance of content, usefulness for research, the quality of the materials, and the speakers' knowledge of the topics. Therefore, the seminars were highly effective for strengthening the research capability of the participants. (Details of the evaluation results are in Appendix IV.)

6.7   Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives *(as per 6.4/6.5 above)*	Addressed *(please tick)*	Percentage achieved *(please estimate)*
1. Adopt a well-structured framework in planning and managing a research project	✓	100%
2. Conduct an independent research project	✓	100%
3. Understand the key issues and challenges at each major stage of the research process.	✓	100%

7.   Research-related Outcome

7.1   Potential for further development of the research and the proposed course of action
(Maximum half a page)

The project served to strengthen the capability of participating academics to conduct research. The seminar series covered various stages in the research process, from proposal writing to quantitative/qualitative data analysis and the publication of results, so that the participants became more capable of conducting research and identifying potential research topics in their own disciplines.

Following the development of participants' research capability and their further engagement in research, it is expected that they will need research training in more specific areas. A number of topics were suggested by the participants (see section 7.3 for details).

7.2   Research collaboration achieved
(Please give details on the achievement and its relevant impact)

The seminar series attracted a very large number of academics from various institutions, especially self-financing institutions. Through the seminar series, academics had opportunities to meet with participants from other higher education institutions who were interested in conducting research studies. The project therefore provided opportunities for future collaboration among academics from various institutions and disciplines.

7.3   Any new development and/or challenging research topic has / have been identified and inspired the possible new initiative(s) in future research work.

       Participants who attended one or more seminars suggested the following topics for further activities:

1. The design of questionnaires
2. The originality and clarity of research methodology
3. Academic proposal writing skills
4. Managing funded grants and projects/budget planning
5. Issues of transcribing and translating qualitative research data
6. Advanced analytical skills (SEM/panel date regression/RASCH Analysis)
7. The use of analytical software (Stata/R/AMOS).

8. The Layman's Summary
(Describe <u>in layman's language</u> the nature, significance and value of the research project, in no more than 200 words)

In this project, a series of eight seminars were organized for enhancing the research capability of academics in the local self-financing degree sector. For each seminar, an expert was invited as a speaker for a specific topic related to research, including research planning and design; communication skills for creating and managing research; the use of software tools for research; research ethics; and writing research reports and papers. The events were jointly organized by the Open University of Hong Kong, Centennial College and Caritas Institute of Higher Education. The seminar series was open to all academics and students in the tertiary sector in Hong Kong and the general public. The seminars attracted a total of nearly 500 participants from ten institutions, and were very well received. The results of evaluation by the participants showed that the series was successful in assisting academics to enhance their relevant research skills, and promoting a research culture in the local self-financing degree sector, which also help to support teaching and learning in the institutions. The project objectives were achieved.

Part C: Research Output

9. **Recognized conference(s) paper(s) related to this project was/were delivered**
(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month/Year/ Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC *(indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)*	Attached to this report *(Yes or No)*	Acknowledged the support of RGC *(Yes or No)*
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

10. ***Research Personnel trained***

Please refer to the Appendix VII for the names and institutions of the seminar participants.

11. **Other impact**
(e.g. prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, etc.)

The project galvanized the Open University of Hong Kong into building collaboration with other institutions. The Open University of Hong Kong, partnering Caritas Institute of Higher Education and Hong Kong Polytechnic's School of Professional Education and Executive Development, further developed IIDS projects on two emerging research areas — Learning Analytics and Mobile Learning, which were granted by RGC (i.e. UGC/IIDS16/H01/15 and UGC/IIDS16/H02/15). Both projects were organized with the aim of enhancing the knowledge and research skills of academics in higher education.