



***'i – Journey'* Paid Non-local Study Leave Scheme for Teachers (4th Cohort)**
(for Primary School Teachers)
Programme B(1)* – Self-directed Learning
April – June 2022 (Tentative)
Helsinki, Finland

Programme Brief

Background

The Finnish education system has been frequently regarded as one of the most successful models in the 21st century. Its National Core Curriculum completed in December 2014 focuses on development of seven transversal competence areas. In particular, the competence “Thinking and learning to learn” stresses the importance of Self-directed Learning (SDL). Besides this, the Finland government also emphasises the importance of improving students’ opportunities for developing their active agency, enhancing their motivation for deep learning and arousing their awareness of their own learning, which are among the focuses in the Basic Education Curriculum Guide.

This Helsinki-based study programme is expected to provide participants with knowledge of relevant theories, research and latest policies and practices in Finland, and, more importantly, offer insights into how the effective implementation of SDL can be adapted in the Hong Kong context. In particular, participants will learn how to assess students’ readiness for SDL, adjust their instructional designs and integrate technology into their pedagogical practices.

Aim

The Programme aims to enable participants to:

- (a) acquire knowledge of the Finnish education system and its key features, with a special focus on the promotion of SDL;
- (b) enhance their professional capacity in designing a learner-centred curriculum that develops young learners’ SDL capabilities;
- (c) build an extensive repertoire of pedagogical strategies to encourage SDL;
- (d) develop their expertise on the use of assessment to promote SDL;
- (e) develop a comprehensive understanding on how SDL capabilities are fostered at schools by experiencing school life in local elementary schools;
- (f) develop professional knowledge base, build reflective practices and enhance research skills through practitioner research and inquiry;
- (g) share Hong Kong practices with their counterparts in local schools; and
- (h) develop teacher leadership through sharing learning outcomes in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and disseminating good practices.

* Programmes A(1) – A(6) were announced via EDBCM No. 134/2017, No.199/2017, No.179/2018, No.190/2018 and **completed** in the 2017/18 s.y. and 2018/19 s.y. Programmes A(7)- (9) were announced via EDBCM No. 190/2019. Relevant details can be retrieved from EDB website: (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/i-Journey>).

Quota

The quota for the Programme is **20**.

Centre for Continuing Education HY+, University of Helsinki

The Programme will be delivered by the Centre for Continuing Education HY+, University of Helsinki. Founded in 1640, the University of Helsinki is the oldest university in Finland. With a student body of 36,500, it is also the largest university in Finland and one of the leading multidisciplinary universities in the world. Teacher education is one of the core competences of the university. The University is ranked 1st in Finland in the subject of education in the 2020 QS ranking. The Centre for Continuing Education HY+ arranges professional development programmes to 500 educators annually from around the globe to showcase Finnish practices in education.

Programme Content

Phase One	Week 1	Pre-trip Preparation (Hong Kong)		
	Weeks 2 – 6	Overseas Experience (Helsinki, Finland)		
		Structured Courses, for example:	School Attachment	Other Learning Activities, for example:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Finnish education system and the National Core Curriculum ● SDL in the Finnish education system and Core Curriculum ● Towards a learner-centred curriculum: Transversal competences ● Pedagogical strategies to promote a self-directed classroom ● Using assessments to promote students' readiness for SDL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attachment to three elementary schools ● Class observations, shadowing, co-planning and co-teaching with local teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visits to a pre-school and a secondary school ● Visit to Finnish National Agency of Education ● Consolidation and debriefing sessions ● Self-learning sessions
Weeks 7 – 8	Post-trip Consolidation (Hong Kong)			
Phase Two		Implementation of Finalised Proposal		

