

Coffee-chat with YOU! on 10 January 2020



Coffee-chat with YOU! is a casual meeting at which students gather for conversations with their peers and with the Deputy Team Leader of the Team of Learning and Teaching of the Department and academic adviser, Mr. David Yip. The first meeting in 2020 was on Friday, January 10 in the 13F common area. Topics were chosen over snacks and drinks, and conversations were warm and personal. The students discussed the countries they wanted to visit in the future and what cultures they

were interested in. A student named April said, “I am interested in exploring different languages, and if possible, it would be great to join the Europe Study Tour.”

The most frequently cited concerns were academic, such as whether to pursue a minor or double major, and how to strike the right balance between an overseas exchange programme and an internship. When asked about the possibility of completing double majors, exchange studies and part-time work in four years, Mr. Yip recommended that students choose a single major, as a double major requires a prolonged period of concentrated effort to achieve professional and academic success. Mr. Yip further remarked that when choosing an overseas university for exchange, students should think about the rigor and standards of the environment. He recommended that serious learners choose a university that prioritizes academic rigor over relaxation.



As the conversation progressed, the topic turned to professional planning. A question was raised regarding how to navigate Big Four and non-Big Four internships. As long working hours are the norm, students confessed that their anxiety and uncertainty grew as they expected to work in a high-pressure work environment. Mr. Yip advised them to start training themselves two to three years in advance. He said, “Start now, seek training in areas you lack—either it is industry knowledge or communication skills. If you need help, the ASP (Accounting Scholars Programme) is available to you.”

The notion of “endless improvement” is at the core of Mr. Yip’s teaching philosophy. He said, “Don’t stress about the qualifications, double majors, or a high GPA. What’s good on paper is just an entry ticket. Focus on your attributes, such as your learning attitude. Do you show up for your small wins with commitment and determination? If you can do this, then your potential is limitless.”

Mr. Leon Lai, an academic instructor, said, “The classroom setting is not always ideal when forming a meaningful mentor relationship in the campus. We don’t always have a chance to have two-way conversations. Coffee-chat with YOU accommodates it well. It can play a big part in developing a mentor relationship.”

