

Dr Gary James HARFITT (Leader)
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Faculty of Education 教育學院

**'Nurturing Today's Students and Tomorrow's Teachers through
Experiential Learning'**

「體驗學習：滋養今天的學生，成就明日的老師」

Through the establishment of credit-bearing community-based experiential learning programmes, we promote a stronger sense of self-awareness in our students and see evidence of clear transferrable skills like collaboration, problem solving, leadership, resilience, global and civic awareness all emerging through this reciprocal relationship between our Faculty and the community in Hong Kong and elsewhere. We maintain that these are salient skills for new teachers to acquire and our curriculum innovation is closely tied to specific intended learning outcomes that have added weight to our existing teaching practicum models. We have positioned the community as a rich and powerful knowledge space, one that is non-hierarchical and where academics, schools, teachers and community partners bring together different types of expertise that is conducive to the development of new teachers and the community in which they work. In all our community-based experiential learning courses our student teachers are encouraged to mature as 'community teachers' who can work more effectively with children and families from diverse backgrounds. Through this we have seen how our students can develop a more sophisticated understanding of diversity which is difficult to actualise in universities or schools. We also seek to contribute to the wider field through scholarship and research.



*Back row from left: Ms Jessie CHOW, Ms Candace MOK
Front row from left: Dr Gary HARFITT, Miss Ivy CHUNG
(Executive Officer assisting in the experiential learning project)*

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Ivy Chung who has helped coordinate every single experiential learning project since we started.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

“The contributions and efforts that the Experiential Learning Team of the Faculty of Education has made have been very significant in respect of nurturing the future leaders for the University as well as for society. The team has also made the world smaller, closer and friendlier. As an English education student, I have been very fortunate to be able to seize the valuable opportunities to participate in three major experiential learning projects in three developing countries over the years with different non-governmental organisations. These projects have meant a lot to me. In particular, the first-hand learning experience has changed me for the better in terms of my personal growth and my professional development as a future English teacher.”

Jenny CHAN
BA&BEd(LangEd), current student

“My university life has been changed by the very first service learning course held by Faculty of Education at HKU. As the founder of the student society, Beyond Belief Hong Kong, I am encouraged and inspired to involve more in service learning by the reflection, ups and downs from each challenging yet amazing journey and more importantly the support from my lecturers Jessie, Candace and Gary.”

Gaga TSANG Ka Yuet
BA, current student

“Raised in such an exam-oriented education system, we often draw parallels between the words impact and results... Indeed, we went to Cambodia trying to teach resilience, but to some extent we are living it out; we are building relationships with the children, manifesting our strengths and qualities while teaching them theirs, and coping with different emotions when leaving the school and the beautiful girls. So as teachers, we are not teaching to make an impact, but being the impacts ourselves.”

Kelly CHOY Kai Yi
BA&BEd(LangEd), current student