

Project Title : Fostering the Integration of Local and Non-local Students for the Enhancement of Internationalisation and Engagement with Mainland China

Leading University : The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : Hong Kong Baptist University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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Summary of Proposal

The present world can be characterized as a system of interconnected networks encouraging trade, transactions, and financial and intellectual commerce globally. To compete in a global age fraught with challenges, higher education institutions need to train and nurture competent graduates capable of engaging these challenges. This project aims to assess the current situation and obstacles of integration between local and non-local students within Hong Kong universities, to foster integration of local and non-local students for enhancement of student internationalisation experience and/or engagement with Mainland China.

The basic process of the project is summarized in this paragraph. After the initial assessment of status quo practices is conducted, the team will develop and design an adaptable inter-institutional framework integrating the best curricular and co-curricular practices for enhancing internationalisation and/or engagement with Mainland China, with particular emphasis on the integration of local and non-local students. New practices to complement existing best practices will be introduced with the cooperation and support of relevant stakeholders (e.g. student societies, academic departments, administrative support sections). After the new framework is implemented, it will be tested and evaluated by means of authentic assessments that are integrated to track students' international and global competencies. The project will leverage individual universities teaching and learning centres in order to share the findings and the

adaptable inter-institutional framework to share with management and academic and non-academic units. Resource Centre stocked with guidelines, authentic cases, best practices and the inter-institutional framework will be built up to enable the sharing of practices. This will enable the fruits of the project to be disseminated to other UGC-funded institutions. An extensive evaluation plan will check and verify that the project has correctly identified students' need vis-à-vis internationalisation that the delivery strategy is effective, whether students are able to achieve global competencies, that integration between local and non-local students has improved and that the Resource Centre meets the specified needs of the project.

Summary of Final Report

The world today is considered as a complex of people's connections with others in which the international business and working together is preferred. To address the challenges of this connected world, institutions need to educate their students to deal with these matters. The aims of this UGC-funded project are to investigate the current situation and difficulties of the Hong Kong institutions in integration of local and non-local students, and to encourage and improve the experience of internationalisation amongst students through the mingling of local and non-local students. Three partner institutions of Hong Kong have teamed up to develop a framework which is adaptive to the existing practices of institutions. The framework encompasses the curricular and co-curricular practices of institutions to improve the mingling of local and non-local students. Close collaboration of different parties with common interest including student societies, academic departments and administrative support offices has facilitated the introduction of new initiatives to enhance the current practices. Different assessment methods have been suggested with development of this new framework to understand how students are interested and aware of learning about the world and working in international settings. This project is also beneficial to the teaching and learning centres in different institutions in terms of sharing the findings with the management, academic and non-academic units. The project team has introduced internationalisation initiatives in format of curricular and co-curricular activities at home/abroad via seminars, workshops and webinars (in response to the pandemic situation). The team has evaluated different perspectives of audiences regarding the internationalisation in classical definition as well as the changes due to "new normal" including the introduction of "internationalisation at home". The project team has established a Virtual Resource Centre to provide learning materials including internationalisation guidelines, authentic case scenarios and good practices. The schematic of the framework is also available to suggest implementation tips. The

findings of this project can be shared with other sister institutions to further promote internationalization and integration of local and non-local students.