

23

Annual Report

24



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Motto, Vision, and Mission



Motto

Ad Destinatum Persequor

自強不息

I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

<Phil 3:13 - 14>

我並不以為我已經奪得，我只顧一件事：即忘盡我背後的，只向在我前面的奔馳，為達到目標，為爭取天主在基督耶穌內召我向上爭奪的獎品。

<斐 3:13-14>

Vision

The vision of Saint Francis University is to nurture graduates who are not only professionally well-trained and academically well-educated, but who can also contribute to the social and moral well-being of society.





Mission

The mission of the University is embodied in our four-pronged approach to add value and stay relevant to young people:



Professional Development

Readiness for a professional career enhances our students' chances of upward mobility and hope in life. Wherever appropriate, our programmes aim for graduate professional recognition on par with counterparts from publicly funded institutions.



Sound Education

Through getting programmes accredited by HKCAAVQ, we strive to adopt the best practices in organisational quality assurance and enhancement, and thereby to institutionalise continuous self-improvements.



Positive Life Values

Our motto of *Ad Destinatam Persequor* 自強不息 is to inspire learners from different starting points to stride unceasingly for self-enhancement. Inculcating this spirit of life-time learning will put them in good stead in a future, where knowledge will get superseded quickly by fast-changing technological and social changes.



Research and Scholarship

The University aims to support the pursuit of discovery, integration, application and sharing of knowledge that can generate impact.



Message from Chairman of Board of Governors

Message from Chairman of Board of Governors

“

As we reflect upon 2024, our hearts are filled with deep gratitude to the Lord for His abundant blessings. This year marks a significant milestone as we renamed Saint Francis University on 9 January.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to an educational philosophy that emphasizes whole-person education, fostering an environment where students are inspired to make meaningful contributions to society through a spirit of love and service.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, particularly the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, for their unwavering support throughout this journey. My sincere gratitude extends to a community of individuals - our board members, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters - who have put their trust in our mission and contributed immensely to our advancement through their dedication and perseverance.

As we look forward to the future, I am confident that, united in our shared mission, we can continue to nurture the talents and values essential for the advancement of our society. We will actively engage with various sectors to offer comprehensive and diverse learning experiences for our students, ensuring that all students, regardless of their starting points, will have a promising pathway to realize their aspirations.

In St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:13, it is written, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". This powerful verse serves as a source of inspiration as we collaborate to achieve our mission.

May the Caritas motto, "Love in the Service of Hope", continue to illuminate our paths, guiding our staff and students in their lives and endeavours.

”

Cardinal Stephen CHOW, S.J.
Chairman, Board of Governors



Message from Chairman of University Council

Message from Chairman of University Council



On 9th January 2024, we have joyfully gathered to celebrate the grant of private university title to Caritas Institute of Higher Education, now appropriately titled Saint Francis University.

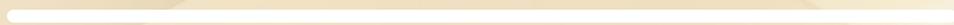
I say “appropriately” because since 2011 we have been degree-granting. The university title is recognition that our status should correctly be reflected in the name. That is why this occasion is appropriately called 正名(zhèngmíng), a term taken from the Confucian concept of “rectification of names”: “If names be not correct, language is not in accordance with the truth of things” (Analects 13.3).

Since launching our first bachelor's degree programme in 2011 we have forged ahead with ever greater confidence, determination and enthusiasm, achieving steady and significant growth in many areas, including that of student enrolment.

Some six years or so ago, a beautiful Saint Francis University necktie was actually designed and produced which was a sign of the confidence that we already felt back then of achieving university title in the not-too-distant future. It was about the same time that I was, in 2017, accorded the singular honour and privilege of serving as Council Chair of CIHE and of becoming since then a part of this remarkable transformative journey on our modern path of great learning or 大學之道 (Dàxué zhī dào).

The recognition of university status serves as a testament to CIHE's achievements in meeting the rigorous standards expected of a private university. These standards encompass a wide range of criteria, including the breadth of programmes offered, research capabilities, size and scale, governance and management, financial sustainability, academic environment, and quality assurance.

Saint Francis University remains steadfast in its vision and mission, unwavering in its dedication to providing flexible and diversified study pathways that align with the ever-evolving needs of both society and its students. Moreover, the University remains resolute in its commitment to promoting positive life values, fostering holistic education, inspiring students to wholeheartedly embrace their role as good citizens and compassionate contributors to the betterment of society.



Amidst the joy of celebration we recall the Chinese saying 飲水思源 (Yǐnshuǐsīyuán) when you drink water remember its source. So it is with heartfelt gratitude that we recall to mind all the help and graces that the good Lord has given us and the unfailing protection of our three patron Saints whose name the University fittingly bears. We must also never forget Caritas that was part of our name and with which we share the Catholic ethos that continues to inform our endeavours and animate the University. May we also thank your Eminence for your inspiring leadership and steady hand at the helm.

We would not be where we are to-day without the unwavering affirmation and support of many at all levels, including the relevant governmental and other authorities. We thank our generous benefactors, our hard-working teachers and other staff, our students and their parents, our colleagues, Governors, partners and friends over the years. We also owe a profound debt of gratitude to the former members of the governing body, including His Eminence John Cardinal Tong Hon and the late Bishop Michael Yeung, for their invaluable contributions and selfless dedication throughout our journey. Indeed we need to go all the way back to the foundation of our predecessor College – Caritas Francis Hsu College – 39 years ago. Let me conclude with a few lines of Chinese verse :

「三十九載 (Sānshíjiǔ zài)
大學之路 (Dàxué zhī lù)
正名之喜 (Zhèngmíng zhī xǐ)
至樂在今」 (Zhì lè zài jīn)

”

Denis CHANG, CBE, KC, SC, JP, Hon. LLD
Council Chairman

President's Overview

President's Overview



The 2023/24 academic year marked a transformative period for our institution, highlighted by a historic milestone. On 9 January 2024, following approval by the Chief Executive in Council, Caritas Institute of Higher Education was officially renamed Saint Francis University (SFU), becoming the fourth self-financing post-secondary institution in Hong Kong to achieve university status. This achievement underscores our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and institutional growth.

Guided by our longstanding mission, SFU continues to provide flexible and diversified study pathways in collaboration with Caritas Bianchi College of Careers, ensuring alignment with the evolving needs of students and the community. Student admissions grew significantly in 2023/24, with 4,638 students enrolled—a 27% increase compared to the previous year. This growth reflects the growing recognition of SFU's academic offerings and reputation for delivering impactful education.

