

Project Overview

Project Title (in English):

The development of learning materials in relation to Chinese as a second language for post-secondary education

Project Title (in Chinese):

中文作為第二語言的教與學發展

Executive Summary

The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students' integration into the society. The Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework ("Learning Framework") was introduced in 2014 Policy Address with an amount of \$200 million to enhance support for NCS students to learn Chinese. Building on this, an Applied Learning Chinese Language Course for NCS students pegged to the Qualifications Framework has been provided at the senior secondary level in phases starting from 2014 as an alternative qualification of Chinese language (under DSE Core Subjects) for them to opt for.

NCS students can fulfill the entry requirement of post-secondary education with certain attainments in GCE/GCSE/IGCSE/IAL assessed by the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority as International & Professional qualifications starting from 2006. Though these qualifications were accepted as university's or community college's entry, many schools/faculties/courses are still on the sidelines in admitting these overseas qualifications. Yet, Chinese-related subjects were usually exempted in their degree or sub-degree studies and hence, the opportunities for them to undergo Chinese study were rare. Due to the discrepancy in Chinese literacy between local and NCS students, they are comparatively difficult to fit in the labour market. In general, many of them can only engage in non-professional or frontline positions upon graduation.

In Hong Kong, NCS students account for 6.4% of total student populations at all levels (Unison, 2015, P.9). To extend an inclusive learning environment at the post-secondary level and strengthen the training for teachers, FSTE hereby proposes an initiative to develop learning materials in relation to Chinese as a second language together with an associated online sharing mechanism which aims to enhance the Chinese proficiency amongst NCS students studying in the self-financed post-secondary sector. It will be the first joint effort in the sector to provide appropriate learning and teaching resources to students and teachers for improving NCS students' proficiency in Chinese language. If their language standards get closer to the employers' expectation, they will be more competitive in the society and employment market.

Reference:

Hong Kong Unison (2015). "Breaking Through Stereotypes", *She Says*, Hong Kong Unison Limited.

Problems Identified
<p>One of the major obstacles for NCS students applying for tertiary education places would be the requirement of Chinese language. Though other internationally recognized Chinese language qualifications have been accepted by universities/colleges for several years; these Chinese courses were still over simplified and below standard that in turn made them less competitive in the employment market. Consequently, they sometimes struggle to find jobs because of the low proficiency in Chinese upon graduation. Any measures that can foster their integration into the society and can strengthen their engagement in a wider range of job types in Hong Kong should be advocated.</p>

Project Objectives and Deliverables	
Measurable Objectives	How it can be achieved
<p>1. To analyze the needs for the design and delivery of Chinese as a second language course package to NCS students at post-secondary level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct research, surveys and focus groups to identify the parameters for the learning materials development
<p>2. To improve NCS graduates' employability by building up their Chinese language skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a set of Chinese as a second language course package for NCS students at post-secondary level ➤ Pilot run for the courses ➤ Interactive workshops with career guidance elements
<p>3. To help NCS students to master the basic and common business Chinese expression</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop an online self-learning platform to share newly developed course package ➤ Produce video clips imitating workplace for transfer of soft and hard skills through online self-learning platform ➤ Organize festivals/competitions for NCS students to practice Chinese in daily life
<p>4. To encourage sharing among teachers teaching at post-secondary level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize workshops/sharing sessions conducted by the Project Manager who are actively involved in the curriculum development stage

Project Deliverables	
Deliverables	Sharing mechanism
1. Documentation of the needs analysis for the design and delivery of Chinese course package to NCS students at post-secondary level	Upload research findings and report to FSTE designated website
2. A set of Chinese course package for NCS students at post-secondary level	Upload materials to FSTE designated website for sharing
3. Workshops/sharing sessions for teachers	Upload materials to FSTE designated website for sharing
4. Interactive workshops with career guidance elements for NCS students	Upload materials to FSTE designated website for sharing
5. Produce workplace video clips for NCS students' self-learning	Upload video clips to FSTE designated website for sharing
6. Use of Chinese language competition for NCS students	Award presentation ceremony; Upload clips of awardees to FSTE designated website for sharing
7. An evaluation report for disseminating project findings and deliverables	Upload evaluation report to FSTE designated website for sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summary of research report ➤ Chinese course package for NCS students at post-secondary level ➤ Photos of events including workshops/sharing sessions and festivals/competitions ➤ Link to FSTE website for accessing online self-learning materials 	
Beneficiaries	
Expected type and number of beneficiaries of the project	3,000 NCS students
<p>The project will last for 3 years, assuming the learning materials would be well developed and could be implemented in 2nd year, there are about 1,500 NCS students continuing their studies at post-secondary level upon the completion for secondary education. The total number of beneficiaries of the project will be about 3,000 NCS students. However, there is a foreseeable stable growth in the population of NCS students, hence, the need for upgrading Chinese will be of essentially important. This proposal may function as the seeds for future core curriculum for coming NCS students.</p>	

