



7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia

Taking Action at International Level: SDG as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation

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13/05/2019, Bucharest





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University Grants Committee (UGC)

- UGC is the non statutory body which advises the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on the funding and strategic development of higher education in Hong Kong.
- UGC works with universities, the Government and the community to promote excellence in the higher education sector, with a view to establishing Hong Kong as the education hub of the region and to nurturing high quality people to promote the economic and social development of Hong Kong.
- UGC members are appointed ad personam by the Chief Executive; including local and non-local members, lay members and academics.



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The Idea of UGC

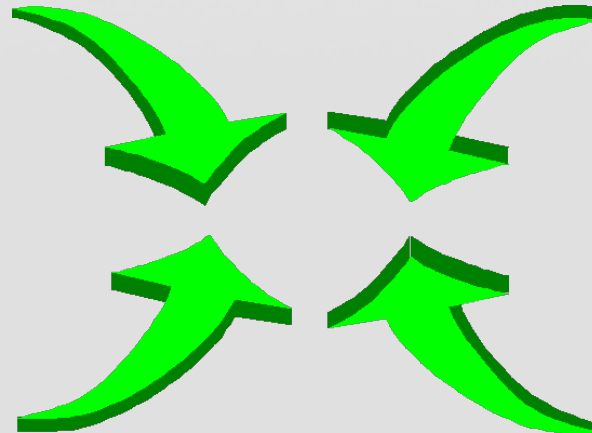
Academic
freedom

Public
accountability

Policy driven initiatives
of Government

Institutional
autonomy

Value for
money





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UGC Sector - 8 UGC-funded universities

- City University of Hong Kong (CityU)
- Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)
- Lingnan University (LU)
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
- The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)
- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
- The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

Key Statistics

- Grants of UGC sector in 2018-19 (0.7% of GDP)
 - \$18.6 billion [US\$2.4 billion] recurrent grants
 - \$921 million [US\$118 million] capital grants
 - Student numbers (2018/19): 100 580 (all UGC-funded programmes)

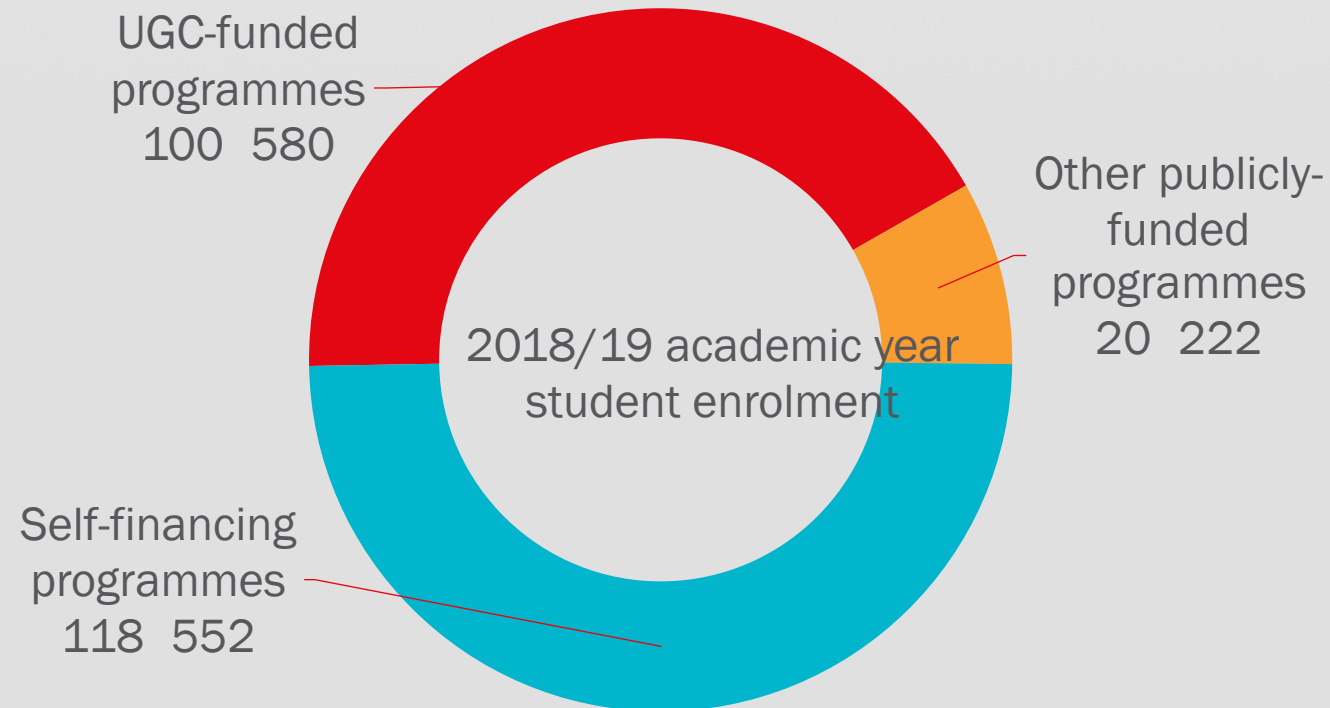


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Higher Education Student Enrolment 2018/19 Academic Year





