Program Background

The Lingnan W.T Chan Fellowship Program was established to honor Professor Wing-Tsit Chan, former Dean of Lingnan University and distinguished Professor of Chinese philosophy and religion. Starting in 2001, the Fellowship celebrates the Lingnan motto “Education for service” and provides challenging educational and leadership opportunities for students from Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) in Guangzhou and Lingnan University in Hong Kong, through service learning and intercultural experience in the United States. Now placing 6 students per year at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and 6 students at the University of California at Berkeley (UCB), in total in its 17 years of operation, 165 students have been provided with opportunities for personal growth and leadership development.

Program Eligibility for LUHK Students

All second-year or third-year undergraduate and postgraduate students from all majors are eligible to apply.

Impacts of the Fellowship

The greatest impacts of the Fellowship indicated by alumni:

- **Personal & Life-long Learning Impacts** – Alumni report that the experience of the Fellowship was a transformational experience. It instilled confidence in themselves, gave them a greater vision of their capabilities and clarity around their personal goals. They found that the Fellowship strengthened their interpersonal communication skills and ability to resolve and manage conflicts. It also inspired them to take more initiative. Along with greater cultural awareness, they also conveyed that the Fellowship gave them a wider perspective of world view.
• **Academic Impacts** – Fellows participated in weekly seminars and lectures and reflection periods at UC Los Angeles or UC Berkeley campuses. Fellows researched and designed projects that were built upon their own major disciplines' knowledge, current problems of practice in the field, and scholarly pursuits. They were able to meet with various faculty through guest lectures. The Chan Fellows testified that the Fellowship improved their academic skills such as research, presentation and time management skills as well as obtained more clarity about their future academic plans. Based on survey, 40% of undergraduate participants continued to complete their graduate studies.

• **Professional Impacts** – Alumni indicated that they gained clarity about their professional goals through the semester-long service learning internship which widened their perspectives about possible career paths. The internships also provided them with leadership experiences and resulted in improved technological, communication, and cultural competencies and “out-of-the-box” thinking in addition to enhancing their leadership competencies and skills.

• **Community Impacts** – With this abroad experience, alumni described that it made them “care more about what is happening in the world” and gave them a greater commitment to their own communities in China. They also reported an increased interest in their community and becoming involved in providing service.

**Program Description**

**Length of Program** – Fall Semester – 6 months (August – January)

**Location of Fellowship Placement** – University of California Los Angeles or Berkeley campus, California, USA

**Learning Objectives – Education for Service**

- Connect to one’s personal and professional purpose to meaningful action in the community
- Gain research skills as a scholar with critical thinking and analysis
- Establish network with academic scholars and professional leaders in their own field of study
- Acquire theory to practice experience in the chosen discipline study
- Understand cross-cultural differences and the impact of culture
- Enhance creativity in innovative and entrepreneurial solutions to real world problems
- Developing leadership competencies
- Engage in meaningful service that addresses the need and development of local communities
- Develop a habit of the mind and heart for service to humanity
Program Components

Internship – 32 hours/week for 17-20 weeks

- Students are placed at an internship site on-campus center or local NGO
- Work assignment will align with students’ academic field of study and/or skills
- Students will be accountable to and be evaluated by Internship Supervisor
- UCLA or UC Berkeley Program Manager will provide comprehensive evaluation report of each student

Final/Research Project – Through Independent research, students will

- Conduct a research project related to their major discipline
- Select a research project that addresses a critical problem of practice
- Sharpen research skills by using University of California library and research resources system
- Conduct interviews with topic related UC and other faculty scholars and practitioners
- Complete a written research project report for the UC Campus Manager and their faculty advisor
- Present their research project at UCLA or UC Berkeley and to LUHK appropriate department

Academic Seminar – Weekly 6 to 8 hours of seminar class to include

- Reflections of internship experiences
- Lectures that are relevant to their academic, cultural, social, and internship sites learning outcomes
- One-on-one mentoring/coaching
- Team building with fellow students
- Cross-cultural co-learning with UCLA/UCB students
- Leadership training
- Academic site visitations

Leadership Workshop – A 2-day Leadership organized by Lingnan Foundation

- Learning from prominent leaders’ experiences
- Developing insights to leadership pathways
- Gaining knowledge of leadership skills and competencies
- Affirming leadership identity and responsibilities

Mentorship - One-on-One with Lingnan Foundation Trustee Mentors

- Matched with a mentor who is a known experienced leader
- Receive advice on personal and career planning
- Provide ongoing counsel during the entire program
- Establish professional network with and through assigned mentor
Cross-Cultural Program Design

• Live with American family providing daily supervision and in-home cultural learning
• Work with internship site staff and the community
• Interact with university staff and students
• Attend campus and community events and activities
• Field trips to American rural, urban, and metropolitan cities and regions.