Annex

2025 UGC Teaching Award Citations

Professor Shirley NGAI, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Professor Shirley Ngai has earned widespread recognition for her extraordinary leadership and transformative impact on physiotherapy education. Awarded the UGC Teaching Award in the Early Career Faculty Members Category as early as 2016, she continues to make outstanding contributions to healthcare education and beyond.

Professor Ngai has revolutionised competency-based clinical training by introducing medical simulation into physiotherapy education in Hong Kong. Her innovative initiatives, including mobile learning apps and self-learning e-books, and adoption of advance technology such as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, have prepared students well for real-world clinical environments and markedly improved clinical placement outcomes. Her vision for holistic education is reflected in the development of online learning modules and a globally recognised online course, fostering cultural competence, empathy, and interprofessional collaboration among thousands of learners from over 130 regions worldwide.

Demonstrating exceptional leadership in faculty development, Professor Ngai fosters a culture of scholarly teaching and learning and elevates international standards in rehabilitation education. Her unwavering passion and commitment to nurturing future leaders make her an exemplary educator and scholar. This year, she is honoured with the UGC Teaching Award, in the General Faculty Members Category, becoming the first individual to receive this prestigious accolade twice.

Professor Jeffrey Tsz-wing LEUNG, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Professor Jeffrey Tsz-wing Leung is a visionary and student-centred educator who integrates technical expertise with interpersonal skills. Since joining the university in 2020, he has nurtured creative, compassionate, and adaptable professionals prepared to meet the rapidly evolving demands of quality healthcare.

Grounded in experiential and transformative learning, Professor Leung engages optometry students through immersive, real-world projects that foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. He has transformed traditional assignments into dynamic group projects and led interdisciplinary collaborations with education students to improve paediatric eye care for children with special educational needs. These initiatives significantly enhance students' empathy, social responsibility, and understanding of diverse patient needs.

Demonstrating innovation, Professor Leung developed an AI-assisted clinical skill assessment system that provides instant and objective feedback, elevating diagnostic training. His contributions to interdisciplinary collaboration and curriculum transformation have established him as an exceptional early-career scholar, with a transformative influence on both academic and professional communities.

Transdisciplinary Innovation Team, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)

The Transdisciplinary Innovation Team, led by Professor William Cheung and including Dr Glos Ho, Professor Kingsley Ng, Professor Wendy Huang, and Professor Nick Zhang, is dedicated to equipping students with diverse knowledge and skills to address global challenges. The team brings together faculty members from multiple disciplines, community leaders from various sectors, and international collaborators to guide students in real-world projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A hallmark of their work is the individualised major programme, which empowers students to design their own study pathways and tackle complex, mission-driven problems. Complementing this, the team has developed three additional transdisciplinary programmes, each with its own distinctive focus.

Embodying innovation, collaboration, and an unwavering dedication to student growth, the team has spearheaded transdisciplinary education at HKBU. Their efforts have significantly enhanced the student experience and inspired meaningful dialogue and educational innovation across the region.