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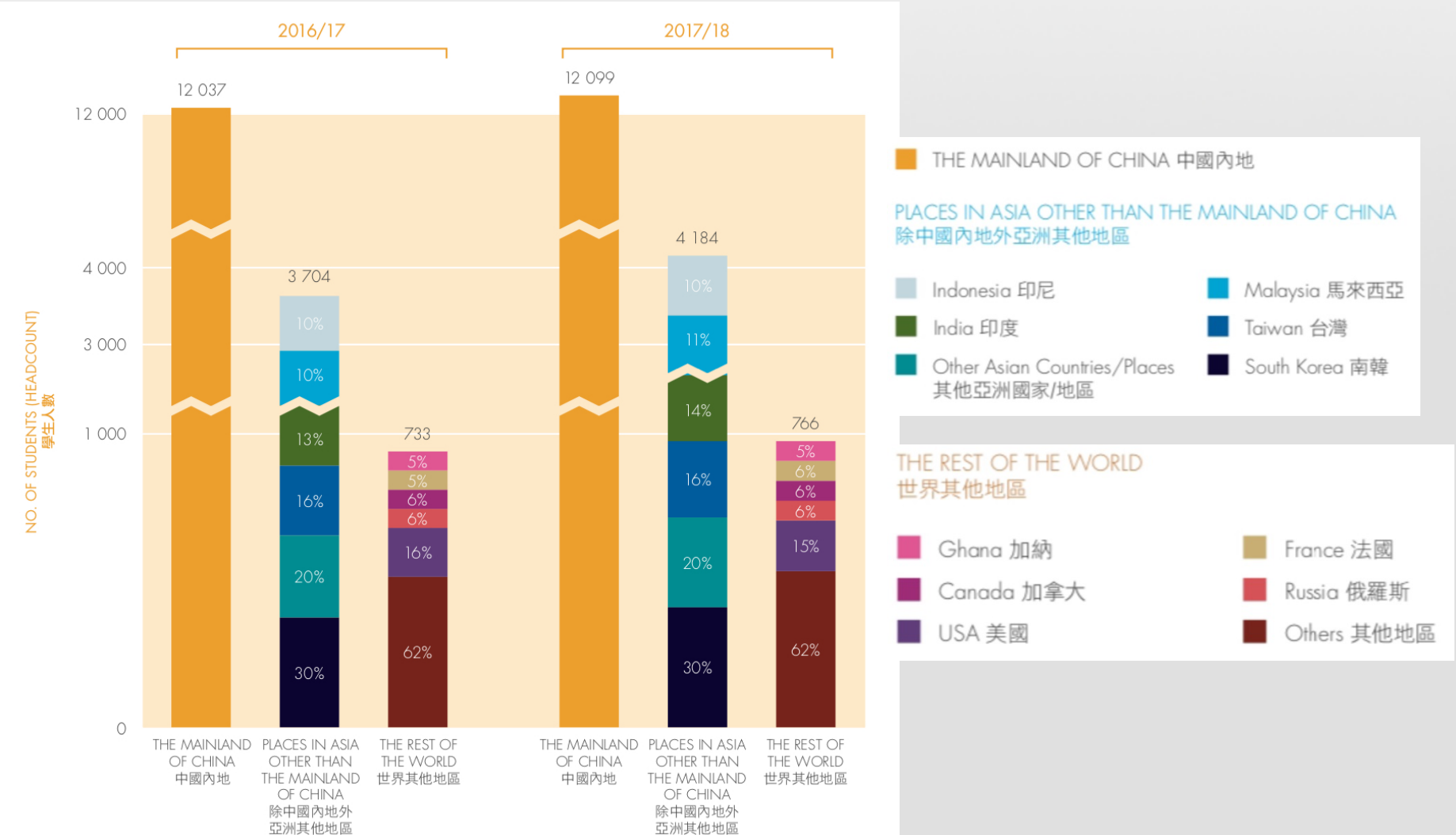


Internationalization of UGC Sector -

- UGC-funded universities are highly internationalized. They are globally connected and highly recognized internationally –
 - **Non-local students:** In 2018/19, there are about 18 100 non-local students enrolled in UGC-funded programmes (about 18% of the total student population) vs in 2008/09 with 8 400 non-local students (12% of the total student population).
 - **Student exchanges:** In 2017/18, 6 400 incoming exchange students and 6 500 out-going students took part in exchange activities vs In 2008/09, when there were 3 500 incoming exchange students and 3 300 out-going students
 - **Student exchange agreements:** As at end 2018, UGC-funded universities have about 2 500 active exchange agreements with non-local institutions vs as at end 2011, there were 1 500 active exchange agreements



