

Lingnan University SDG Report



Lingnan University holds the belief that quality education is fundamental to improving the lives of individuals and achieving sustainable development. As a global leader in Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education, inclusiveness and equality are core values that underpin all aspects of the university's operations, including teaching and learning, student admissions, student affairs and services, quality assurance, and governance. Lingnan's strength in knowledge transfer is a key factor in promoting equality in both education and society.

Education Equality

Lingnan University and the School of Graduate Studies have been providing effective educational financial aid and backing to postgraduate students from around the world, including low and middle-income countries such as Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Uganda, and Zambia. Entrance scholarships, exchange sponsorships, and monthly studentships are offered by the University to research and taught postgraduate students to support their research studies and to provide opportunities to enrich their international learning experience and engage in academic exchanges. For instance, this year's MA in International Higher Education and Management has admitted two quality international students from Ghana and Namibia; both students received the Dean's Scholarship for a 100% tuition fees waiver and monthly stipend. Additionally, a non-UGC funded PhD student was financially supported by the School of Graduate Studies to present at a conference in Toronto (Canada) in June 2023.

Lingnan Entrepreneurship Initiative

Through the Lingnan Entrepreneurship Initiative (LEI), students have the opportunity to participate in various programmes that will develop their problem-solving and entrepreneurship skillsets. Besides engagement with the local communities, students are also given regional and global exposure to transfer and apply knowledge.

In 2022, 7 teams of students were admitted into the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park (HKSTP) ideation programme, where the teams were provided with seed funding and mentoring to embark on their entrepreneurial pursuits. Business proposals included the adoption of blockchain for education as well as the use of AI to improve the service industry.

Meanwhile, five students were selected to attend a programme on innovations and new strategies in entrepreneurship in Los Angeles, conducted by the UCLA Extension. The students went on to apply the learnings in various startup initiatives.

Four students also had the opportunity to participate in the Cyberport University Partnership Programme, where they attended a bootcamp in Cambridge and subsequently developed fintech business ideas.

Another nine students participated in the pilot Greater Bay Area Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summer Academy, where they had the opportunity to connect with students from Macau and Guangzhou, and visit highly successful companies like Tencent and Pony.ai.

Global Citizenship: Joint Humanitarian Entrepreneurship Summer Academy

LU's commitment to lifelong service assists students in making a sustainable impact in communities while learning valuable skills in human-centred design, humanitarian technology, social entrepreneurship and inclusive business. Lingnan's Joint Humanitarian Entrepreneurship Academy, education outreach activities beyond campus, accomplishes this by offering exciting and meaningful overseas service-learning projects.

Funding support for student-initiated startups

Lingnan University contributes continuously to society with its outstanding knowledge transfer for quality education. To keep this up and aid career development, LU encourages and supports innovative ideas, provides opportunities and masters risk and failure while engaging in formal learning and teaching. The Entrepreneurship Programme under the University's Innovation and Impact Fund (IIF) and Students Entrepreneurial Exploration Development (SEED) Fund were designed to support students in positively impacting society while developing entrepreneurial capacity and spirit. Seven student teams were selected and supported by the mentioned funding scheme in 2022 and 2023.

Innovation and Impact Fund (IIF) and Student Entrepreneurial Exploration Development (SEED) Fund

Lingnan University contributes continuously to society with its outstanding knowledge transfer for quality education. To keep this up, and provide aid for career development, LU encourages and supports innovative ideas, opportunities, and mastering risk and failure, while engaging in formal learning and teaching. The Entrepreneurship Programme under the University's Innovation and Impact Fund (IIF) is designed to support faculty members and students in creating a positive impact on society while developing entrepreneurial capacity and spirit.

Environmental Education

Due to the rapid pace of scientific discovery and technological development, Lingnan University offers both undergraduate and postgraduate environmental education

programmes. The minor degree programme in Environmental and Scientific Literacy focuses on developing science literacy as a lifelong skill that can be applied to a variety of scientific and technological issues, rather than the mastery of content knowledge in a specific scientific discipline. All participants in this programme will build upon the critical thinking, communication, and debate skills developed in the core curriculum, and participate in a Capstone Experience in Year 4. At postgraduate level, Lingnan, as a liberal arts institution, provides a unique postgraduate experience in Environmental Science by combining Science Unit expertise with the three faculties, Arts, Social Sciences, and Business, as well as partnerships with local and international NGOs. The postgraduate programme equips students with a solid theoretical background in environmental sciences and provides the diverse hands-on, experiential experiences needed to succeed in this field.

