

LET Program Reflection

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During the summer in 2013, I have joined an internship program called Summer Teacher Apprenticeship (STAR) organized by the Department of Physics in CUHK. The program allows participants to work as teachers' aides in secondary schools, aiming to widen the participants' vision and provide them a full time working experience.

Back from the beginning, I decided to take part in the program as I wanted to utilize my summer holiday exploring new things and I had the idea of being a teacher for long, the STAR program just fits my needs. Remembering in the selection interview, one of the supervising teachers asked me whether I am confident enough to teach the DSE students. Though I was just a first year student at that time, I believe I do have thorough understanding towards high-school level Physics, together with the experience of being a private tutor quite a while, "Sure, I believe I am qualified." I responded.

At the time when the program really started, I was assigned to teach two classes of Form 3 and two classes of Form 5 students. After finishing the first lesson, I realized one need to pay attentions in many aspects while teaching in a classroom and there were many improvements I should make. For example, my voice was not bright enough, my techniques of writing on the chalkboard were not skilled enough, my designed flow of the lesson was not implemented smooth enough, etc. On the other hand, concerning about the students, the differences in their ability, the concentrate problem and the classroom discipline were all there waiting for me to deal with.

In the process, I had once doubted whether I could really solve all those problems, whether I could teach them well, whether I was really qualified. However, I knew there was no place for me to back off, all I could do is to try my very best to pay even more time and more effort on my job. With the techniques learnt from the training sections offered by LET program, such as how to design a structured lesson with flow chart and making evaluation after lessons in order to do fair reviews and carry out the corresponding improvements, my supervisor and I both saw my gradual improvements.

Looking back the two months of the internship experience, it was certainly an invaluable experience. Undoubtedly, I have had a deeper understanding about the duties of a teacher and how should a teacher behave. Nevertheless, to my surprise, the recognition from my students and supervisor to my performance was out of my expectation, yet this bonus was so inspiring. Also, having been a teacher, both the meaning of “education” to me and my attitude towards “study” has changed, which is also an unpredicted reward. This experience has enriched me in much sense which I am not going to list them all out. As a simple conclusion, the STAR and LET programs has granted me chances to explore new things and take new challenges, both externally and internally, and surely has built me into a better man. Despite the difficulty and hardship all along, the fruitful and rewarding result at the end is worth all the effort paid. If I were given a chance to reconsider whether or not I would take part in these two programs, my answer is “Yes, definitely”.