

General Education in CUHK

General Education plays a vital role in the University's mission to provide a balanced undergraduate education for all students. It equips students with the intellectual capacity for understanding critical issues, ideas, and values of humanity in modern society. It nurtures students to be educated persons capable of making informed judgment and taking up the challenges of this ever-changing world. Preparing students to be lifelong learners and engaged citizens with a global awareness, it targets their growth as whole persons rather than specialists.

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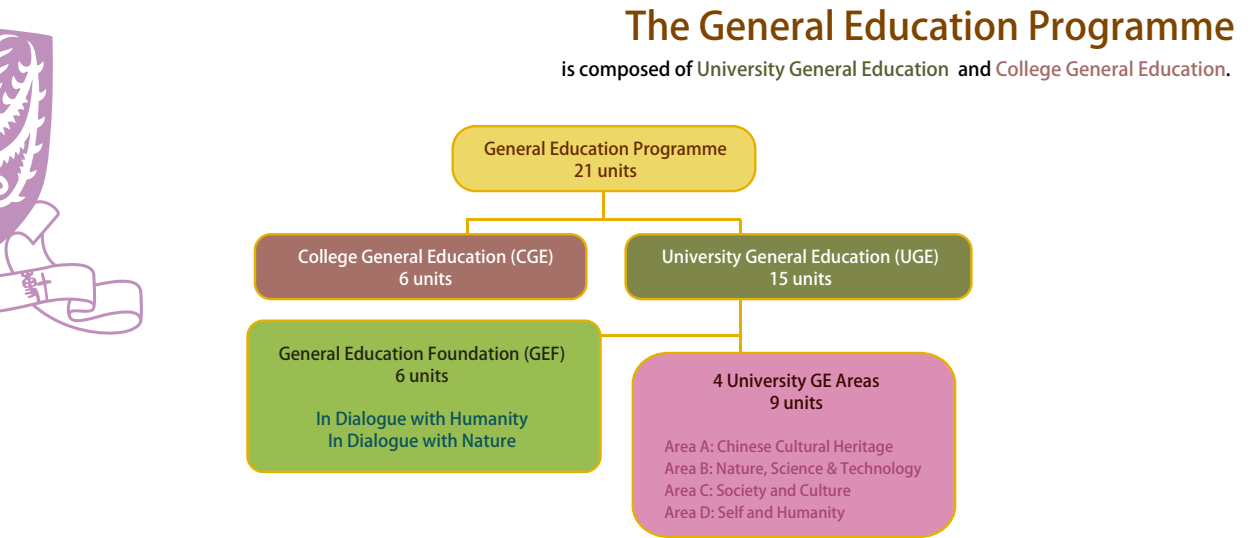
Beyond the classroom

Besides formal education, the Office of University General Education actively organises cultural and academic events within and outside the University to promote the philosophy of general education and to enhance inter-disciplinary exchanges.

GE Student Seminars

The annual GE Student Seminar celebrates the achievements of outstanding students in GEF and let both former and current GEF students get together, all united in a similar passion for reading classics, sharing the good works of their peers and pondering big problems in life.

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/studentseminar>



College General Education

There are nine constituent Colleges at CUHK. College General Education is an important feature of undergraduate education at the University, designed as an expression of the unique mission, traditions, and resources of each constituent College. All Colleges offer credit-bearing General Education courses as well as non-credit-bearing learning opportunities, such as, assemblies, overseas learning tours, and various types of co-curricular activities. By providing students with a broad perspective that goes beyond academic pursuits, College General Education contributes to the holistic development of students to become responsible citizens of the world.

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/english/college/info.html>

Our Colleges:



University General Education

General Education Foundation

The programme consists of two courses, "In Dialogue with Humanity" and "In Dialogue with Nature", in which students, through the study of classics, engage in dialogues with Nature and Humanity to explore the world of science and knowledge, and reflect on ideal society and good life.

In Dialogue with Humanity

- What is a "good" life?
- Where is the balance between self-interest and common good?
- What is an ideal society? On what principles should it run on?

Readings from Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Huang Zongxi, Rousseau, Adam Smith, and selection from *The Analects*, *Zhuangzi*, *The Bible*, *The Heart of Understanding*, *The Qur'an*, etc.

In Dialogue with Nature

- What is truth? How do we find and express scientific truth about the Nature?
- What do we know so far about the physical universe, the world of life and our own mind?
- What are the limitations of human knowledge and scientific methods?

Assigned readings include *The Republic*, *The Origin of Species*, *DNA: The Secret of Life*, *Silent Spring*, *In Search of Memory*, *Brush Talks from Dream Brook*, *Elements*, etc.

The General Education Foundation (GEF) Programme:
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gef>

4 University GE Areas

University General Education (UGE) courses are provided by over 40 teaching departments from the eight faculties of the University. Currently, there are over 200 UGE courses which are grouped under four areas.

Area A Chinese Cultural Heritage

Introduces the essential characteristics of Chinese culture, students will learn to appreciate and evaluate the Chinese cultural heritage and its relevance in modern life.

Area B Nature, Science and Technology

Introduces various principles, discoveries and methods of science, students will learn to appraise with a scientific attitude and to evaluate human's role in being part of nature and the impact of science and technology on modern life.

Area C Society and Culture

Enhances students' understanding of the ways in which human societies are constituted and human cultures are represented, in their generality as well as diversity.

Area D Self and Humanity

Enables students to explore the diversity of human values, reflect on the meaning of human endeavors, and gain a better understanding of themselves.

Best Essay Award

The intensive writing training embedded in GEF results in many well-written student essays that are often precise, original and creative. The Best Essay Award is to recognize students' efforts and achievements and showcase exemplary works.

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/bestessayaward>



GE Salon

Baldwin Cheng Research Centre for General Education organises various series of GE Salons which aims at exploring issues of common human concern from a cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural perspective, with a view to encouraging students to reflect upon questions related to the contemporary world and to create an atmosphere for the holdings of intellectual discussions on campus.

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/gesalon>



Book Club

Co-organized by the Office of University General Education, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and Second Bookstore, the Book Club aims to promote reading by introducing quality books. Speakers of the Book Club are from different fields, and the topics of rich variety, covering both Chinese and Western works. Participants also provide their insights, which leads to enthusiastic discussions.

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/oge/bookclub>

