

Dr Franco Wong: Dream Big and Gear Up for Success

In today's highly competitive market, on top of professional knowledge and soft skills students also need to have a global perspective and an understanding of the latest international developments. The Department understands these needs, and offers a wide range of opportunities for its students to increase their global exposure. In addition to the aforementioned exchange programmes and study tours, the Department also invites renowned scholars from all over the world to visit the Department to create a truly "internationalized" learning environment for students.

In Semester B of 2009-10, the Department invited Dr Franco Wong, Associate Professor at the Rotman School of Management and

University of Toronto, to CityU as a Visiting Associate Professor. Dr Wong has extensive teaching experience at several world-class business schools, including those at the University of Chicago and the University of California at Berkeley. His research areas



include corporate governance, earnings management, and market risk disclosure. Dr Wong taught both postgraduate students and research students during his visit.



Interview with Dr Franco Wong

F = Dr Franco Wong

Q1. What would you suggest Hong Kong students to do to give themselves a competitive edge and to achieve their career goals?

F: I urge all students to make a list of their top three strengths and weaknesses. Start working on your weaknesses, because they will limit your success in life. If communication is one of your weaknesses, then consider joining the toastmasters club or taking acting lessons. If you lack fluency in English or Mandarin, consider attending the language salons and clinics on campus. On the positive side, try to put your strengths to good use whenever you have the chance to showcase your talent.

Q2. In your opinion, what is the main difference between students in Hong Kong and North America? In which aspects do Hong Kong students shine, and what can they learn from their North American counterparts?

F: Students in Hong Kong tend to be quieter in class and have better quantitative skills, whereas those in North America are more outspoken and exhibit better soft skills. I encourage students to participate more in class. The classroom is the best place to learn how to communicate your ideas, and is a low-risk place to do so compared with actual business settings in which a failure to express yourself will be costly. Contrary to most students' belief,

your instructors actually like outspoken students, as active student participation makes the class more lively and interactive, which has been shown to be an effective way to learn.

Q3. Finally, do you have a personal motto to share with our students?

F: "Dream big!"

