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University status celebrated at Lingnan

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Students and staff have welcomed Lingnan College's upward change in status.

A bill that will confer university status on the college was gazetted last week and introduced into the Legislative Council yesterday.

"Everyone is elated that, after so many years of work, we are finally being awarded university status," said the number of PhDs on its roster already compared favourably with that of other tertiary institutions in the SAR. "The PhD ratio is currently 60 per cent. That will increase to between 70 and 75 per cent in September," Mr Chan was sceptical.

"It's just a name change. It is extremely important that our students are recognised as being university-educated." Dr Chan said, adding that it would also be easier to attract higher calibre staff.

"I think we will be able to attract better quality students and have a better image," he said, adding that it would also enhance the employability of our graduates. Mr Chan had been recruiting very prominent faculty from all over the world as well as from local institutions.

"It is just a name change from college to university because we were already a university," Professor Lu Ming-te, chair professor, department of informatics, said. "From what students are saying, they seem to be quite excited about the change in name. We have been the Lingnan College, the Hong Kong Christian College, the Hong Kong Polytechnic and the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong. We have all been designated universities in 1994. The Open Learning Institute of the University of Hong Kong was reborn as Lingnan College in 1912 and was renamed Lingnan University in 1927. Lingnan has a long history. It was founded in 1888 as the Christian College in Guangzhou. It became Lingnan College in 1912 and was renamed Lingnan University in 1972. Having been closed after the liberation of China, Lingnan was reborn as Lingnan College in Hong Kong in 1967. It was registered as a post-secondary college in 1978 and started to offer degree programmes in 1980. "Historically, Lingnan was a university," Professor Nyaw Mee-ten said. "In a sense, we are getting our title back.""