Key achievements of the 2023/24 academic year include:

- Expansion of academic programmes and professional accreditation for the physiotherapy programme.
- Strengthened educational partnerships and recognition of teaching excellence.
- Strategic philanthropic support and campus expansion to accommodate future growth.



“

These milestones—from programme innovation and accreditation to community partnerships and infrastructure development—demonstrate SFU's steadfast commitment to applied education and societal impact.

In research, SFU demonstrated exceptional productivity and societal relevance, securing substantial funding and advancing interdisciplinary studies across healthcare, education, technology, and social welfare. Strategic grants, external partnerships, and the launch of the RGC-funded Children and Youth Research Centre underscore our role as a hub for innovative, interdisciplinary research with tangible community impact.

We achieved remarkable success in fostering student well-being, inclusivity, and civic engagement through value-driven education, mental health support, and inclusive practices. By empowering students academically, emotionally, and socially, we cultivate resilient leaders prepared to contribute meaningfully to society. Our dedication to community engagement is further reflected in strategic partnerships and vibrant cultural initiatives, empowering diverse populations—from elite athletes to aspiring students.

The 2023/24 academic year has been a defining chapter in our journey, marking the beginning of an exciting era as Saint Francis University. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Governors and Council members, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners. Their collective efforts continue to shape the bright future of our institution.

As we embark on this new chapter, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success. Together, let us continue striving for excellence and creating opportunities for growth and impact as a university.

”

Prof LO Tit Wing
Acting President



CIHE Attains University Status and Becomes Saint Francis University

CIHE

Attains University Status and Becomes Saint Francis University



In July 2023, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) conducted an Institutional Review at our invitation. The evaluation rigorously assessed key areas, including the breadth of our programmes, research capability, institutional size and scale, governance and management, financial sustainability, academic environment, and quality assurance mechanisms. The HKCAAVQ concluded that we met the high standards required of a private university.



Subsequently, on 9 January 2024, with approval from the Chief Executive in Council, Caritas Institute of Higher Education was officially renamed Saint Francis University (SFU). This momentous transformation not only establishes SFU as the first Catholic university in Hong Kong, but also positions it as the fourth self-financing post-secondary institution to achieve university status.

This milestone underscores our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and institutional growth, reflecting our dedication to advancing education and serving the needs of both students and the broader community.





History and Milestones

Saint Francis University (SFU) has experienced remarkable growth and transformation since its founding. Originally established as a post-secondary institution in 1985 under the name Caritas Francis Hsu College, and later renamed Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) in 2011, SFU has consistently evolved to meet the changing needs of society. This evolution culminated in its official recognition as a university on 9 January 2024 – a significant milestone in its history.



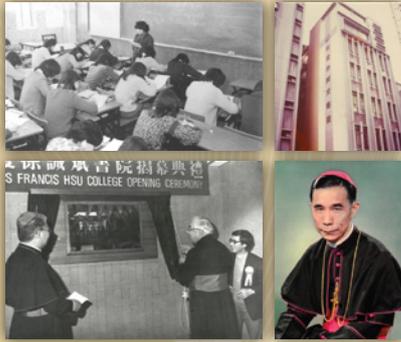
The journey to achieving university status was marked by rigorous evaluations conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications and various professional societies. The positive outcomes of these comprehensive reviews affirmed CIHE's readiness to operate as a university, underscoring its dedication to academic excellence and institutional advancement.

SFU's amalgamation with Caritas Bianchi College of Careers in 2008 has been instrumental in fulfilling its mission to provide flexible and diversified study pathways. This partnership reflects SFU's longstanding commitment to aligning its educational offerings with the evolving needs of students and the broader community, ensuring accessibility and relevance in a rapidly changing world.

With a legacy rooted in continuous growth and transformation, SFU remains dedicated to shaping the future of self-financing tertiary education in Hong Kong. While embracing its new role as a university, SFU continues to uphold its commitment to societal impact and the holistic development of its students, ensuring they are equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

KEY MILESTONES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY A PHOTOGRAPHIC REVIEW

1985



Opening ceremony of Caritas Francis Hsu College (Photo courtesy of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Archives) The late Rev Francis Hsu, the third Bishop and the first Chinese Bishop of Hong Kong

Caritas Francis Hsu College (CFHC) was founded in 1985

1997

The Centre for Advanced and Professional Studies was established in 1997

2001



Members of the accreditation panel

CFHC was accorded the status of an Approved Post-Secondary College under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (CAP. 320)

2009

The College started to run a number of study programmes at the CBCC Tseung Kwan O Campus

The Associate of Social Science in Social Work (Part-time mode) and the Higher Diploma in Human Services programmes were validated by the HKCAAVQ

2011



Open Ceremony of CBCC Tseung Kwan O Campus in 2011

Approval was granted by the Chief Executive in Council to rename Caritas Francis Hsu College as Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) with effect from 27 May 2011

The Chief Executive in Council granted approval for the Institute to offer the degree-conferring Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) Programme

1990



Approval was given by the then Government of Hong Kong for the College to offer post-secondary education programmes

Caine Road Campus in Central, in early days (Photo courtesy of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Archives)

1996



Oxford Road campus in Kowloon Tong

The College expanded through the creation of a new campus on Oxford Road, Kowloon Tong

2002

All Higher Diploma and Associate Degree programmes offered by CFHC were validated and accredited by the HKCAAVQ

2004

The Department of Social Sciences of CFHC was established, offering the Associate of Social Science in Social Work Programme

2008



CBCC Tseung Kwan O Campus, New Territories

CFHC amalgamated with Caritas Bianchi College of Careers (CBCC) administratively to pool together their resources

2010

The College underwent an Institutional Review as a prerequisite for the acquisition of the degree-conferring status

2012

The Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) Programme was expanded through the introduction of three additional streams, namely Marketing and Event Management, Hotel Management, and Tourism Management

2013

CIHE took possession of the plot of land adjacent to the campus of CBCC to be used as the site of a future campus

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Language and Liberal Studies (BA(LangLib)) and the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) (BSocSc) were launched

2015

The Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) (BNurs) and the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Entertainment (BSc(DE)) programmes were launched

2017



New campus of CIHE

The new campus of CIHE, which has the capacity to hold 5,000 students, came into operation