Research Projects and Publications

Lingnan University currently has 72 research profiles identified with Quality education (SDG4). Related research projects include the following two:

- Gerontechnology 360oEducation funded by Quality Education Fund (HKSAR)
- LU Jockey Club Health and Financial Education Programme for Elderly funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Projects conducted by Service / Centre / Unit

➤ Information Technology Services Centre (ITSC) department

In support of the University's strategic direction to fully embrace advanced technology in support of its teaching and learning, ITSC collaborates with Microsoft to develop and launch its ChatGPT service on 1 July 2023. An enhanced version of 4.0 together with the image generation function on Microsoft Dall-E model was available on 1 September 2023. The service is built on Microsoft's Azure Open AI platform and is free to all current staff and students for their teaching or research-related purposes. The ITSC department are contributing to SDG4 by leveraging technology to enhance the quality and accessibility of higher education. Teaching and Learning Center



➤ **Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC)**

The Teaching and Learning Center promotes innovative pedagogical approaches to education, such as blended learning and active learning, which enhance student engagement and promote lifelong learning. In addition, with the emergence of ChatGPT, TLC organized a series of training to enhance both teachers and students with the skills and knowledge needed to integrate technology into education. This aligns with the SDG4 targets to improve the quality of education and ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.



➤ **The Lingnan Institute of Further Education (LIFE)**

According to the Lifelong Learning Access Policy, LIFE provides high-quality continuing education and professional training to develop skills and knowledge for professional careers, unleashing the potential to realise goals, some of the key programmes are listed as follows:

- The LingnanU Elder Academy, which provides programmes for the elderly to learn and interact with the younger generation through the sit-in of bachelor's degree programmes and other practical courses.

- Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services, provides the young people who are interested to work in the elderly and rehabilitation care services to develop their profession through on-the-job training.
- Collaboration with industry partners to offer the practical and professional knowledge in health, insurance, languages, mediation and facilities management.

LIFE seeks to promote equity in education by providing equal access to learning opportunities and addressing the needs of diverse learners. This is in line with the SDG4 goal of promoting inclusive and equitable education systems that eliminate disparities and ensure equal opportunities for all.

➤ **Office of Research and Knowledge Transfer (ORKT)**

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Academic event / Conference / Symposium

➤ **Symposium on Internationalisation and Quality Management in Higher Education**

The Symposium on Internationalisation and Quality Management in Higher Education 2023, organised by Lingnan University Institute of Policy Studies, in collaboration with various higher education institutions and supported by the Alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities, contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education. The symposium provided a platform for distinguished scholars and students from various countries to exchange ideas and discuss topics related to internationalisation and quality assurance in higher education, which are crucial for enhancing the quality of education and promoting global competence. The symposium's focus on topics such as international education, English language, and quality assurance in higher education policies and perceptions aligns with SDG4's objectives of promoting inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. The symposium's efforts to enhance academic exchanges and promote mobility of students and programmes also contribute to the achievement of SDG4.



➤ **Stavanger-Lingnan Research Symposium 2022**

The University of Stavanger in Norway and Lingnan University in Hong Kong collaborated to organize a research symposium on 31 Oct – 1 Nov 2022 to explore the intersection between higher education, labor market, and social equality. By adopting a cross-disciplinary, -sectional, and -cultural approach, the symposium provided insights into higher education systems and related public policies of Nordic and East Asian regions. This helped tackle existing and emerging challenges in the current pandemic and uncertain futures, and contribute to the development of quality education that is inclusive and equitable for all.



➤ **China and Higher Education 2022: (Re)imagining Kindness in Times of Conflict**

The China Higher Education Conference (CHE) organized on 30 November – 2 December 2022 aimed to explore the future of higher education in China and beyond. The conference brought together scholars, educators, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss trends, challenges, and opportunities in higher education. The theme of the conference was "Innovative and Sustainable Higher Education for All". The conference featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, and paper presentations that focused on topics such as curriculum innovation, digital transformation, and internationalization. By promoting innovative and sustainable higher education that is accessible to all, the conference aligned with SDG4, which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. The conference provided a platform for experts to exchange ideas and share best practices that contribute to the development of quality education that is inclusive and equitable for all.



➤ **Conference for Higher Education Research (CHER) 2022**

The Conference on Higher Education Research (CHER) 2022 highlighted the benefits of collaboration in higher education research. The conference on on 18 and 19 November 2022 aimed to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in the higher education sector. The theme of the conference was Collaboration in Higher Education Research: Opportunities and Challenges. The conference featured keynote speeches, paper presentations, and interactive sessions that explored various aspects of collaboration, including interdisciplinary research, cross-sectoral partnerships, and international collaborations. By promoting collaboration in higher education research, the conference aligned with SDG4, which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. The conference provided a platform for experts to share best practices and innovative approaches that contribute to the development of quality education that is inclusive and accessible for all.

