

What Values do Students in Hong Kong Attach to Experiential Learning Opportunities?

Bob Fox
Carmel McNaught
Beatrice Lok

*Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research
The Chinese University of Hong Kong*





Presentation Aims

- To provide evidence value of experiential learning experiences in Hong Kong
- To identify factors that influence students' participation in experiential learning programmes
- To examine elements that make students' experience be significant to their learning



Literature about Experiential Learning

- The definition of experiential learning
 - *Whatever the activity, it is the learning and teaching process that defines whether a learning experience is experiential (Proudman, 1995: 241).*
- Dearth of empirical evidence to demonstrate the value of experiential learning on undergraduate students



The Context of The Chinese University of Hong Kong

- Experiential Learning Programmes in Higher Education
 - Career-related experiences
 - Social experiences
 - Personal development experiences

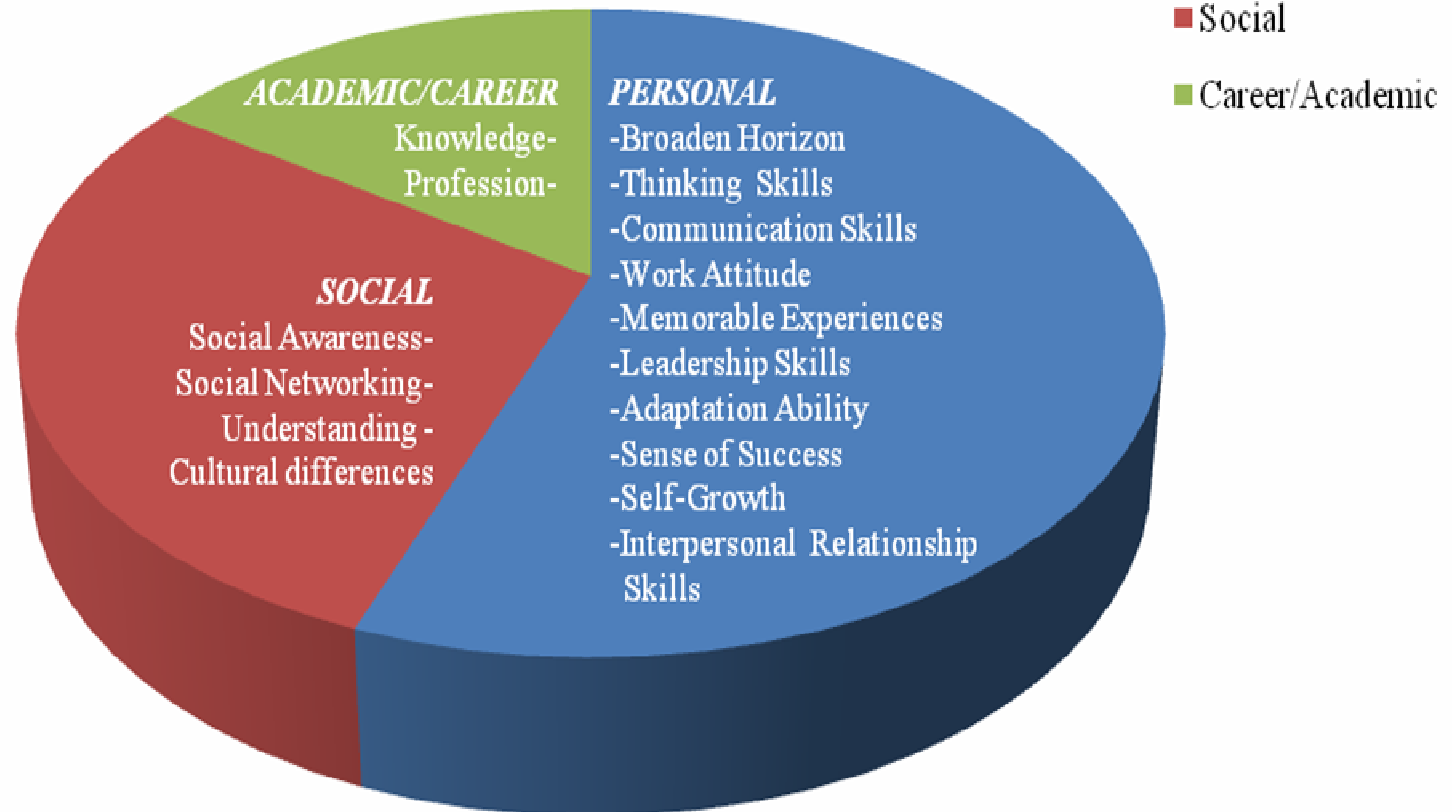


Methodology

- Data collection methods
 - Qualitative
 - Phone interviews
 - Focus group interviews
 - Case studies
- Analytical Approaches
 - Grounded theory
 - Content analysis