Non-Local Students by Places of Origins





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Initiatives on Internationalization

- In the process of rapid internationalization and development of the Mainland China, together with the Government's policy to develop Hong Kong as a regional education hub since 2000s:
 - UGC sees internationalization and engagement with Mainland China as the key to Hong Kong's future, and that it should be actively pursued by the UGC-funded universities with the view to equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude
 - Internationalisation covers a wide spectrum of issues and UGC encourages universities to internationalize in ways that fit its institutional context



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Initiatives on Internationalization

- UGC supports the promotion of internationalisation of universities by dedicated funding and enabling policy –
 - UGC is launching a HK \$50 million (US\$6.4 million) funding scheme for 2019-22 to support universities in widening their internationalisation endeavors and enhancing student learning experience
 - UGC funding to attract more diversified sources of non-local students and to promote the UGC sector as a whole
 - To facilitate the pursuit of internationalisation by the universities, the UGC has also relaxed the use of the funding outside Hong Kong



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Internationalization of UGC Sector –

- Research collaborations: in 2018/19, universities have 4 200 active research projects / collaborations with non-local institutions vs in 2011/12, when there were about 2 600
- Full time non-local academic staff (in 2018/19, range from 38% to 64% among universities)
- 4-year undergraduate curriculum transformation in 2012 with cross-cultural curriculum
- Offshore campuses in the Mainland of China
- More dual degree programmes with non-local partner institutions



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Supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The UGC encourages universities to commit to the promotion of social responsibility for a sustainable society. All UGC-funded universities have established sustainability policy, aspiring to foster a culture of sustainability across their core missions of teaching & learning, research, knowledge transfer and community engagement
- Universities play a unique role in promotion of sustainable development by introducing programmes and conducting research on global sustainable development issues and stimulating thinking on how to address them as part of university education



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Supporting SDGs (Research)

- The HK Government is committed to supporting universities to strengthen their research work on innovative ideas and practical solutions for sustainable development.
- In the past 3 years, for example, UGC and Research Grants Council have committed over HK \$360 million (US \$46 million) funding support to research projects related to sustainability including topics such as environmental protection, energy saving, energy security, combating climate change, waste reduction, waster-to-resources transformation, pollution reduction, nature conservation and water security.



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Supporting SDGs (Curriculum)

- The HKU Common Core is a series of cross-disciplinary courses across four Areas of Inquiry (ie Scientific and Technological Literacy, Humanities, Global Issues and China: Culture, State and Society) that is required of all undergraduates to broaden their intellectual and social perspectives. Selected Common Core courses are mapped against the 17 SDGs to encourage students to respond to the challenges identified.
- HKU will soon introduce the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (Global Health & Development) Programme to nurture students to develop the competencies necessary to work in health and development internationally in related fields.
- The Master of Arts in Education for Sustainability, launched by EdUHK in collaboration with RMIT, emphasizes subject knowledge, innovative pedagogical practices and a critical approach to thinking about educational and sustainability issues.



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Supporting SDGs (Awareness and Engagement)

- Joint University Campaign 2019 - UNify: BYO (March 2019) – supported by all 8 UGC-funded universities, the campaign engages campus community to take BYO ('Bring Your Own') actions to reduce disposable waste by bringing their own reusable (water bottles, cups, food containers, cutlery, bags etc).
- PolyU's annual Campus Sustainability Weeks is an annual initiative to motivate the university community to embrace sustainability lifestyle through numerous activities including, dialogue contest, game, exhibition, sharing sessions and workshops.
- HKUST Connect is a community engagement initiative that builds on the University's efforts in raising civic awareness and developing sustainable partnerships by supporting a broad and diverse set of collaborative activities that link the University and its larger community (local, state, national, global) for the benefit for all.



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Supporting SDGs (Collaborations)

- CUHK launched the Hong Kong Chapter of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Hong Kong) in 2018 to foster transformative solutions to sustainability issues and pursue the 17 SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The CCGame Project is a UGC-funded project led by HKBU to motivate students through gamification and challenge-based learning. Together with CityU, CUHK, PolyU and Curtin University, students worked in multidisciplinary/multicultural teams. One of the CCGame related projects is the UN SDG International eTournament completed in Feb 2019 where students around the world formed online teams to complete games by answering questions related to SDGs.
- Joint Humanitarian Entrepreneurship Summer Academy 2019: hosted by LU and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University for students to learn about SDGs and apply their design thinking skills in creating practical solutions during field research in Kazakhstan.



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Recommendations

1. Funding body should set clear goals in consultation with the Universities;
2. Funding body should provide necessary financial incentives;
3. Universities should be given autonomy and encouraged to be innovative in advancing SDG in areas including research, curriculum and organizing relevant activities;
4. Universities should be encouraged to engage with the community;
5. Universities should be encouraged to collaborate with international partners.



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Thank you!