

TECHNOLOGICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG (THEi) Annual Report 2020/21

Degree Programmes Provision

The academic programmes offered by THEi are self-financing. In the academic year 2020/21, THEi offered 21 degree innovative programmes through its three Faculties, namely the Faculty of Design and Environment, the Faculty of Management and Hospitality, and the Faculty Science and Technology.

Ten of THEi's Year-1 degree programmes were included under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) with subsidy ranging from HK\$42,800 to HK\$74,600 for 571 places in the academic year 2020/21. The ten programmes are:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Product Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fashion Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sports and Recreation Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Multimedia Technology and Innovation
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information and Communications Technology

As for the other degree programmes not included in SSSDP, they were covered under the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme (NMTSS).

Programme Reaccreditation and Recognition

In the academic year 2020/21, THEi continued to maintain high standards to academic excellence through the accreditation of its academic programmes. Three of the Institute's programmes successfully went through Learning Programme Reaccreditations (Re-LPA) by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). These programmes are the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information and Communications Technology, and the Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management.

Furthermore, the professional positioning of THEi programmes was advanced through professional accreditations in 2020/21, including accreditations by Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS),

National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Education Recognition Program (ERP), Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) (United Kingdom), Construction Industry Council (CIC) and Hong Kong Institute of Building Information Modelling (HKIBIM).

Collaborative Master's Degree Programmes

With an aim to provide articulation pathway for Bachelor's Degree graduates to achieve a higher academic qualification and acquire management and professional skills that would meet the needs of relevant industries, the Faculty of Science and Technology partnered with the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia to deliver the Master of Engineering Management programme and has generated its first cohort in the academic year 2020/21.

Student Admission

Despite the obstacles and challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, THEi is delighted to report that it enrolled nearly 1,100 new students in the academic year 2020/21, which was similar to that of last year. This number included students admitted to the degree, professional diploma, professional certificate and collaborative master's programmes offered by the three Faculties. We take pride in our ability to adapt to changing circumstances and provide high-quality education to our students.

Student Achievements

During the academic year 2020/21, THEi students achieved remarkable success in various competitions and events and were awarded numerous scholarships. In particular, THEi students shone brightly and brought home numerous awards from major local and international competitions such as HK4As Student Award 2020, 2021 Watch and Clock Competition, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyor's Outstanding Dissertation Awards 2020, 2020/21 Young Chef Chinese Culinary Competition, Hong Kong International Culinary Classic at HOFEX, HKILA Landscape Academic Design Competition 2020-21, CIBSE Hong Kong Region Student Award 2020-2021, MonsoonSIM Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Competition 2021, etc., competing against students from both UGC-funded universities and other self-financed tertiary institutions. These achievements are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talents of our students, and we are proud of their outstanding performance.

Graduate Employment

According to the results of the employment survey of the graduates of THEi full-time programmes from 2020, THEi graduates continued to perform exceptionally well in the job market. The overall employment rate for our graduates stands at an impressive 90%. Overall, 84% of THEi graduates

considered that their present job was relevant to their learning programme, while 89% of the graduates agreed that the discipline/industry-specific knowledge learnt from the programme was helpful to them in performing their present jobs. Work-integrated learning (WIL) played an important role in enhancing the work-readiness of the graduates, with 85% of the employed graduates reported that they could apply the knowledge or practical skills learnt from WIL to their present jobs. 95% of the employed graduates considered that WIL had been helpful to their personal development. 21% reported that they received the job offer directly from the employer who had offered the WIL to them during their study at THEi.

Employers' Views on THEi Graduates 2018/19

To evaluate and monitor the quality of THEi programmes, an independent external party was commissioned to conduct a survey to obtain employers' perceptions on the performance of THEi's fourth cohort of graduates (i.e., graduates of 2018/19) who have given their consent. The overall assessment of our graduates' performance, as given by their employers, is outstanding. The graduates attained a high score in the overall assessment, indicating that they are skilled and competent in their respective fields. We are extremely proud of our graduates' achievements, and we remain committed to providing them with the best possible academic education and practical training to help them succeed in their careers.