2021

CIHE successfully went through the Programme Area Accreditation exercise on Social Work

2023

CIHE successfully went through the Institution Review for the Conferment of the Private University Title



CIHE granted the university title and renamed Saint Francis University

2014



The Groundbreaking Ceremony of the new campus of CIHE in 2014

The School of Health Sciences and the School of Humanities and Language were established

The Groundbreaking Ceremony of the new campus of CIHE was held on 6 March 2014

2018

The Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education (HDECE) was launched

2020

CIHE successfully went through the Programme Area Accreditation exercise on General Business Administration

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy was launched in 2020/21

2022

The First Prize Presentation Ceremony for the Saint Francis Prize in Techno-Humanities was held on 5 January 2022

CIHE successfully went through the Programme Area Accreditation exercise on Information and Communication Technology

The first master programme, Master of Corporate Governance, was launched

2024

With the approval of the Chief Executive-in-Council given on 9 January 2024, CIHE was granted the university title and renamed Saint Francis University

Highlights of the Year

New Programmes



Master in Nursing and Allied Health (Part-time)

SFU is proud to announce the launch of its second postgraduate programme, the Master in Nursing and Allied Health (Part-time) (MNAH), which is set to commence in the 2024/25 academic year. This programme is designed to develop advanced practitioners and clinical leaders within the healthcare system, equipping them with comprehensive knowledge and specialized skills to excel in their fields.



SFU
聖方濟各大學
Saint Francis University

NEW IN 2024 / 2025

護理及專職醫療碩士

MASTER IN NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

(2 YEARS PART-TIME)

ADVANCED HEALTHCARE PRACTICE TO MEET THE EVER-CHANGING NEEDS

The MNAH programme also includes two intermediate exit awards: the Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing and Allied Health and the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing and Allied Health, providing students with flexible pathways to achieve their academic and professional goals.



Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Applied Hotel and Tourism Management

Set to launch in the 2024/25 academic year as a new JUPAS programme, the Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Applied Hotel and Tourism Management has been selected by the Education Bureau as SFU's second applied degree programme under the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes. This initiative seeks to cultivate skilled professionals to address the growing demand for talent in the tourism and hospitality sector, ensuring the industry's continued growth and success.

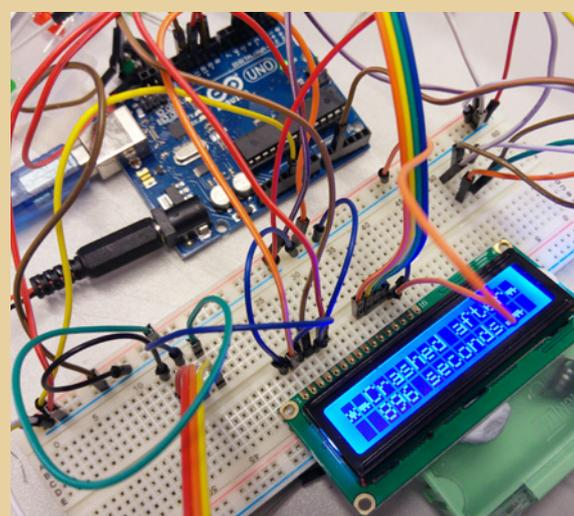


Diploma in Practical Information and Communication Technology



As part of the Caritas Vocational, Professional and Moral Education Scheme, SFU offers the Diploma in Practical Information and Communication Technology to Caritas Secondary School students from Form 4 to Form 6 who choose Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an elective subject alongside their DSE studies. This programme provides students with essential foundational skills and hands-on practical experience, preparing them for future careers in the dynamic and ever-evolving ICT industry while they complete their secondary education.

Upon successfully completing the diploma programme, students will earn a Hong Kong Qualifications Framework Level 3 qualification, enabling them to pursue further studies such as the Higher Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Information and Communication Technology or other sub-degree programmes offered by SFU.





Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy Obtained Professional Accreditation



SFU has been committed to addressing the needs of the community by nurturing healthcare professionals, alleviating pressure on the public healthcare system. The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy (BSc (Hons) PT) programme has received professional accreditation from the Supplementary Medical Professions Council, qualifying its graduates for registration as physiotherapists and enabling them to practice in Hong Kong.

To celebrate this significant achievement, SFU hosted an Accreditation Ceremony on 1 August, graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including Mr. Tony Au Tat-kwong, representative of the Supplementary Medical Professions Council; Mrs. Eleanor Chan, President of the Hong Kong Physiotherapists' Union; and Mr. Alexander Woo, President of the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association. Representing SFU at the ceremony were Professor Lo Tit Wing, Acting President; Professor Eric Chan, Dean of the S.K. Yee School of Health Sciences; and Professor Arran Leung, Programme Leader of the BSc (Hons) PT programme. This milestone reflects SFU's dedication to excellence in healthcare education and its contribution to the advancement of the physiotherapy profession in Hong Kong.





The 1st Annual Learning and Teaching Symposium



The 1st Annual Learning and Teaching Symposium of SFU was successfully held on 6 May 2024, drawing 200 participants to our campus. Under the theme “Forging Educational Partnerships between Academia, Community, and Industry,” the Centre for Excellence at SFU invited experienced scholars and practitioners from various sectors to share their valuable insights and in-depth experiences on teaching and learning within universities of applied sciences.

SFU was honored to have Professor Lo Tit Wing, Acting President of SFU, deliver the opening remarks. The symposium also featured Dr. Turo Kilpeläinen, President and CEO of LAB University of Applied Sciences, Finland, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Kilpeläinen delivered a compelling presentation titled “Universities of Applied Sciences in Practice – Case Finland,” providing participants with a profound understanding of Finland’s applied education model.

The event highlighted SFU’s commitment to fostering collaboration among academia, industry, and the community, further strengthening its position as a leading university of applied sciences in Hong Kong.





Teaching Excellence Award



The Saint Francis Teaching Excellence Award was established to honor academic staff members at SFU who have demonstrated exceptional teaching excellence during the academic year. This year, the awards were presented to Dr. Andrew Low Yiu Tsang, Director of the Research Office; Ms. Mickey Ip Po Na, Programme Leader of the Higher Diploma in Human Services; and Mr. Leo Kwok Kwan Siu from the S.K. Yee School of Health Sciences, in recognition

of their outstanding teaching practices. The awardees inspired their colleagues with insightful sharing of best practices in teaching and learning, as well as their innovative approaches to enhancing student learning experiences. Their dedication and creativity have set a high standard for teaching excellence at SFU, contributing to the university's commitment to fostering a dynamic and supportive learning environment.



