

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The Education University of Hong Kong is steadfast in its commitment to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. This commitment is woven into the fabric of the University's governance, research, educational ethos, and community life.

Cultivating Social Justice in the Classroom

The University is dedicated to preparing educators who can build a more equitable and sustainable world. A key component of this commitment is the undergraduate course '**Promoting Social Justice in Schools**'. This course equips future teachers with the essential knowledge and practical skills to foster inclusive and socially just learning environments.

Offered by the Department of Education Policy and Leadership, the course guides students to explore fundamental concepts of equity, fairness, and diversity. Participants critically analyse how policies, curricula, and school practices can affect different social groups, learning to identify and challenge systemic injustice. The curriculum covers a wide range of current issues, from poverty and minority rights to equal opportunities for students with special needs.

By emphasising inclusive pedagogy and community engagement, the course prepares educators to implement teaching strategies that accommodate students from varied socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Ultimately, it inspires and empowers a new generation of teachers to act as agents of positive social change, capable of taking a leading role in promoting justice within their schools and the wider community.

Advancing Justice and Governance through Education and Research

As a leading educational institution, EdUHK plays a pivotal role in advancing the principles of justice and good governance through its academic programmes and research. The University offers a **Minor in Law and Society**, which provides students with a multidisciplinary perspective on the theory and practice of law in local, regional, and global contexts. This programme equips students to understand major legal discourses and controversies, preparing them for careers where a strong sense of justice is indispensable.

Furthermore, EdUHK actively participates in city-wide initiatives to promote the rule of law. University members have joined the "**Rule of Law Education (ROLE) Stars Train-the-Leaders Programme**," a government initiative designed to enhance understanding of the legal system and empower future educators to promote the rule of law in the community.



Courses

47

37



Researchers



Research
Outputs

44

FWCI:1.15

2,571
participants



Outreach

22
events

Fostering Global Dialogue on Equity and Citizenship

As part of its commitment to addressing pressing global challenges, the University hosted a significant public lecture on 15 October 2024 titled '**Global Migration, Failed Citizenship, and the Quest for Equity**'. Delivered by the distinguished scholar Professor James A. Banks, the lecture offered an in-depth exploration of how international migration challenges traditional notions of citizenship, often leaving racial, ethnic, and cultural groups structurally excluded from their nation-states.

Professor Banks presented his typology of citizenship—failed, recognised, participatory, and transformative—and critically examined the vital role of the school in reducing 'failed citizenship' and empowering marginalised communities to become active participants in society. The event, which included a discussion panel of EdUHK's own leading academics, underscored the University's role in fostering a nuanced understanding of social justice and equity. By engaging with such complex global issues, EdUHK encourages critical thinking about how policies can be reformed to promote fairness and build more inclusive, cohesive societies.



Harnessing Big Data for Effective Poverty Alleviation

Academics at EdUHK are at the forefront of research exploring how technological innovation can enhance governance and address critical societal challenges. This commitment is exemplified in a 2024 study published in the journal *Public Administration*.

The research, titled "**From big data to higher bureaucratic capacity: Poverty alleviation in China**," investigates how the utilisation of big data technologies has significantly enhanced the capacity of government agencies to implement effective poverty alleviation programmes. The study demonstrates that the shift from traditional administrative methods to data-driven approaches allows for more precise targeting of impoverished populations, improved allocation of resources, and greater transparency in policy execution.

By facilitating real-time monitoring and evaluation, this technological transformation fosters more responsive governance and reduces systemic inefficiencies. The study underscores the profound potential of big data to revolutionise public administration and directly support the Sustainable Development Goals concerning poverty reduction and social equity.

This research from EdUHK provides valuable, policy-relevant insights into how technological innovation can be leveraged to bolster governance and advance social justice, offering a model for policymakers worldwide who seek to optimise administrative functions and achieve a more equitable society.

Source: Zhu, J., Xiao, H., & Wu, B. (2024). From big data to higher bureaucratic capacity: Poverty alleviation in China. *Public Administration*, 102(1), 61–78

Strengthening Higher Education for a Sustainable Future

The University has taken a significant step to enhance the quality and sustainability of higher education by establishing the Centre for Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies (CHELPS). As the first of its kind in Hong Kong, China, the centre is dedicated to advancing research and practice in higher education governance, leadership, and policy.

CHELPS aims to foster innovative approaches to university management, support evidence-based policy development, and nurture the next generation of leaders among educators and administrators. Housed within the University's Academy for Applied Policy and Educational Futures, the centre provides a vital platform for collaboration between scholars, policymakers, and institutional leaders to address the complex challenges facing the sector, including quality assurance, internationalisation, and sustainable development.

The establishment of CHELPS reflects EdUHK's firm commitment to strengthening higher education systems, not only in the Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong, China but also across Asia and the wider world. Through cutting-edge research, rigorous policy analysis, and professional development programmes, such as a new Master of Arts in Global Higher Education, the centre is poised to influence positive change and promote excellence and resilience in higher education leadership and policy.



Championing Integrity Through Governance and Student Action

EdUHK operates under a robust governance framework designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and the highest ethical standards. As a public body, the University and its employees are bound by the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance in Hong Kong, China, which strictly prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of advantages. A clear policy guides staff, who receive regular reminders of their responsibilities and are mandated to report any offered bribes to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

To embed these values within the student body, the Student Affairs Office partners with the ICAC to run the **ICAC Ambassador Programme**. This initiative actively involves students in promoting the core values of justice and integrity throughout the University community. Each year, selected students are appointed as ICAC Ambassadors and are empowered to organise on-campus activities that foster an anti-corruption culture. This year, ten ambassadors led a series of engaging events, including game booths, workshops, and activities symbolically incorporating coffee, which is linked to the ICAC's work.

These student-led initiatives effectively reinforce the importance of integrity, inspiring the entire community to uphold justice and ethical behaviour while cultivating a campus-wide culture of honesty and accountability.



(Latte Art Workshop)



(Phone Charm Workshop)



(Coffee Distribution Booth)



(Game Booths at Central Plaza)