



**CHANGES OF THE ACADEMIC STRUCTURE OF  
HONG KONG UNIVERSITIES IN 2012 –  
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR  
UNDERGRADUATE SURVEYING PROGRAMMES**

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## **Background**

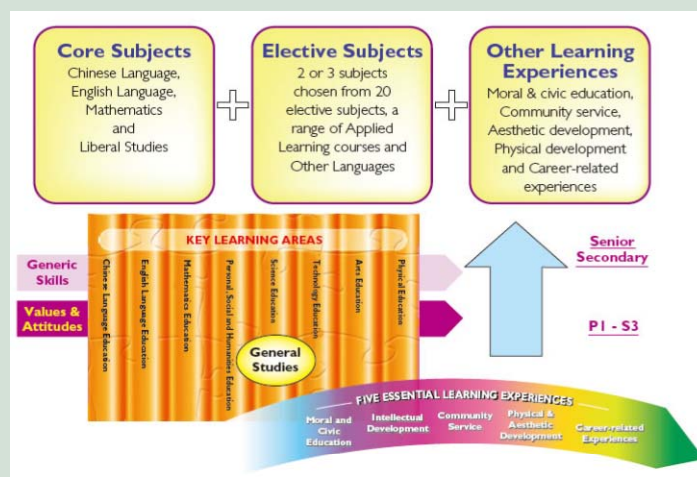
- The academic structure in Hong Kong will have a complete changeover in 2012.
- Currently, most of the secondary school students spend SEVEN years in high school before entering the university, for a period of THREE years. (UK Model)
- The new 3-3-4 education reform means that students will have to spend FOUR years in university. (China/N. America Model)
- Currently, most of the vocational education and training related to Surveying in Hong Kong are only taught at TERTIARY education level.

## New Education System

- By 2012, the system will be internationalized:
  - ☞ THREE years of Junior Secondary,
  - ☞ THREE years of Senior Secondary, and
  - ☞ a FOUR-YEAR normative undergraduate degree.
- New senior secondary structure started in September 2009.



## New Secondary School Education Concept



## Components of the Senior Secondary Student Programme

<b>CORE SUBJECTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chinese Language</li> <li>2. English Language</li> <li>3. Mathematics</li> <li>4. Liberal studies</li> </ol>
<b>ELECTIVE Subjects</b>	<u>Subjects include:</u> Literature/History/Music/Ethics & Religious Studies/Geography/Physics/Chemistry/Biology /Business/ICT/Visual Arts/Physical Education
<b>APPLIED LEARNING COURSES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moral and Civic Education</li> <li>2. Community Service</li> <li>3. Aesthetic Development</li> <li>4. Physical Development</li> <li>5. Career-related Experiences</li> </ol>



## A Comparison of Current and New Hong Kong Academic Structures

New Structure		Current Structure	
PG	Post-graduate Study	Post-graduate Study	PG
Year 4	4-Year College or University	Tertiary Education	Year 3
Year 3			Year 2
Year 2	2-Year Community College		Year 1
Year 1			
S6	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE)	S7
S5		Advanced-Level Course	S6
S4		Senior Secondary School	S5
S3		Senior Secondary School	S4
S2	Junior Secondary School	Junior Secondary School	S3
S1		Junior Secondary School	S2
P6		Junior Secondary School	S1
P5	Primary School	Primary School	P6
P4			P5
P3			P4
P2			P3
P1			P2
K			Kindergarten
			K



## Challenges

- Should be there interface between Secondary and Tertiary education for Surveying programmes?
- In the Current System
  - ☞ Difficulties in recruiting students for Surveying programmes as they do not have any basic understanding of SURVEYING subjects.
- In the New System
  - ☞ The same problem remain unsolved.



