

Role and Responsibility in this project (please state clearly the nature and details of collaboration with the principal applicant)

II Project Information

Project Title (in English)

**Promoting Teaching Effectiveness in
English as the Medium of Instruction for
Hong Kong's Self-financing, Post-secondary Sector**

Project Title (in Chinese)

A. Project Summary

Employers and the government point out that the development of Hong Kong as a globally-oriented, knowledge-based economy has increased the demand for a highly-educated, skilled workforce. Furthermore, employers cite competency in English – the pre-eminent global language for business, education, science, technology, law, etc. - as the most sought after skill for new employees.¹ To facilitate development of these skills, the self-financing, post-secondary education sector has placed a premium on English as the medium of instruction (MOI).

Teaching in English presents a unique challenge for most teachers, but even more so for newer teachers recruited from other sectors like secondary education, business, etc. Many sector teachers lack formal or informal training in any teaching methodology, let alone teaching methodology (including curriculum and materials development) in the medium of English. Many are new to teaching and the requirement of using English to teach is daunting to them. Diminished confidence and lack of training in teaching in English reduces their teaching effectiveness and hampers their students from reaching their potential. By undergoing language awareness training and skills development for teaching in English, therefore, teachers in the sector will be: 1) better role models for their students as users of English, 2) more confident in the classroom, and 3) better equipped with the knowledge and pedagogical skills required for English as the MOI. Professionalization of the teachers' corps would accrue as a result of such training. Many students thus would benefit from the improvement in teaching effectiveness and be prepared better for employment.

For these reasons, it is proposed to design and pilot a programme for training sector teachers in teaching in the medium of English. First, an investigation into the current needs of teachers in Hong Kong's self-financing, post-secondary education sector for teaching in English in various disciplines would be carried out using focus groups, interviews, and survey. Secondly, that data would be analysed and interpreted within the framework of a critical literature review to design and develop the programme. Thirdly, the programme would be developed, launched, assessed, revised, and offered again. Materials would be developed into a book and website; the website would also feature a forum for teachers to discuss teaching in the medium of English in their various disciplines to encourage on-going professionalization and promotion of teaching effectiveness.

The programme would consist of four mini-courses, each with 15 hours of contact.

¹ The Census and Statistics Bureau reported that the results from its survey of 40,000 Hong Kong businesses showed "Spoken English" as the number one "Preferred job skill" and "Written English" as the number six "Preferred job skill".

1. **Language Awareness**, aimed at improving teachers' English language skills;
2. **Second Language Learning and the Classroom**, aimed at helping teachers understand how students learn, and learn in, English;
3. **Communicative Teaching Methods & Techniques**, aimed at developing teachers' skills in teaching in the medium of English for their disciplines;
4. **Developing Curriculum and Materials in English**, aimed at helping teachers develop materials in English for their disciplines.

It is expected that upon successful completion of the project, a fuller understanding of the needs of teachers in the sector for English as the MOI would be obtained, and teachers participating in the programme would improve their teaching effectiveness. A fully-developed programme would be ready for future use at cost.

B. Project Objectives

(please identify the needs of the target recipients and explain how the project aims to address the needs).

The overall objective of this project is to promote teaching effectiveness in the medium of English in Hong Kong's self-financing, post-secondary education sector.

There are five major target goals:

1. Research the general and special needs of teachers using English as the medium of instruction in the self-financing post-secondary education sector in Hong Kong and interpret the results within a critical literature review.
2. Develop printed and web resources for a pilot programme of four mini-courses in teaching in the medium of English for teachers in the self-financing post-secondary education sector;
3. Offer the pilot programme to teachers in the sector and assess the results to make improvement;
4. Offer the revised programme on a wider scale and assess the results;
5. Disseminate the results of the project in stages.

C. Outcomes and Deliverables of Project

(please include the expected number of target beneficiaries and explain how they will benefit from the project).

The outcomes and deliverables of the project include:

1. A study on the needs of teachers in Hong Kong's self-financing, post-secondary education sector for teaching in the medium of English
2. A pilot programme for 20 teachers in various disciplines in the sector, consisting of four mini-courses aimed at improving teaching effectiveness in the medium of English
3. A programme for 80 teachers in various disciplines in the sector, consisting of four mini-courses aimed at improving teaching effectiveness in the medium of English
4. A book of materials for use in the programme
5. A website for use in the programme, including a forum for teachers to discuss teaching in the medium of English in their various disciplines to encourage on-going professionalization and promotion of teaching effectiveness.
6. Academic research papers for conferences and journals for further dissemination and for feedback from peers, as well as Six-month Progress Reports and a Final Report.
7. A fully developed programme which could be offered at cost in the future

The programme is expected to initially benefit about 100 teachers as they face the challenges of teaching in English as the medium of instruction, which will in turn enhance the employment skills of students from the sector and hence contribute to the long-term prosperity of Hong Kong and the region.

D. Implementation Details

It is expected that the project would be completed in two and a half years, commencing May 2009.

