Lingnan University 2025/2026 SDG Report
SDG 1 – NO POVERTY



65th in the World
(THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

No. 1 in Hong Kong
(THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

31
Undergraduate Courses

566
Research Outputs

As Lingnan University transforms into a comprehensive, research-oriented university in the digital era, it remains rooted in its strong liberal arts heritage and commitment to education for service and social responsibility. Lingnan advances **SDG 1: No Poverty** through research, policy dialogue and community engagement that support poverty reduction, social protection and equitable access to opportunities. Guided by its mission to transform lives and society through impactful scholarship and experiential learning, the University integrates teaching, research and practice to address poverty and its underlying challenges, including inequality, unemployment and social exclusion, across Hong Kong and beyond.

Addressing Gaps in Social Protection for China's Veterans

Research led by Professor Yang Kai, Assistant Professor (Presidential Early Career Scholar) in Lingnan University's Department of Government and International Affairs, contributes to SDG 1: No Poverty by examining structural gaps in social protection for China's veterans.

While poverty is often understood in material terms, veterans may also experience marginalisation arising from the gap between state resettlement promises and lived realities. Inadequate social protection, mismatched employment support and unresolved grievances can undermine their long-term well-being and social cohesion, highlighting the importance of effective support for vulnerable groups.

Published in *China Review* (2025), Professor Yang's research examines the evolution of China's veterans-resettlement policies and the establishment of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Drawing on extensive fieldwork, petition letters and policy documents, the study identifies a pattern of "performative accommodation": while

the state provides visible symbolic responses to veterans' demands, substantive redress of underlying grievances often remains limited. This finding helps explain why veterans' activism and protest continue to recur despite institutional reforms. It also highlights the structural limits of top-down social protection mechanisms when these are not matched by genuine capacity or political will.

The research supports SDG 1 by providing an evidence-based framework for understanding why certain groups remain excluded from the full benefits of social protection even when formal policies exist. It shifts attention from the presence of welfare institutions to their actual capacity to address inequality, respond to needs and restore dignity.

By making these gaps visible, the study offers a foundation for more effective, need-responsive social protection policies. It also contributes to public understanding of poverty and social exclusion in contemporary China, reinforcing the importance of equitable access to support and policies that address the needs of vulnerable populations.

Scholarly research addressing poverty related issues

Academic staff are actively engaged in a broad range of research addressing poverty and social inequality [link]. Research studies cover issues on platform workers and welfare protection, work-family reconciliation on gender inequality, family care, older workers and retirement protection, migration, race and labour inadequate housing and well-being among disadvantaged social groups in Hong Kong, East Asia and Southeast Asia, and some African countries [link].

Research collaborations are not limited to local and regional universities but also extended to international universities. Research outputs (2025-2026) are related to employment support and older workers, anti-poverty policies, poverty and health inequalities, platform economy and social protection, digital transformation of welfare, child poverty and cognitive performance in East Asian (e.g., Hong Kong), Southeast Asian, Sub-Saharan African countries and China [link].

Funding support for student learning opportunities

Lingnan University provides a variety of funding and scholarship schemes based on academic merit and financial need to ensure equitable access to higher education for students around the world, including those from low- and middle-income countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. These sponsorships and scholarships — including Postgraduate Studentships, Research Postgraduate Student Conference/Field Trip Sponsorships, and Research Postgraduate Scholarships for Overseas Research Visits — offer transformative learning opportunities and help

nurture the next generation of scholars [please refer to Funding and Scholarships for postgraduate students].

Taught postgraduate programmes also provide various forms of financial assistance, such as entrance scholarships and exchange sponsorships, to attract capable and diverse candidates. In 2026, for example, 18 outstanding postgraduate students received scholarships to attend the Postgraduate Summer School at Oxford (28 June – 12 July 2026), broadening their academic horizons and deepening intercultural understanding [link].



Experiential Learning Raising Awareness about the SDGs

Through the Lingnan Entrepreneurship Initiative (LEI), the University offers students experiential learning projects that connect innovation and social responsibility to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. One major initiative encourages students to explore entrepreneurship as a sustainable career pathway, equipping them with the skills to create meaningful social and economic impact. **[**link**].**

The University has established various forms of funding support, such as the Startup Trial Fund, the Student Entrepreneurial Exploration Development Fund, and Lingnan University Entrepreneurship Fund (LUEF). These initiatives empower students to develop innovative solutions to address poverty and promote economic inclusion through social entrepreneurship.


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS