

Research Inspires Improvements in Teaching Practices

“Teaching, learning and research are complementary and inseparable. To facilitate students’ academic development, lecturers should understand more about their learning approaches through research,” said Dr Benny Chan, CPCE Head of Cluster (Hotel and Tourism Management) and HKCC Senior Lecturer.

Since 2010, Dr Chan has embarked on two CPCE-funded research projects to assess students’ learning approaches. The first one began in December 2010 and it focused on the learning approaches of associate degree students of hospitality and tourism management related programmes. Detailed questionnaires were administered to students at the commencement of the first year and the second year of their studies, coupled with in-depth interviews with selected students. The collected data were subsequently analysed.

The research findings led Dr Chan to reflect on his current teaching methods. He revealed that with a focus on earning a place in Bachelor’s degree programme, the surveyed associate degree students had similar learning attitudes as their counterparts in the United States. The majority of students preferred an examination-oriented assessment

approach. “They generally expect the presentation materials of lecturers to be lengthy and wordy, and that the lecturers would emphasise various key points to help them prepare for examinations. On the contrary, they generally do not prefer in-depth discussion of case-studies during tutorials.”

“Through research analysis, I can develop a better overview of my students’ learning approaches. I attempt to think from their perspectives and understand their anxiety about earning a place in university. Besides, from my daily observations, I find that while some students are rather passive and avoid interacting with lecturers, many are eager to ask questions to obtain a better understanding. With the aim of striking a balance in addressing the learning needs of different students, I have subsequently adjusted some class activities and counselled some of the students. After our conversation, a number of them are more willing to raise questions proactively now,” added Dr Chan.

In December 2012, Dr Chan partnered with Miss Billie Chow, Senior Lecturer of SPEED, in conducting a longitudinal study on the hospitality and tourism students’ learning approaches. The research project aims to examine associate degree graduates’



learning attitudes as they pursue Bachelor’s degree studies. The findings are expected to be released later this year.

“In the higher education sector, undertaking research activities would definitely help an academic build up knowledge in a specialised area. With the support of research findings, we can share our viewpoints more convincingly with other academics or students. Research therefore boosts our confidence in teaching and inspires us to improve our teaching methods,” said Dr Chan.

研究啟發更佳教學方法

「教學和研究有著相輔相成的密切關係。為促進同學的學業發展，講師應透過研究了解他們的學習需要。」專業及持續教育學院學術總監(酒店及旅遊管理)兼香港專上學院高級講師陳文亮博士說。

自2010年起，陳博士展開了兩項CPCE資助的研究計劃，藉以評估同學的學習方式。首項計劃於2010年12月開始進行，研究以酒店及旅遊管理相關副學士課程的同學為對象，從而分析他們的學習模式。在第一及第二學年開始前，陳博士對同學進行詳細的問卷調查，並篩選部份同學作深入訪談，再把收集所得的數據詳加分析。

陳博士從研究的結果反思他現有的教學方

法。他稱受訪的HKCC同學與美國副學士課程學生有著類似的學習態度，學習模式都受升學因素主導，他們並多偏好以考試為主的評核方式。他說：「同學普遍期望在課堂時，講師的演講資料包含更多文字。另外，同學喜愛講師在課堂教授更多扼要重點，讓他們易於準備考試；他們反而較不喜歡在導修課進行深入的個案分析。」

陳博士續說：「透過研究分析，我對同學的學習模式有概括的了解。我嘗試從同學的角度考慮，理解他們對升讀大學的憂慮。另外，我平日觀察到有些同學較被動，傾向迴避與老師接觸，但也教過不少愛發問、愛追求知識的同學。在平衡同學不同的學習需要

後，我修改了某些課堂活動的形式，亦輔導了部份同學，傾談後不少同學都較願意主動發問。」

2012年12月，陳博士與SPEED高級講師周素名小姐合作，探討副學位畢業生升讀學士學位課程後學習模式的轉變。此項縱向研究計劃，繼續以酒店及旅遊管理相關課程學生為對象，結果待今年稍後公佈。

陳博士說：「在高等教育的領域，進行研究絕對有助教員建立專門的知識。研究結果提供實用的理據，讓我們與其他學者或同學分享學術見解時，能夠加添說服力。因此，研究能夠提升我們教學的信心，並啟發良好的教學方法。」