

## Two CityU graduates win German cultural challenge

Pan Law Yu-hei and Celeste Flanagan Yau Lok-fui, graduates from MS and MGT respectively



Celeste (right) and Pan prepare for their submission.



Pan (centre) stayed for a few days in May at a German friend's home in Ansbach, a small city next to Nuremberg.



Celeste visits the Neuschwanstein Castle near Füssen in July.

We won the top prize in “Hallo Deutschland” (Hello Germany), an open competition organised by the Goethe-Institut for German language students in Hong Kong.

To win, we had to provide a teaching plan for a lesson on German culture targeting local secondary and primary school students. The plan had to focus on two topics, namely Germany as a country of literature and Germany as a country of sports.

Our proposal is a concise two-page plan. We proposed using Grimm’s fairy tales and the “German Fairy Tale Route”, a concept which connects the places and landscapes found in Grimm’s fairy tales, to arouse students’ interest in German literature. We also proposed using Germany’s winter sports and football culture to start the topic of “Country of Sports”. We felt the content could highlight the essence of German culture, while capturing the interest of local Hong Kong students.

Winning “Hallo Deutschland” was not easy at all. We didn’t know where to begin as the competition guidelines allowed any kind of presentation. Besides, we are only minoring in German, and the preparation period in May coincided with our final examinations.

But thanks to the course “Culture and Society in German-Speaking Countries” and our instructor, **Mr Thomas Spitzer**, we are equipped with a lot of knowledge about German culture. We adopted Grimm's fairy tales, one of the topics mentioned by Mr Spitzer in class, to build the framework of our competition material.

In the end, our determination has carried us through the process. It was a big surprise for us when we got the results. This is how an unexpected reward comes from never-ending effort.

The prize includes free return flight tickets, accommodation, a visit to Wolfsburg and Berlin, and a reception at the German Foreign Office. We will represent Hong Kong in Göttingen, Germany in November and meet with competition winners from South Korea, mainland China, Mongolia and Japan.

In addition, we will be acting as “Language Ambassador” for the Goethe-Institut. Our responsibility is to promote German language and culture in local primary and secondary schools.

## 學府風

港人熱愛學習外語，卻未必能真正深入了解外國文化。袁效仁知道，兩名城市大學的畢業生剛於歌德學院主辦的「你好德國」香港區比賽中贏得冠軍，並將於十一月免費參與德國外交部舉行的招待會，到沃爾夫斯堡和柏林市觀光。二人更獲歌德學院任命為「語言大使」，向本港的中小學宣傳德國的語言及文化。

### 結合童話名勝突圍

袁效仁同其中一名參加者、主修管理學的丘諾誨傾過，學了德語兩年半的她，最初因為喜歡修讀語言，加上覺得德語的應用機會廣泛，遂決定修讀德語。由於在早前一個德語演講比賽中認識另一位參加者兼同系畢業生羅宇希，二人決定組隊參與「你好德國」比賽。

聽丘諾誨講，參賽者需設計一堂德國文化課教案，授課對象是本地的中小學生，教案須集中在「德國：文學之國」及「德國：體育之國」兩個主題，「我們提交的教案只有兩頁紙，分別以格林童話的故事地點與德國觀光名勝結合，激發學生對德國文學的興趣，以及加入德國冬季運動會和足球的內容，發揮德國作為體育之國的主題。」

### 望港生認識德文化

丘諾誨表示，比賽的時候正值他們準備城大的期末考試，加上本身不太了解德國文學，需要翻查不少德國網頁，並將其翻譯成中英文，「雖然曾經修讀過『德國國家的文化及社會』這門課程，但對德國文化的認識不深，參加比賽的過程中，通過親身搜尋資料，所學的比上課實際更多。」

袁效仁又問過羅宇希，熱愛德國國家足球隊的他，笑言比賽沒有就內容制定實質框架，好處是自由發揮，但亦因此要思考如何突圍而出。將到中小學演講宣傳德國文化的他又表示，相比日韓及英國文化，港人普遍不認識德國文化，期望新一代能對德國文化產生興趣，擴闊他們的眼界。

雖然德國並非港生的升學熱點，但隨着近年歐洲學費較香港便宜，加上回港後的就業前景理想，德國逐漸成為理想的升學地方。袁效仁認為，城大學生有機會成為語言大使推廣德國，將令更多中小學生認識這個國家，幫助他們好好計畫未來的升學之路。

袁效仁

城大畢業生「你好德國」賽奪冠