Year 1: Research Study and Development of Pilot Programme	
Months 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain Research Associate and Web Designer-Programmer services
Month 1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and produce a report on the general and special needs of teachers using English as the medium of instruction in the self-financing, post-secondary education sector in Hong Kong
Month 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop four mini-courses for Pilot Programme • Develop Website for mini-courses and forum • Launch Website & print book for participants • Develop survey questionnaire for assessment purposes of mini-courses • Promote Pilot Programme
Year 2: Launch and Assessment of Pilot Programme; Development of Programme; Dissemination of Results to Date	
Month 1 – 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Pilot Programme (for 20 participants) • Collect and analyze data in questionnaire survey from Pilot Programme participants for assessment purposes
Months 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a comprehensive report and seek/attend conferences and seek publications for dissemination
Months 6-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise Pilot Programme book and website • Print Programme book • Promote Programme
Year 3: Launch and Assessment of Programme, Reporting and Dissemination of Results	
Months 1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Programme (for 80 participants) • Collect data in questionnaire survey from Programme participants for assessment purposes of mini-courses • Analyze data in questionnaire survey from Programme participants
Month 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise book and website • Write a comprehensive report and seek publications for dissemination • Prepare Final Report

E. Implementation Schedule <i>(Please extend this table if necessary.)</i>		
Estimated start date of project:		May 2009
Action <i>(please indicate key milestones)</i>	Timeframe	Cashflow Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Obtain Research Assistant & Web Designer/Programmer services ● Investigate the current needs of teachers in Hong Kong's self-financing, post-secondary education sector for teaching in English in various disciplines ● Develop mini-courses to meet the needs discussed in the study ● Develop website ● Publish book for mini-courses 	Year 1	\$516,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch Pilot Programme ● Assess effectiveness of Pilot Programme and revise ● Disseminate results for feedback ● Launch Programme 	Year 2	\$490,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess effectiveness of Programme and revise ● Disseminate results for feedback 	Year 3	\$465,000

Estimated completion date of project:

October 2011

Projected Expenditure <i>(Please provide detailed breakdown under each item)</i>				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
a. Manpower				
Obtain Research Assistant services at 15,000 monthly	180,000	180,000		
Academic Staff (with academic background and qualifications equivalent to Lecturer or above) for Materials Development @ \$800 per hour	96,000	70,000	70,000	
Teachers (total 4 courses X 15 hours each x 5 sections each with 20 students each = 300 hours @ \$800 per teaching hour		48,000	192,000	<u>\$836,000</u>
b. Equipment / Facilities				
Venue for mini-courses (4 courses X 15 hours each X 5 sections each = 360 hours @ \$300 per hour = \$108,000		18,000	72,000	
Lap-top computers (2)	12,000			<u>\$102,000</u>
b. Services				
Web hosting	5,000	5,000	5,000	<u>\$15,000</u>
General Expenses				
Obtain Web Designer/Programmer services at \$7,000 monthly	84,000	84,000	42,000	
Data Collection & Report Preparation @ \$800 per hour	80,000	16,000	16,000	
Project Monitoring & Administration @ \$400 per hour average	20,000	20,000	10,000	
Books	9,000	9,000	8,000	
Printing, stationery etc.	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Photocopying	5,000	10,000	10,000	<u>\$438,000</u>
Software	3,000			
Other				
Publication of Final Report			10,000	
Conference participation		10,000	10,000	
Contingency	18,000	16,000	16,000	<u>\$80,000</u>

Total Expenditure :	516,000	490,000	465,000	<u>\$1,471,000</u>
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Projected Income				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
a.				
b.				
c.				
Total Income :				

Sources of Funding

a. Amount of grant sought under this application: \$1,471,000

b. Other sources of funding (*this may include donations, contributions from the applicant/its parent organization, etc. Please give the name(s) of the sponsor(s), the amount of funding, and indicate whether the funding has been secured.*):

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

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G. Monitoring and Self-evaluation Mechanism

A Project Monitoring Committee would be established, which would include one person external to SCOPE who could advise on the Project. Six Month Progress Reports would be provided to the Project Monitoring Committee.

H. Management Support and Key Personnel Involved

Dr. Paul C. Corrigan (*Edd; MA TESOL; PGCHKLaw; BA [English and History]*) would serve as Principal Investigator, with support from academic and management personnel in SCOPE. Dr. Corrigan joined City University in 1994 is currently the Arts and Communication Section Leader in SCOPE and previously the Head of Division of Language Studies (2006-2008) in the Community College of City University. He has served on English Enhancement Panels for the Education Bureau, authored or co-authored various books and articles on teaching in English and other education topics, and has presented at local, regional and international conferences.

SCOPE academic personnel possess the necessary post-graduate qualifications and post-secondary experience to assist in the project and SCOPE management personnel also possess the necessary qualifications, skills and experience to assist.

I. Special Justifications if the Grant Sought Exceeds \$2 million

N/A

III Other information

1 Project Sustainability (*If applicable, please describe how the recurrent expenditure involved will be met after completion of the proposed project*)

As the project would produce materials (based on the researched needs of teachers in the sector) for mini-courses in a programme, the materials could be used after the initial project was completed in order to continue to promote teaching effectiveness in English as the MOI in the sector.

2 Preparatory work done (*If any*)

None

3 Past experience in organizing projects of similar or relevant nature and achievements (*If any*)

Dr. Paul C. Corrigan (*EdD; MA TESOL; PGCHKLaw; BA [English and History]*) was the Principal Investigator for *The Expert Learners Workshops Project* (Project No. 8710083), a successfully-completed project funded through the City University of Hong Kong Quality Enhancement Fund. The project pioneered the use of the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) at CityU, which was used in conjunction with interviews to understand how students in various disciplines at CityU with top G.P.A.s were able to achieve their academic success; that information was then used to create workshops to teach those skills to other students. The results were disseminated in conferences and reports/conference proceedings in Hong Kong and Europe.

Dr. Corrigan has taught at universities in Japan and the United States and since 1994 for City University of Hong Kong, where he is currently the Arts and Communication Section Leader in SCOPE. He also served as the Head of Division of Language Studies from 2006-2008 in the Community College of City University, served on English Enhancement Panels for the Education Bureau, authored or co-authored various books and articles on teaching in English and other education topics, and has presented at local, regional and international conferences.