Naming of the S.K. Yee School of Health Sciences



The naming of the S.K. Yee School of Health Sciences was proudly unveiled as a gesture of deep gratitude for the generous contribution from the S.K. Yee Medical Foundation in support of SFU's healthcare education initiatives. The naming recognition also extended to the Department of Health Sciences, the Healthcare Research Centre, and the Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

These naming acknowledgments stand as a testament to the Foundation's extraordinary generosity toward SFU, while also symbolizing the unwavering community support for the university's institutional advancement. This milestone reflects the shared commitment to fostering excellence in healthcare education and research for the betterment of society.





Shatin New Campus Project



To support future development and expand SFU's capacity to accommodate more students, plans are underway to establish a new campus in Shatin by utilizing the former site of Caritas Shatin Marden Foundation Secondary School. The project will be implemented in two phases. The first phase involves the refurbishment of an existing structure, with completion anticipated by 2027-28, while the second phase will focus on the reconstruction of another structure, with a target completion date of 2030-31. Once completed, the new campus is expected to have the capacity to serve more than 3,000 students, significantly enhancing SFU's ability to meet growing educational demands.



Advancing Research Strength



Advancing Research Strengths



Research Projects

A. Internal Research Grants

Institutional Development Grant (IDG)

There were 8 IDG projects, with a total funding of HK\$800,000. The projects focused on a wide range of disciplines, including healthcare, education, social issues, theatre studies, mental health, workplace dynamics, and the cultural impact of technology. Key areas included:

- Healthcare: Occupational health and safety, emesis control, and mental health of older adults.
- Education and Youth: Bullying in secondary schools, behavioral issues in adolescents, and migrant workers' influence on elementary jobs.
- Arts and Culture: Sino-British theatre studies and the reception of beyond-human subjects in Chinese intellectual history.

Institutional Strategic Grant (ISG)

There were 6 projects, with a total funding of HK\$3,456,675. The ISG projects are strategic in nature and focus on innovative solutions in education, healthcare, technology, and social inclusion. Key areas included:

- **Education:** Exploring parents' and teachers' knowledge, attitudes and experiences with vocational and professional education and training (VPET) for secondary school students.
- **Healthcare and Technology:** Technological innovations in healthcare education, and narrative therapy for adolescents' psychological adjustment.
- **Social Inclusion:** Development of caregivers' support strategies, visually impaired-friendly board games and a policy framework for poverty alleviation.

B. External Research Grants

RGC Research Grants

The institution secured significant external funding for various research initiatives, amounting to HK\$8,288,811 across multiple grants. Under the Research Grant Council's (RGC) Faculty Development Scheme (FDS), HK\$3,708,121 was allocated to four projects, including improving air quality, developing advanced cartoon animation editing pipelines, exploring modernity in China, and studying transnational elder care networks.

Additionally, the Institutional Development Scheme Research Infrastructure (IDS(R)) provided HK\$4,118,290 for the establishment of the Children and Youth Research Centre. Under the Inter-Institutional Development Scheme (IIDS), HK\$462,400 was granted to examine the future development of caregiving policy and practice in Hong Kong.

Public Policy Research Fund Scheme

In addition, the Public Policy Research Fund Scheme awarded HK\$734,597 for SFU researchers to investigate immobility decisions and the well-being of younger stayers in Hong Kong.

Contract Research

The institution conducted 8 contract research projects with a total funding of HK\$1,574,737, addressing a diverse range of societal issues. These projects included support for socially isolated caregivers and evaluation of social work services and training. Research on homelessness and housing explored the recovery housing needs of homeless individuals, while studies on elderly services examined mobility patterns of service users and the relationship between loneliness, resilience and depression in older adults. Additionally, retirement and long-term care research investigated challenges faced by Hong Kong residents in the Greater Bay Area, and child safeguarding efforts examined practices through a school award programme to promote the well-being of children.

The above research projects reflect the institution's commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research, addressing critical societal challenges, and enhancing community welfare. They span diverse disciplines, including healthcare, education, social sciences, business and the arts. A strong emphasis is placed on leveraging technology for inclusive and innovative solutions. These projects demonstrate the institution's commitment to cutting-edge research and real-world applications to benefit students, professionals, and the broader community.



RGC-funded Research Centres

The following four research centres, funded by the Research Grants Council (RGC), represent Saint Francis University's dedication to advancing interdisciplinary research and creating real-world impact. These centres foster collaboration among academics, industry professionals, and policymakers, addressing critical societal challenges and promoting innovation.

Healthcare Research Centre

Established: 2016



The Centre focuses on advancing healthcare practices and policies through cutting-edge research. Its mission is to improve public health outcomes by exploring innovative solutions for healthcare delivery, disease prevention, and community wellness. The Centre collaborates with healthcare practitioners, institutions, and policymakers to address pressing healthcare challenges. The Centre was renamed as the S.K. Yee Healthcare Research Centre in 2024.

Distributed Artificial Intelligence Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Research

Established: 2020



The Laboratory is at the forefront of integrating AI with interdisciplinary research. It explores how AI can be applied to solve complex problems across diverse fields, including healthcare, education, business, and environmental sciences. The Laboratory emphasizes collaboration between AI specialists and domain experts, driving innovation through a fusion of technology and human-centered approaches.

Techno-Humanities Research Centre
Established: 2021



The Centre bridges the gap between technology and the humanities, exploring how advancements in science and technology shape and interact with human culture, ethics, and society. The Centre focuses research on digital transformation, the ethical implications of emerging technologies, and the integration of technology in liberal arts and humanities.

Data Science Research Centre for Social Policies and Services
Established: 2022



This Centre leverages data science to inform and improve social policies and services. By analyzing large-scale data, the Centre provides evidence-based insights to address societal challenges such as poverty, social inequality, social care access and housing issues. The Centre works closely with governments, NGOs, and social service providers to create impactful and sustainable solutions.



兒童及青年研究中心 Children and Youth Research Centre

New Centre: Children and Youth Research Centre

The Children and Youth Research Centre (CYRC), established in January 2024, is a new research centre funded by the RGC. This prestigious funding underscores the significance of CYRC's mission and its potential impact on advancing research in the self-financing post-secondary education sector.

