APRU Virtual Student Exchange: International Education Unbound

Shally Fan, Director of Academic Links
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
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The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Comprehensive research university

Unique college system

Bilingualism & multiculturalism

8 Faculties
Arts, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science, Social Science

Top 10 Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings
International Education at its Core Mission

- Regional pioneer in international education: **1st student exchange partnership in 1965**
- Exchange opportunities at **280 partner institutions** in **35+ countries/regions**
- **1,000+** UG students take **bilateral term-time exchanges**
- Over **5,000 opportunities** for experiential learning outside HK each year
- **1,500+ visiting students** annually
Digital technology to support international education

Virtual Student Exchange Program (VSE) developed under auspices of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) in August 2020

Connecting students from 61 leading research universities in Americas, Asia & Australasia through online platforms & digital technologies

Enable students to receive international education & experience from some of best universities without having to leave home
Holistic Virtual Exchange Experience

Two distinct components: Academic Courses & Co-curricular Programs

**Academic**
- Acquire new knowledge & skills
- Develop digital competency

**Co-curricular**
- Prepare for future careers & workplace
- Experience different cultures & societies

**Social**
- Work with peers from around the world
- Build new friendships & professional networks
Academic Courses

- Multidisciplinary & diverse **credit-bearing courses** contributed by participating universities
- Available in **synchronous, asynchronous** or **hybrid delivery modes** for students from different time zones
- 3 Study periods a year

Since August 2020:

- 32 Course-offering Universities
- 470+ Courses
- 2,600+ Applications
- 1,200+ Enrollments

- Connecting students from 35 universities in 16 economies
VSE Course Offering Universities

Representing 13 economies

**Australia**
- Monash University
- The University of Sydney

**Chile**
- University of Chile

**China**
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Tsinghua University
- Zhejiang University

**Colombia**
- Universidad de los Andes

**Ecuador**
- Universidad San Francisco de Quito

**Hong Kong SAR China**
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The University of Hong Kong

**Indonesia**
- Universitas Indonesia

**Japan**
- Keio University
- Tohoku University
- Waseda University

**Korea**
- Korea University
- Yonsei University

**Mexico**
- Tecnológico de Monterrey

**Singapore**
- Nanyang Technological University

**Thailand**
- Chulalongkorn University

**USA**
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Oregon
VSE Courses in Diverse Disciplines

Learn new cultures & places
- Aboriginal Sydney
- Ecology & Resources of Ecuador
- Korean Popular Culture & Korean Wave

Explore diverse academic interests
- Creating Social Change: from Innovation to Impact
- Global Challenges: Food, Water, Climate
- Happiness Neuroscience

Equip for future workplace
- Effective Career Management
- Global Leadership & Management
- Leadership for Entrepreneurial Development

Get ahead in increasingly tech-driven world
- Foundation of Data Science
- Intelligence & Learning
- Robotics, Sensing & Autonomous Systems
Co-curricular Programs

- Series or one-time events conducted online to facilitate encounters with new ideas, cultures, experts, academics & students around the world

**Cultural**
In-depth cultural journeys

**Leadership**
Cultivate communication skills & teamwork

**Career**
Develop skills for future workplace

**Social**
Student organized activities
Since launch of VSE, 17 universities have contributed 73 co-curricular programs that attracted over 1,500 individual participations.

Top 3 universities in each region with most participation:

- **Americas (24.7%)**
  - University of Chile, Chile
  - Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador
  - University of California, Riverside, USA

- **Asia (63.8%)**
  - The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HKSAR China
  - Harbin Institute of Technology, China
  - University of Indonesia, Indonesia

- **Australasia (11.5%)**
  - The University of Sydney, Australia
  - The University of Melbourne, Australia
  - UNSW Sydney, Australia
Different Models of Delivery & Engagement

**Webinars**
- Primarily one way
- Interaction thru chat box, slido

**Tours**
- Immersive experience with live engagement
- On-the-spot interaction with local community

**Activities**
- Hands-on
- e.g. cooking class, music jam

**Discussions**
- Focus on cultural sharing
- Pre-event engagement
- Driven by students
**Virtual cultural experience to **stimulate** students to gain in-depth understanding of cultures & embark on journeys**

**Korea University Student Life Revealed!**
Korea University

**Saké Lecture & Virtual Brewery Tour**
Tohoku University
Co-curricular Programs – Leadership

- Focus particularly in context of globalization. Communication, teamwork, etc.

Corona Corps Global Learning Community
University of Oregon

APRU Becoming a Global Learner Leadership Series
University of California, Davis
Co-curricular Programs – Career

- Prepare for future industries, practice skills needed for future workplace

**Decode the Most Challenging Interview Questions: How to Talk about Failures in a Job Interview?**

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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**Research, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Webinar**

CUHK

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**Decode the most challenging interview questions (ENGLISH)**

Bonus track: How to talk about failures in a job interview?
Co-curricular Programs – Social

- **Organized by students** covering a range of activities that are usually organized on campus, empowers students to be **ambassadors of their culture and country**

Language Lunch Events for English & Japanese

Waseda University

Stories from around the World

Universidad San Francisco de Quito

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**Co-curricular Program: Language Lunch Events for English & Japanese**

**Waseda University (November 2021)**

**Details:**

- **Japanese Club:**
  - Date: 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29
- **Japanese Lunch:**
  - Time: 11/14, 11/16
- **English/Lunch:**
  - Time: 11/19, 11/21

**Registration:**

- Visit the website to register.

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**Co-curricular Program: Stories from around the World**

**Universidad San Francisco de Quito**

**Module:**

- **Module 1:**
  - Dates: 9/11th - Origami
  - Time: 12:00 PM (UTC), 3:00 PM

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Many more fun & intellectually inspiring activities

Disneyland Virtual Tour
University of California, Santa Cruz

Black Lives Matter: Global Perspectives
University of California, Los Angeles

Online Music Jam
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Network Building

- Interactive workshop on Developing Co-curricular Programmes to Support Virtual Mobility
- Success stories & best practices on running engaging co-curricular programs, breakout sessions with participants on each category, 100+ concurrent views from over a dozen of economies
- Establishing network for sharing of best practices and future collaboration
What VSE Students Have to Say?

Satoshi KUSAKABE
Keio University

VSE allows me to participate in virtual exchange in a multicultural environment while studying at my home university. My VSE experience is absolutely a strength for me to study abroad in post-COVID period.

Daniela ÁLVAREZ
University of Chile

I’ve gained confidence in my abilities and receive invaluable knowledge from an excellent university. If I ever get to visit Korea, I can say that my mind went there first.

Joaquin SÁEZ
University of Chile

Being part of VSE program has been a wonderful experience. I have been able to meet people from many countries and have learned a lot about intercultural communication.

Jiwon KIM
Korea University

The VSE program offers so much more than one single university can. The classmates and the professor I had were the most hospitable people I've ever encountered.
Global Recognition

Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year Award 2020
Finalist in Digital Education

Times Higher Education (THE) Awards Asia 2021
Shortlisted in International Strategy of the Year Category

APRU VSE Program - Breaking the Wall to a Virtual Global Student Exchange

APRU Virtual Student Exchange Program – International Education Unbounded
Sharing of Experience

- Mix of live & pre-recordings works well
- Dividing participants into smaller groups encourages more active engagement
- Investing in & exploring different technologies
- Consider how content might be relevant in different cultural context
- Finding ways to engage students after event, e.g. start a group conversation among students on another platform, careers group
- Building on event, creating sequence of events, & through partnerships
- Hosting programs in partnership with other universities. Expand audience & increase global relevance, & partnership building