THEi Earn and Learn Degree Programmes Scheme

In the academic year 2020/21, THEi continued to offer the Earn and Learn Degree Programmes since its first launching in the academic year 2018/19. In addition to the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering programme, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering, and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy programmes, the scheme has been extended to include the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management in September 2020. THEi partners with employers to develop the scheme which offers an alternative articulation pathway and advancement opportunity for recent Higher Diploma graduates and working adults to pursue a Bachelor's Degree qualification through studying at THEi and at the same time accumulating work experience while earning an income at workplace.

In the academic year 2020/21, a total of 15 employers from the building services engineering, aircraft engineering and construction industries including Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Gammon Construction, ATAL Engineering, FSE Engineering, Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited (HAECO) and Build King participated in the scheme and nominated 23 staff in total to join the scheme and study at THEi for two years. Furthermore, 18 training places were secured with various partnering companies to provide part-time job opportunities with structured on-the-job training for a period of 12 months to students of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in the Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy programme.

Students of the first two cohorts (8 and 16 students admitted in the academic years 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively) of the Earn and Learn Degree Programmes Scheme completed their study and successfully

graduated in February and August 2021 respectively. Most of the graduates reported that they obtained job promotion to a higher ranked post during the study period, while others were deployed to new job post with higher salary.

Partnership Engagement

In 2020/21, THEi continued to strengthen its partnerships with both local and overseas organisations, signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 13 institutions and organisations, such as EHL Swiss School of Tourism and Hospitality, FSE Lifestyle Services Limited, Zuni Icosahedron and Black Sheep Restaurants. These partnerships offer exciting opportunities for our students, providing them increased access to industrial attachments, exchange programmes, and other valuable resources. We are pleased to be able to offer our students such a diverse range of opportunities, and we look forward to continuing to expand our partnerships locally, regionally and internationally in the future.

Campus Development

THEi Chai Wan campus has been awarded the WorldGBC Asia Pacific Leadership in Green Building Awards 2020 – Leadership in Sustainable Design and Performance Award (Institution). In addition, THEi Chai Wan campus was awarded the Platinum rating of BEAM Plus New Buildings, and Leadership in Sustainable Design and Performance Award – Institutional (2020). The campus was designed with sustainable features including the twin-tower building with a north-south orientation, high-building permeability, external shading and light shelves and a bioclimatic façade and 40% of greenery coverage.

THEi continued to invest in campus development, with the recent establishment of two new facilities: the Hydroponic Farming Centre and Future Technology Learning Centre. These new facilities further enhanced the learning experience at THEi, providing students with access to resources and opportunities that will prepare them for success in their future careers.

Applied Research and Consultancy

This year, THEi received research grant awards totalling HK\$19.7M from various external competitive funding schemes such as the Research Grants Council (RGC) and the Environment and Conservation Fund to conduct research and organise educational activities. Of these, HK\$5M was awarded by the RGC to establish a “Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Food By-products Utilization (CIFU)”, and another HK\$2.4M by the Trade and Industrial Organization Support Fund for a “Food Innovation Centre (FIC)” at THEi. CIFU will focus on innovative food by-product research to reduce and reuse food manufacturing waste while FIC will provide professional support services for the local food industry.

The University Grants Committee’s (UGC) Research Matching Grant Scheme (RMGS) encourages private donations in support of research activities carried out by local self-financed higher education institutions. In 2020/21, THEi’s Faculty members solicited HK\$2.3M (in cash or in-kind) of donation

for research from the private sector, and received the same amount of matching grant from the UGC. The donations and research matching grant have enabled the conduct of various research activities by staff and students.

Riding on the success of last year's online THEi Student Applied Research Presentations (SARP), we hosted the event on THEi website in 2021 for the second year in a row. SARP2021 received more than double the number of participants compared to the previous year, with 92 abstracts, 56 research posters and 17 video presentations submitted by students from across all three Faculties. The event went live on 1 August 2021 for public viewing, and attracted around 1,800 visits during the period of 1 – 10 August 2021. Nearly 400 people, including those from the industry and other local or overseas higher education institutions, had voted in the competition for the Best Poster Awards and Best Video Presentation Awards.

Through these research initiatives, THEi remains committed to advancing knowledge and contributing to the betterment of our society.