The CYRC is dedicated to improving the well-being of children and youth in Hong Kong by addressing the complex and multifaceted challenges they face in a rapidly evolving economic, cultural, and social environment. Through conducting rigorous scientific research, facilitating cost-effective service programmes, and informing policy decisions, the CYRC seeks to create meaningful and lasting contributions to the development of children and youth.

Children and youth represent a significant demographic in Hong Kong, navigating a critical phase of positive personal development that includes nurturing the self, harmonizing family dynamics, building constructive human relationships, developing professional commitment, caring for society, and exploring the broader world. Recognizing the diverse physical, biological, psychological, social, cultural, environmental, and societal influences that shape human behavior, the CYRC adopts a systems perspective and an integrated approach to studying and supporting youth development.

As part of its vision, SFU is committed to fostering a profound understanding of the psychological, mental, moral, social, cultural, and technological issues affecting children and youth. By leveraging the expertise of the CYRC, SFU aims to create impactful research that advances knowledge, supports evidence-based practices, and informs holistic policy making to benefit future generations.



Research Seminars



The University organized 23 research seminars, covering a wide range of topics across multiple disciplines, including social sciences, health sciences, humanities, science and education.

The social sciences seminars explored pressing societal challenges, including e-government and smart governance in the digital era, the hidden burden of informal carers in Hong Kong, and the impact of employment on the quality of life of low-income older adults. Topics also addressed housing solutions through a social rental agency model, networked philanthropic approaches to support impoverished communities, and academic stress in social work first placements. A seminar on integrating social design into education pedagogy further expanded the practical applications of social science research. The science and education-focused seminars addressed modern challenges, such as technology advancement and adolescent development, and the effectiveness of play therapy for children with special educational needs, demonstrating the role of data and innovation in addressing developmental and social issues.

The health sciences seminars tackled a range of health-related topics, such as the link between motor competency and physical activity, nurse-driven genetic counseling in genomic healthcare, and the relationship between older adults' loneliness and live-in migrant domestic workers. These seminars demonstrated a commitment to advancing health-related research that directly impacts community well-being.

The humanities and languages seminars offered a rich exploration of cultural and philosophical topics, including

李歐梵教授專題演講 and literature and film through the works of Ma Zhiyuan and Fei Mu, landscape aesthetics, and philosophical reflections in Rainer Maria Rilke's writings. Other seminars delved into niche topics such as feminist audio-visual analysis of Barbie (2023) and the semiotic mediation in early childhood mathematics education, showcasing the intersection of culture, philosophy, and education. A linguistic seminar titled “趣談文字學” offered an engaging exploration of Chinese characters and their cultural significance.

李歐梵教授 專題演講：

文學與風景

從馬志遠的元曲到費穆的《小城之春》

對談嘉賓

鄭文惠教授 (台灣政治大學中國文學系)



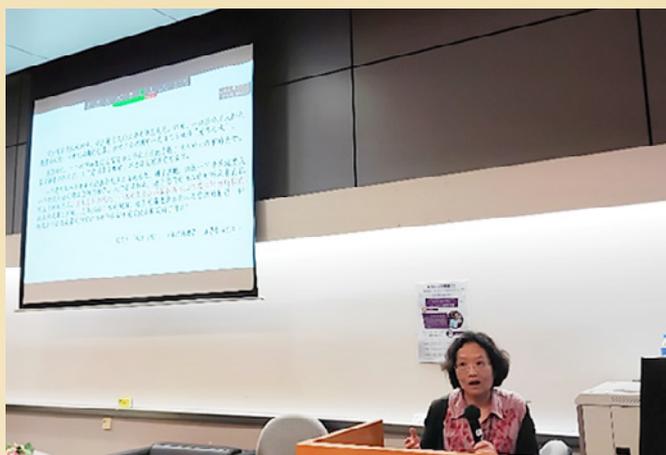
李歐梵教授 專題演講：

文學與風景

段義孚與風景美學

對談嘉賓

張箭飛教授 (武漢大學文學院)



李歐梵教授 專題演講：

文學與風景

里爾克的“天使”

對談嘉賓

盧迎伏教授 (四川大學新聞學院)



The Posthuman Biosemiotics

Towards an Organological Approach to Ecotranslation in Chinese Poetics and Laozi's Daodejing

Speaker

Prof. WONG Kin Yuen



The Research Office provided practical training and theoretical exploration in its seminars, covering topics like grant proposal writing, research methodologies (experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental designs), and the philosophical foundations of academic research methods, including subjectivity and objectivity.

Collectively, the 23 seminars reflect a vibrant and diverse academic environment, fostering intellectual growth across disciplines while addressing real-world challenges. By promoting such a wide array of topics, the institution reinforces its commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and engaging with both local and global communities.

Community Engagement



Memorandums of Understanding



SFU has entered into a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with various partners to foster collaborations across multiple domains.

As part of its partnership with the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC), SFU will provide comprehensive learning opportunities to members of the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Department under SF&OC. This collaboration includes offering flexible admission arrangements, ensuring that athletes can seamlessly integrate their educational pursuits with their athletic careers.



