

The value of sharing experience

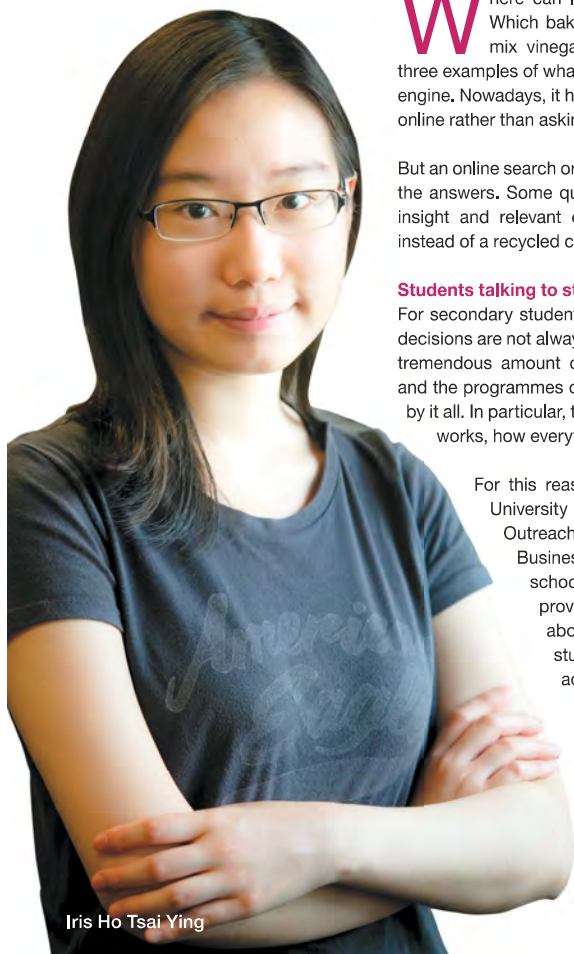


◀ Yip Nga Man (second from the left), Year 2 BBA Accountancy major at CityU shared her experience with students of Hong Kong True Light College.



◀ Tam Sum Yee (first one from the left, front row), Year 1 BBA Marketing major at CityU shared with junior students in an Inter-house Dancing Competition at St. Francis' Canossian College.

✓ Iris Ho Tsai Ying (first one from the left), Year 3 BBA Finance major at CityU and St. Mary's Canossian College alumnus.



Iris Ho Tsai Ying

Where can I find the best coffee in Causeway Bay? Which bakeries make gluten-free cakes? Is it OK to mix vinegar and bleach? These questions are just three examples of what some of us may have typed into a search engine. Nowadays, it has become common to search for answers online rather than asking a person.

But an online search or using a smart assistant doesn't provide all the answers. Some questions need the benefit of some human insight and relevant experience, or fresh opinions and ideas instead of a recycled comment or simple fact.

Students talking to students

For secondary students about to choose a course of study, the decisions are not always easy or clear. They may have collected a tremendous amount of information about different universities and the programmes on offer, but can still be a bit overwhelmed by it all. In particular, they probably need to understand how it all works, how everything fits together.

For this reason, the College of Business at the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) runs a School Outreach Programme. It sees CityU College of Business students visit their former secondary schools to share their learning experience and to provide information and answer questions about university life, choosing a course of study, and to offer some relevant insight or advice.

"Before visiting my old secondary school, I never expected that the students there would be interested in my experience of university life," said Iris Ho Tsai-ying, who recently went back to St. Mary's

Canossian College. "But I was really surprised and delighted by what they told me. They said what I shared was more important and useful than the factual information and statistics they were given. I believe my visit gave the students some ideas and strategies to make the best JUPAS choice for their future studies."

In these sessions, Ho learned what students at her former school were interested in and explained what was needed to make more informed decisions. By sharing her knowledge, she also gained some valuable experience in mentoring and public speaking.

Building lifelong skills

Other CityU College of Business students taking part in the School Outreach Programme were similarly motivated by a desire to give something back, but found it also helped them to develop and grow. For instance, being able to understand the needs and wants of the target audience - and addressing them accordingly - is an important skill. The programme develops that ability, along with other transferable skills that can be applied to other areas of life and in many types of work.

For many participants, the School Outreach Programme was also a chance to tell secondary students about the different majors and internship opportunities offered at the College of Business. They also talked about campus life and everything CityU has to offer current and future students.

This year, the College of Business student ambassadors have visited a total of 48 secondary schools, including Baptist Liu Ming Choi Secondary School, Clementi Secondary School, Jockey Club Ti-I College, Maryknoll Convent School, Pui Ching Middle School, Raimondi College, Sha Tin Government Secondary School, St. Francis Xavier's College, St. Mark's School, Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School and Wah Yan College Hong Kong.

To learn more about the School Outreach Programme, contact cb.ug@cityu.edu.hk.