

City University of Hong Kong

Rigorous Quality Assurance System for Self-financing Degrees/Sub-degrees

CityU is committed to quality assurance of its academic programmes, including those offered in self-financing mode. The University Senate (*established according to the City University of Hong Kong Ordinance*), the supreme academic body of the University, has a specific responsibility (*under its terms of reference*) with respect to Associate Degree programmes (AD) offered by the Community College of City University (CCCU). As all the AD programmes lead to awards of the University, the University Senate has standing arrangements with the CCCU Academic Board to maintain the academic standards and to assure the quality of these programmes. In particular, the same quality assurance framework, mechanisms and procedures of the University are applied to CCCU programmes. Furthermore, CityU members (*including the Senate Secretary and the University's Quality Assurance Committee Secretary*) are appointed to the CCCU Academic Board which is required to report to the University Senate.

Similarly, rigorous standards and procedures are applied to monitor the self-financing programmes offered by CityU's extension arm, the School of Continuing and Professional Education (SCOPE). The School is operated under the Quality Assurance Framework approved by the Senate of the University. Apart from satisfying University requirement, the School assures that programmes are operated in compliance with the external requirements, including the requirements of the partner institutions for non-local top-up degree programmes and other legislative requirements. In addition, those locally accredited programmes need to satisfy the quality assurance requirement set by HKCAAVQ/ JQRC. The School is required to report to the University Senate through the Quality Assurance Committee on the maintenance of standards and quality of its programmes. Representatives from CityU management and Quality Assurance Committee also serve on the SCOPE Board.

Enriching the Learning Experience of Students and Enhancing their Employability

We welcome government's funding support for the Self-financing Post-secondary sector in enriching the learning experience of the students and enhancing their employability. Students of both CCCU and SCOPE have received Talent Development Scholarships and Reaching Out Awards from EDB to support student's participation in non-local study tours.

Both CCCU and SCOPE of CityU have made additional efforts in further enhancing their students' learning experience and increase their international exposure through a wide range of co-curricular programmes and activities which take them out of Hong Kong.

Last year, CCCU's "Quality Campus Life Fund" and "Study Abroad Scheme" subsidized about 2,100 students in 30 overseas projects, including study tours, summer school, language immersion study tours and internship. A number of scholarships have been established to recognize student achievement both academically and in participation of out of classroom activities as well as making contributions to the community. First launched in 2012/13, the CCCU Study Abroad Scheme has sponsored high-achieving students to participate in short overseas study programmes during term time or in the summer, not only to deepen understanding of students' main areas of study, but more importantly, to enhance their language skills and open their eyes to different cultures through immersion in a different learning environment.

In the summer of 2013, over 400 CCCU first-year students were subsidized and went to different institutions, which included the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of East Anglia and the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom; St Joseph's College in Indiana in the United States, and; the University of British Columbia in Canada. Apart from co-curricular activities, CCCU maintained close links with industries to enable students to learn the fundamental skills necessary for success in the real world through engaging students in industry-related projects, programme-specific internship and placement schemes. In the year arrangements were made with the generous support of about 120 organisations or companies to benefit about 880 CCCU students, enabling them to gain valuable first-hand experience.

Similarly, SCOPE also provides a wide range of student development services for a well-rounded education and future success of students. Various award and scholarship schemes have been established to recognize students' outstanding academic performances or talents in non-academic achievements; career and employment services are provided to equip students with career knowledge and related skills; and counselling services are offered to help students cope with personal problems and facilitate their adjustment to university life. These activities not only address the various needs of students, but also help them to foster a balanced approach to personal development.