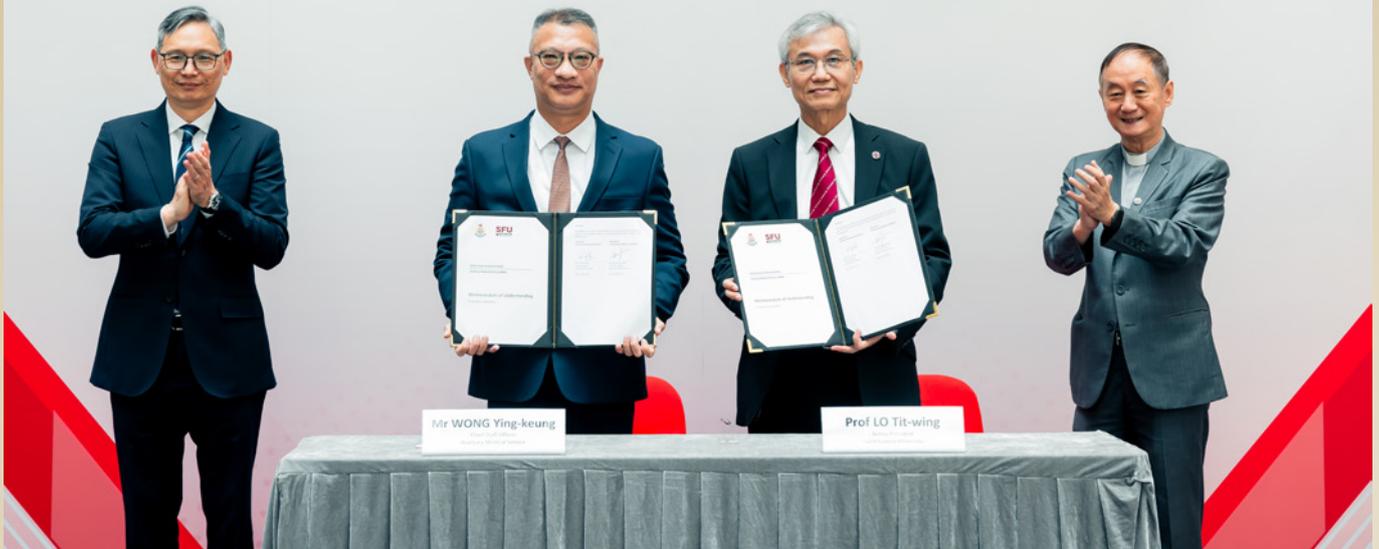
SFU will support study articulation opportunities for secondary school graduates from the Affiliated School of Jinan University for Hong Kong & Macao Students through the Principal's Nomination Scholarships.



醫療輔助隊與聖方濟各大學 合作備忘錄簽署儀式



Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony between
Auxiliary Medical Service and Saint Francis University



Additionally, SFU has established a wide range of collaborations with the Auxiliary Medical Service, including academic partnerships, youth development programmes and research initiatives. These collaborations involve diverse activities such as medical and healthcare training, volunteer service and life planning, reflecting SFU's commitment to fostering community engagement and professional development.





OLYMPICS AND HUMANITIES
Photo Exhibition and French Culture Day at Saint Francis University

Organizers
Ip Ying To Lee Yu Yee School of Humanities and Languages
Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau
Alliance Française de Hong Kong
Library, SFU
Student Affairs Office, SFU

Photo Exhibition
28 June - 28 August 2024
SFU Library

French Culture Day
28 June 2024
SFU Library

Register Here

All Are Welcome



Olympics and Humanities Photo Exhibition and French Culture Day

The Olympics and Humanities Photo Exhibition and French Culture Day, held on June 28, 2024, was a resounding success. Organized through the collaborative efforts of the Ip Ying To Lee Yu Yee School of Humanities and Languages, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau, Alliance Française de Hong Kong, the Library, and the Student Affairs Office of SFU, the event provided a unique opportunity for colleagues, students and the public to delve into the Paris Olympics and French culture.



Student Life



Student Life





Campus Life Instilled with Value Education (CamLIVE)

CamLIVE was a campus-wide value education initiative designed to enhance students' understanding and application of values through the establishment of the Caritas Value Education Center. The project aimed to foster positive attitudes and behaviors rooted in the five Catholic core values upheld by all Caritas education sectors: Love, Life, Truth, Justice, and Family. Additionally, CamLIVE sought to cultivate students' sense of belonging to society and their country, while strengthening their identity as citizens of China. An online transcript system was developed to track students' participation in value education activities, ensuring accountability and engagement.

Twenty-four activities were organized, attended by a total of 5,460 participants. Specific activities included the value education induction programme for all first-year students, ensuring a strong foundation for their university experience. Life education activities were embedded within curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities to promote holistic student development. There were lectures on Basic Law and National Security Law, ensuring that all students attended mandatory lectures to deepen their understanding of legal frameworks and national security. Through CamLIVE, students gained a deeper appreciation for core values and national identity while developing positive attitudes and behaviours that contributed to their personal growth and societal engagement.





Caritas Character Building Induction Programme

As part of the new student orientation, the Caritas Character Building Induction Programme was designed to help first-year students transition smoothly into university life while fostering personal growth and community engagement. A total of four sessions were conducted, benefiting 1,568 first-year students. The programme's multifaceted approach combined value education, mentorship, resource familiarization, and resilience-building activities to ensure students start their academic journey with confidence and a strong sense of purpose.





The Caritas Character Building Induction Programme was tailored to help students explore themes such as self-awareness, ethical decision-making, community service, and personal responsibility to align their academic and personal goals with the university's values. Tours and interactive sessions helped students understand how to access campus resources, such as the library, student affairs offices, counselling services, and extracurricular clubs. Students were introduced to their assigned mentors, who serve as role models and provide guidance throughout their academic journey.





SEN Support Seminars



To enhance the ability of university staff to support students with Special Educational Needs (SEN), a series of targeted SEN Support Seminars were organized. These seminars aimed to equip staff with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to create an inclusive and supportive environment for students with diverse needs. The seminars trained staff about the challenges faced by students with SEN, offered actionable techniques to accommodate students with SEN in academic settings, promoted a culture of empathy and understanding, ensuring that students with SEN feel valued and supported throughout their university experience.



A total of sixty-nine staff members attended the seminars, benefiting from the tailored training and resources provided. They reported feeling more confident and prepared to support students with SEN, particularly in identifying their needs and implementing accommodation. The training strengthened the university's commitment to providing equitable education opportunities for all students, regardless of their abilities.

Standard Mental Health First Aid Course

In partnership with the Mental Health Association of Hong Kong, the Standard Mental Health First Aid Course was designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to support themselves and others in managing mental health challenges. By fostering awareness, empathy, and practical intervention strategies, the course aimed to create a healthier and more supportive campus environment. It helped the students to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health issues, promote awareness of mental health resources, encourage help-seeking behaviour, and build resilience and emotional intelligence. Empowering them to be mental health advocates, twenty-nine students successfully completed the course.





Lunch Time Music Energy Boosting Series



The Lunch Time Music Energy Boosting Series was designed to provide university students with a refreshing and energizing break during their busy academic schedules. The initiative leveraged the power of music to enhance mental well-being, foster community and improve overall productivity. The activities rejuvenated students during the lunch hour, reduced their stress and anxiety through a relaxing space, fostered a sense of community, encouraged work-life balance, and enhanced creativity and inspiration. The Series offered cultural enrichment and added value to students' university life by creating enjoyable and memorable lunchtime events.