Evidence Values of Different Experiential Learning Activities I

Learning Gains



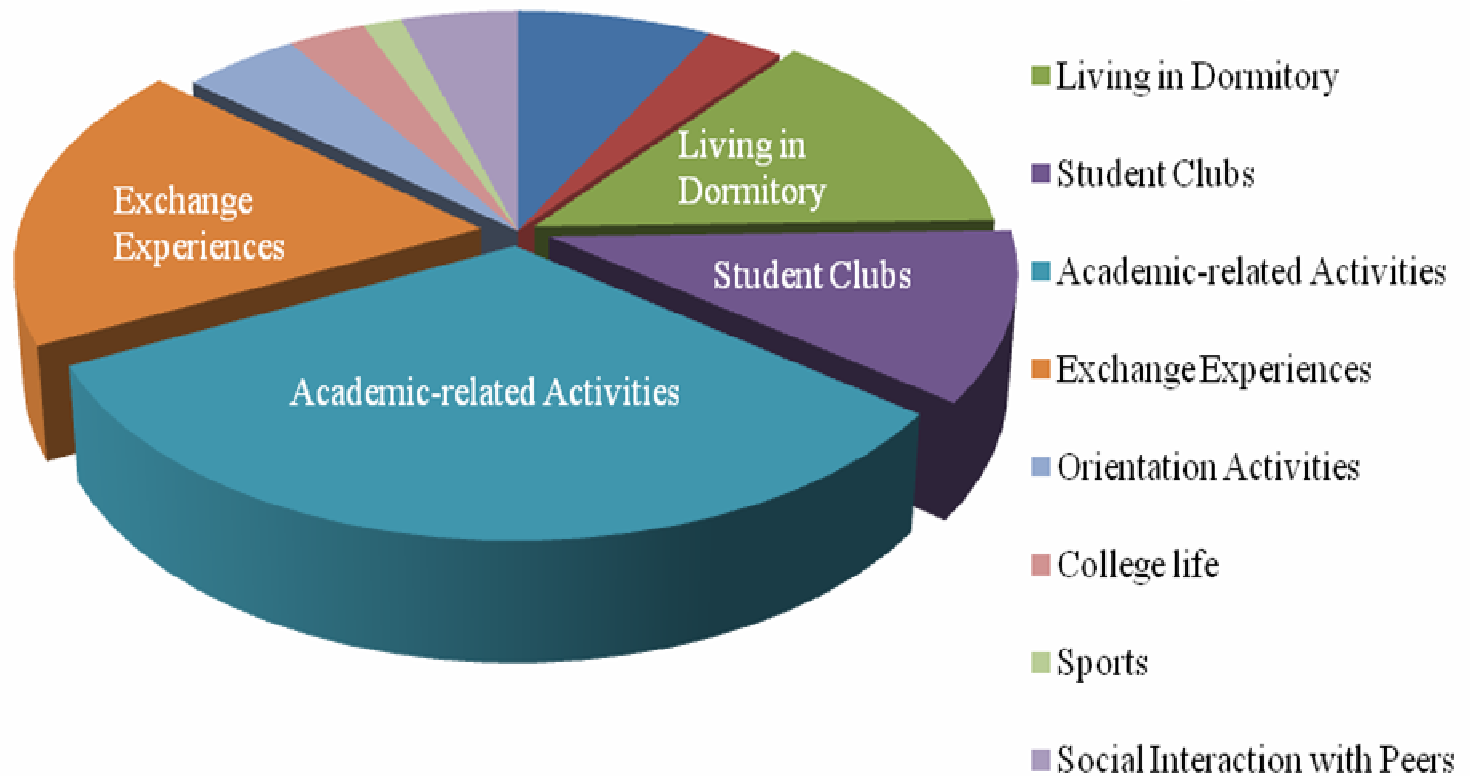
Evidence Values of Different Experiential Learning Activities II

Type of Activity	Personal Growth	Social Network	Career Skills	Cultural Exposure
Exchange Programme	Large	Medium	Small	Large
Internship Programme	Medium	Medium	Large	Medium
Leadership Training Programme	Medium	Small	Small	Small
Mentorship Programme	Medium	Medium	Small	Small
Student Clubs	Large	Large	Small	Small



Making Experiences be Significant I

Undergraduate Memories at CUHK





Making Experiences be Significant II

- Learner characteristics
- Learning requires reflection
- Experiential learning is an approach to consolidate student's learning and reflections



Making Experiences be Significant III

- A direct/active involvement
- A capability to create new/unexpected experiences, which are special and different from the typical undergraduate experience students expected before entering university
- A sense of pleasant, enjoyable and rewarding feeling



Factors Affecting Students to Participate

- a) Learning space
- b) Personal interest
- c) Peer support
- d) Belonging to the related community
- e) University culture



Implications for Higher Education

- University
 - Closing the gap between what the industry needs and what HE provides
 - Recognise the importance of student involvement in campus life
 - Internationalized student activities
- Students
 - Be ready to experience
 - Motivation to make a difference

Thank You!!

'Experience is not what happens to a man, but what a man does with what happens to him.'

Aldous Huxley