Implementation Schedule		
Estimated start date of the project (month/year)		October 2016
Estimated end date of the project (month/year)		September 2019
Project duration (months)		36 months
Month	Key milestones	
	In terms of project activities and deliverables	In terms of monitoring and evaluation
1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment of project team ➤ Prepare questionnaire for surveying NCS students ➤ Conduct survey and focus groups to understand their perceptions towards and needs for Chinese language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Implementation Team meetings ➤ Project Evaluation Team meeting ➤ Survey and focus groups results
7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct needs analysis to identify and determine the parameters for development of the learning materials ➤ Develop a set of Chinese course package for NCS students at post-secondary level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Implementation Team meetings ➤ Project Evaluation Team meeting ➤ Documentation of needs analysis report ➤ FSTE Advisory Group Meeting and consultation on course package
13-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pilot run for the course package ➤ Workshops/sharing sessions for teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Implementation Team meetings ➤ Project Evaluation Team meeting ➤ Evaluation results – Pilot run for the course for NCS students at post-secondary level
19-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interactive workshops with career guidance elements for NCS students ➤ Revise the course package ➤ Produce video clips imitating workplace for transfer of soft and hard skills for NCS students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Implementation Team meetings ➤ Project Evaluation Team meeting ➤ FSTE Advisory Group Meeting and consultation on revised course package

25-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement revised course package ➤ Produce video clips imitating workplace for transfer of soft and hard skills for NCS students ➤ Organize festivals/competitions for NCS students to explore and practice Chinese in daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Implementation Team meetings ➤ Project Evaluation Team meeting ➤ Set up organizing committee and selection panel for festivals/competitions ➤ Evaluation results – course package for NCS students at post-secondary level
31-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interactive workshops with career guidance elements for NCS students ➤ Workshops/sharing sessions for teachers ➤ A final evaluation report to disseminate project findings and deliverables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Implementation Team meetings ➤ Project Evaluation Team meeting

Publicity Plan

1. Promotion pamphlets and posters about the project and the designated website will be sent to FSTE Member Institutions and relevant stakeholders through mass emails;
2. Sharing sessions will be conducted to disseminate research findings, teaching and learning materials and good learning and teaching practices to FSTE Member Institutions and relevant stakeholders;
3. Information about learning and teaching materials will be made available on the designated website, regular introductory seminars on how to use the recourses will be organized to both teachers and students;
4. All promotional materials will acknowledge the support of Quality Enhancement Support Scheme.

Cash Flow and Budget				
Project Expenditure				
	Amount in HK\$			
Period	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Manpower	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$180,000	\$1,500,000
Equipment / Facilities	\$24,000	\$0	\$0	\$24,000
Services	\$25,000	\$420,000	\$320,000	\$765,000
General Expenses	\$20,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$300,000
Others (e.g. auditor's fee)	\$25,890	\$25,890	\$64,725	\$116,505
Total	\$754,890	\$1,245,890	\$704,725	\$2,705,505
Project Income (if any, e.g. fees received)				
	Amount in HK\$			
Period	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Total				
Grant Sought under the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme			HK\$2,705,505	
Funding from the Applicant			N/A	
Funding from Other Sources			N/A	
Total Project Value			HK\$2,705,505	
Post	Duties			
Project Director (Honorary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oversee project development and activities ➤ Give advises, scrutinize the development and monitor progress of activities and quality of deliverables in the whole project period 			
Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Formulate detailed implementation plans for different stages of the project ➤ Carry out needs analysis for the design and delivery of Chinese curriculum to NCS students at post-secondary level 			
Project Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize learning activities for the NCS students and sharing opportunities for teachers on a regular basis ➤ Provide full administration support throughout the courses development process to the implementation team 			

Project Sustainability

1. The project team will regularly review and revise the course contents in the light of the trend and needs of the labour market for continued use after project period. The Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University will provide honourable advises in the long run.
2. An Executive Officer (cost to be borne by FSTE) will oversee the website and manage the daily administration of online learning platform, including system maintenance, monitoring of users' conduct and updating contents upon the completion of the project.
3. Further development and revision on programme and submission to QESS with a view to validating the course package to Qualifications Framework with proper level could be considered.