



**Lingnan University  
Hong Kong**

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**How can universities respond to needs of the society?  
From Service-Learning to Community Engagement:  
Lingnan University's Experience**

**Leonard K CHENG**  
**President**  
**Lingnan University**

# Lingnan University

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- ❑ Founded in Guangzhou in 1988
- ❑ Re-established in Hong Kong in 1967
- ❑ The only liberal arts university in Hong Kong

# Lingnan University

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## Vision

To excel as an internationally recognised liberal arts university distinguished by outstanding teaching, learning, scholarship and **community engagement**.

## Motto

**Education for service (作育英才、服務社會)**

# Lingnan University

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## Mission

Lingnan University is committed to:

- ❑ providing quality whole-person education informed by the best of Chinese and Western liberal arts traditions;
- ❑ nurturing all-round excellence in students, including such attributes as critical thinking, broad vision, versatile skills, socially responsible values, and leadership in a changing world; and
- ❑ encouraging faculty and students to **contribute to society through original research and knowledge transfer.**

# Lingnan University

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## Core Values

- ❑ A collegial community of learning and discovery for students and scholar teachers
- ❑ Whole-person cultivation and all-round development
- ❑ **Community engagement and social responsibility**
- ❑ The Lingnan spirit – passion, loyalty, perseverance, openness to different ideas and cultures and a readiness to serve

## Development of Service-Learning at LU

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- ❑ 2004 – implementation of a pilot Service-Learning (S-L) and Research Scheme which set a good model for the development of university-wide S-L programmes.
- ❑ 2006 – establishment of the Office of Service-Learning (OSL)
- ❑ 2016-17 – implementation of the S-L Graduation requirement

# Office of Service-Learning (OSL)

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The first stand-alone Service-Learning office among the universities in Hong Kong

The office dedicates itself to nurturing change makers by encouraging students to engage in **community service** with academic knowledge.



# Service-Learning at LU (1)

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- S-L is an experiential learning pedagogy actualizing LU's motto – **'Education for Service'**
- S-L achieves its purpose by providing meaningful assistance to others based on students' knowledge and skills, with supervision by academic staff

## Service-Learning at LU (2)

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- ❑ S-L combines rigorous academic study with community service, where both “community” and “service” are broadly defined.
- ❑ The service performed by students illustrates and reinforces their academic study and practical skills through the process of critical thought and self-reflection.

## Service-Learning at LU (3)

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- S-L is “community-based” learning mainly for students but also for academic staff, some of whom may also conduct “community-based” research.

# Service-Learning at LU (4)

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- ❑ S-L requires active participation of students, community partners, and faculty members who all come together to promote collective learning.
- ❑ Through experiential learning outcomes and provision of meaningful services to the community, S-L **addresses real community needs** and contributes to a symbiotic relationship between community and university.

# The Lingnan Model of SL

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# Civic Engagement at LU (1)

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- Civic Engagement aims at fostering students' civic responsibility, ethical attitude and commitment to the community, enhancing students' creative and innovative capabilities, and preparing them to be ideal Lingnan graduates and future leaders.
- It is one of the six areas of LU's "Integrated Learning Programme", a feature of our liberal arts education.

# Civic Engagement at LU (2)

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- ▣ Starting from 2012-13, CE has become a graduation requirement for undergraduate students of the four-year system. Students are required to complete a minimum of five hours of training and 25 hours of social service.

# SL as graduation requirement

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Starting from 2016-17 intake, the Civic Engagement graduation requirement will be replaced by S-L graduation requirement. All Lingnan students will have to complete at least one 3-credit course with S-L elements. Students can choose to fulfil the S-L requirement through one of the following ways:

- ❑ S-L courses offered by academic departments
- ❑ S-L courses co-taught by OSL and departments
- ❑ S-L courses offered by OSL
- ❑ S-L courses offered by overseas institutions and approved by OSL



# Capacity Building

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- 3 study trips to the U.S.
- Sharing by overseas experts on campus

# Knowledge Transfer

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- Knowledge Transfer (KT) is to engage both the faculty and students in using their knowledge and research capability to address relevant social concerns.
- KT focuses on the sharing of the academic staff's expertise and new research findings.
- S-L is considered one of many forms of KT.



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# Thank you!