## Surveying Teaching in Tertiary Education

- THREE of the eight institutions of higher education in Hong Kong offer government-funded Surveying programmes varying from higher diploma, associate degree to degree studies.
  - ☞ University of Hong Kong (HKU),
  - ☞ Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and
  - ☞ City University of Hong Kong (CityU).
- All the bachelor degrees course have obtained accreditation from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).



## Government-funded Surveying Courses in Hong Kong

Name of Institution	HKU	PolyU	CityU	CityU	PolyU
Name of Surveying Programme	Bachelor of Science in Surveying	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying/Minor in Law	Associate of Science in Surveying (Building Surveying/Estate Surveying/Quantity Surveying)	High Diploma in Building Technology and Management (Surveying)
Mode of Study	Full-time	Full-time/Sandwich	Full-time	Full-time	Full-time
Duration	3-year	3-year (Full-time) or 4-year (Sandwich)	3-year	2-year	2-year

## Challenges

- Change in the current curriculum for Surveying programmes are inevitable.
- Questions that need to be dealt with:
  - ☞ What should we teach our Surveying students with the extra year of their university studies?
  - ☞ Could we increase the weighting of Internship towards the new degree structure?

## Singapore as a Learning Model

- Hong Kong and Singapore have a lot in common.
  - ☞ Natural resource are largely absent.
  - ☞ Land resource is scarce, geographically small with large population
  - ☞ The third and fourth most densely populated areas in the world.
  - ☞ Both Hong Kong and Singapore governments have strong concerns about high quality education.
  - ☞ Courses taught in higher institutions often seek recognition from professional association to maintain their standards and quality at an international level.

## Singapore as a Learning Model

- Surveying courses taught at National University of Singapore (NUS) are the only two courses in Singapore received RICS accreditation.
- Both courses have a 4-year curriculum, therefore suitable for comparison with the soon-to-be implemented system in Hong Kong.
- The table below compares the core subjects of both degree programmes in Singapore and whether any of those subjects are taught in Hong Kong .

CORE SUBJECTS FOR DEGREE COURSES	BSc in Building (QS)	BSc (Hons) in Real Estate	Is the subject common in any of the HK degree courses?
Art & Architectural Application	X		NO
Building Science	X		YES
Building Technology	X		YES
<b>Communication Skills</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NO</b>
Construction Management	X		YES
Construction Technology	X		YES
Design and Technology		X	NO
Economics	X	X	YES
Law	X	X	YES
Measurement	X		YES
Real Estate Policy and Mangement		X	NO
Real Estate Business		X	NO
<b>Real Estate Finance</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NO</b>
Real Estate management		X	YES
Research Methodology	X	X	YES
<b>Statistics</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NO</b>
Urban Land Use and Development	X	X	YES

## Singapore as a Learning Model

- THREE common subjects in both courses not currently taught in Hong Kong degree programmes:-
  - ☞ Real Estate Finance,
  - ☞ Research Methodology, and
  - ☞ Statistics.
- Generic skills such as Reserach Methods are only taught to students at HKU.
- The Generic side of knowledge learning in Hong Kong seems to have been neglected.

## Singapore as a Learning Model

- Given the nature of the programme structures, Surveying students in Hong Kong are well equipped with technical knowledge when they have completed their three-year degree studies.
- HK Graduates are confident at the operational level, but lack skills beyond that.
- The extra year for university studies could be an opportunity for Hong Kong educators to tackle the potential problem.

## Internship

- Universities in Hong Kong often encourage students to undertake internship as part of their degree studies.
- However, internships hardly to be considered as an integral part of the curriculum.
- Professional institutions play an important role in promoting internships, especially for Surveying.
- Greater collaboration between institutions of tertiary education and employers is required.



## Conclusion

- The interface between secondary and tertiary education in the area of Surveying remains minimal.
- Essential components of the Surveying must be built completely into the four year structure.
- Worthwhile to consider courses focusing on generic skills to be included in the new 4-year curriculum.
- Tertiary institutions in Hong Kong to work with employers to strengthen Internship opportunities.

**The End, Thank You!**