Mental Health Week

The Mental Health Week was designed to promote awareness, understanding, and support for mental health and well-being among university students. This initiative was aimed to raise students' awareness of mental health issues, promote self-care and resilience, foster a supportive community, provide access to mental health resources, reduce stigma around seeking help, cultivate emotional intelligence and communication skills, and encourage healthy coping mechanisms. A series of activities were organized to enhance mental health awareness, such as group exercises, talks by mental health professionals, art and creative expression workshops, and pet therapy.





Student Achievement



SFU takes pride in hosting its own Karate Team, providing students passionate about karate with the opportunity to hone their skills, pursue their interests, and represent the university in this dynamic sport.

MA Hei Yu, a second-year student in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physiotherapy programme, delivered an exceptional performance at the 10th EAKF Karate Championships. Her remarkable skills impressed the judges, earning her a silver medal in the Female Individual Kata (U21) event. This achievement contributed to the success of the Hong Kong Karatedo Team, which won an impressive total of 11 medals at the championship.

SFU proudly celebrated MA's outstanding accomplishment and extended its warmest congratulations to her. The university also expressed its hopes for MA and the Hong Kong Karatedo Team to continue achieving even greater success in the future.

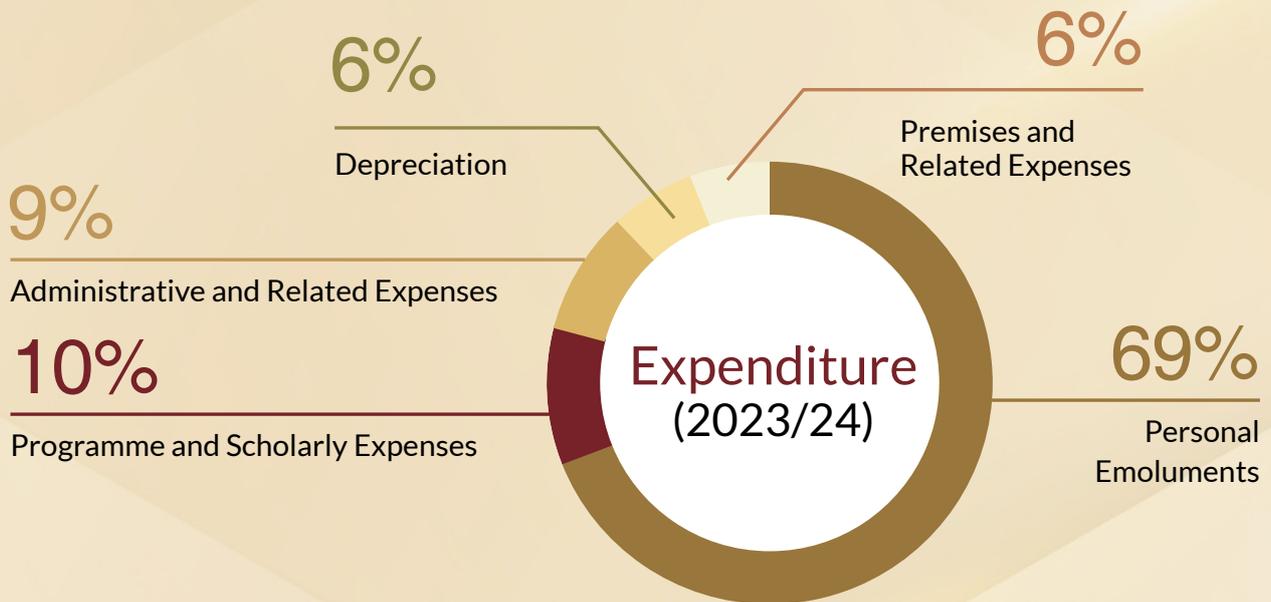
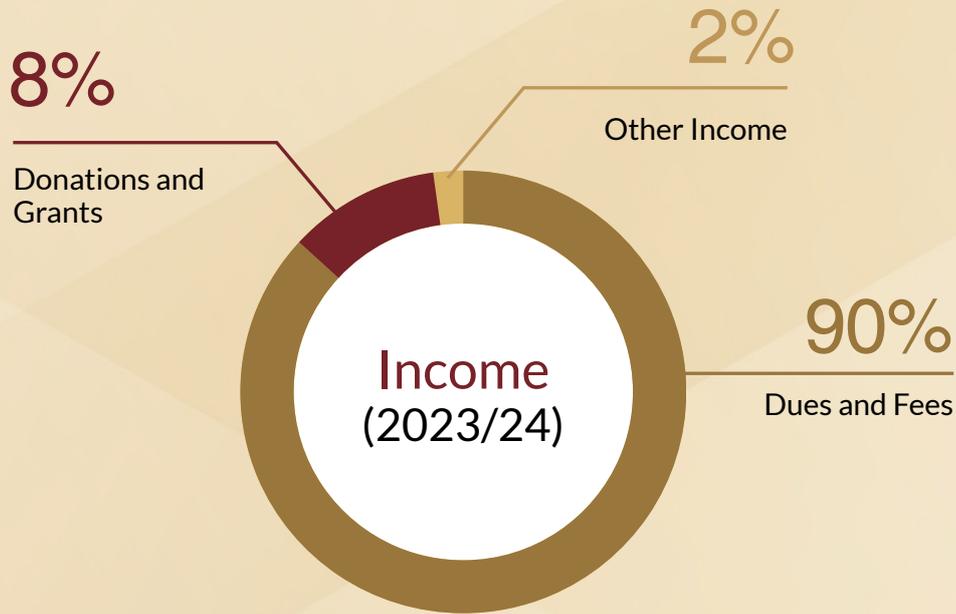
Images Courtesy of AKF Asian Karate Federation



Facts and Figures



Income and Expenditure





Students and Graduates

Student Enrollment 2023-24	All	Male	Female
Bachelor's / Master's Degree	3507	1197	2310
Higher Diploma/ Associate Degree/ Diploma	1131	544	587
Total	4638	1741	2897

Student Intake 2023-24	Bachelor's Degree	Higher Diploma
Total Number of Student Intake (All Programmes)	1084	326
Total Number of Student Intake (Year 1 Admission)	953	326
Average HKDSE Score of Year 1 Students (Best 5)	16.79	14.24

Graduates 2023-24	No.
Master's Degree	20
Bachelor's Degree	672
Higher Diploma	268
Diploma	51
Total	1011



External Research Grants

a. Research Grant Council Funded Research

Faculty Development Scheme	Funded Amount
Providing Clean Air to Breathe by Wet Electrostatic Precipitators	HK\$1,355,776
Developing Efficient Cartoon Animation Editing Pipeline via Deep Entity Recognition and Motion Analysis	HK\$1,295,180
Rearticulating Modernity in China: Trains and Railways in Wartime Literature and Film 1937-1958	HK\$577,400
The Building and Operation of Transnational Elder Care Network: A Case Study of Left-behind Elderly in Hong Kong	HK\$479,765
Total	HK\$3,708,121
Institutional Development Scheme Research Infrastructure	
Children and Youth Research Centre	HK\$4,118,290
Inter-Institutional Development Scheme	
The Future Development of Caregiving Policy and Practice in Hong Kong: International Perspective and Local Initiatives	HK\$462,400

b. Public Policy Research Fund Scheme

Topic	Funded Amount
Immobility Decisions and Wellbeing: The Younger Stayers in Hong Kong	HK\$734,597

c. Contract Research

Topics	Funded Amount
Evaluation Study on the Pilot Scheme on Social Work Services for Pre-Primary Institutions	HK\$200,000
Meeting on the Rainbow: Virtual Social Club for the Socially Isolated Carers in the Community	HK\$223,111
An Exploratory Study on the Recovery Housing Needs of Homeless People	HK\$100,000
Study of Mobility of Elderly Service Users of Christian Family Service Centre	HK\$300,000
The Association of Loneliness, Psychological Resilience and Depression in Community-dwelling Older People Attending NGO Social Centres in Hong Kong: A Cross-sectional Survey Design Study	HK\$70,000
Evaluation of and Training for Social Worker in Project Careerpillar Dissemination 2024-2025	HK\$500,000
Retirement Preparation and Long-term Care Issues in the Guangdong, Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) for Hong Kong People	HK\$70,026
Research Study of Child Safeguarding School Award Programme (Phase 1)	HK\$111,600
Total	HK\$1,574,737



Internal Research Grants

a. Institutional Development Grant

Topics	Funded Amount
Occupational Health and Safety of Nursing Students during Clinical Placement	HK\$100,000
Effects of Hypothalamic GIP/GLP-1 Agonism in Emesis Control	HK\$100,000
An Awareness, Courage and Love Intervention to Help Chinese Older Adults in the Post-pandemic Era: A Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial	HK\$100,000
Post-pandemic Physical Bullying, Cyber Bullying in Secondary Schools and Adolescents' Behavioral and Emotional Problems in Hong Kong	HK\$100,000
From a Thing to a Metaphor: A Reception History of the Beyond-Human Subjects Among Modern Chinese Intellectuals	HK\$100,000
The Sino-British Intercultural Translation and Theatre Studies: A Case Study of the Bilingual Writer Hsiung Shih-I's Early Works (1902-1991)	HK\$100,000
Mental Health and Everyday Prospective Memory in Older Adults: A Cross-sectional Survey Study	HK\$100,000
The Effect of Migrant Workers from Mainland China on Elementary/ Low-Skilled Jobs in Hong Kong: A Pilot Study	HK\$100,000
Total	HK\$800,000

b. Institutional Strategic Grant

Topics	Funded Amount
A Research Study on Developing a Policy Framework for Poverty Alleviation in Hong Kong	HK\$441,075
A Study of Strategies to Support Informal Caregivers Using an Approach Based on Data Engineering and Social Network Analysis	HK\$879,000
Addressing Preventive Intervention on Early Adolescents' Psychological Maladjustment: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Narrative Therapy Group Approach	HK\$841,150
Research on Services and Inclusive Learning and Creative Model: Development of Visually Impaired-Friendly Board Games	HK\$395,400
Technological Innovations in Healthcare Education	HK\$164,600
Exploring Secondary School Students', Parents' and Teachers' Knowledge, Attitudes and Experiences with Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET)	HK\$735,450
Total	HK\$3,456,675



Research Seminars

Name of Seminar	Organizer
Exploring E-government and Smart Governance in the Digital Era	Social Sciences
Grant Proposal Writing Training Workshop	Research Office
Introducing Pedagogical Research	Social Sciences
The Hidden Burden: Unveiling the Journey of Informal Carers in Hong Kong	Social Sciences
Social Rental Agency in Hong Kong	Social Sciences
Seminar on Research Methodologies: Experimental, Quasi-Experimental and Non-experimental Designs	Research Office
Understanding Research Office	Research Office
Unveiling the Link Between Motor Competency and Physical Activity: Exploring the Key Connections and Characteristics	Health Sciences
趣談文字學：「女」要屈膝？「娶妻」不可取？	Research Office
Exploring the Philosophical Foundations of Research Methods in Academic Disciplines: Subjectivity, Intersubjectivity and Objectivity	Research Office
李歐凡教授專題講座 1. 文學與電影：從馬志遠的元曲到費穆的《小城之春》 2. 文學與風景：段義孚與風景美學 3. 文學與哲學：里爾克的“天使”	Humanities and Languages

Name of Seminar	Organizer
The Posthuman Biosemiotics: Towards an Organological Approach to Ecotranslation in Chinese Poetics and Laozi's Daodejing	Research Office
Tool of Semiotic Mediation in Early Childhood Mathematics Education: An Investigation of Teachers' Task Design	Humanities and Languages
Feminist Audio-visual Content Analysis of the Dancing Scenes of Barbie 2023: Recontextualization as the 1960s Background and Self-Directed Individualism	Humanities and Languages
The Dyadic Relationship Quality Between Older Adults' Loneliness and Live-in Migrant domestic Workers: A Mixed Methods Study	Health Sciences
Nurse-Driven Genetic Counselling in Genomic Healthcare: An Integrative Literature Review	Health Sciences
Perceived Academic Stress in Social Work First Placement: Challenges and Opportunities	Social Sciences
The Impact of Employment on the Quality of Life of Low-income Older Adults in Hong Kong: An Analysis Using the Job Demands-Resources Model	Social Sciences
Engaging Impoverished Families and Small Enterprises in Communities in Hong Kong: Networked Philanthropic Approach	Social Sciences
Integrating Social Design into Design Education Pedagogy	Social Sciences and Design
Effectiveness of Play Therapy for Children with Special Educational Need	Children & Youth Research Centre
Technology Advancement and Adolescent Development	Data Science Research Centre



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