The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

DARE (ambassador) program

Ideas wanted! Have some creative solutions to enhance the campus support to students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and want to voice them out? Have an awesome idea in mind to promote the awareness of SEN and want to make it real?

DARE stands for DiversAbility, Advocacy, Respect and Equity. The program aims at recruiting a group of enthusiastic students who want to empower the HKUST campus community to positively impact the support to students with SEN. The role of the ambassadors is to cultivate a campus where everyone's diverse abilities are appreciated and where everyone feels accepted and nourished. No matter how much you know about SEN, where you are from, and who you are, you can be part of the program if you want to contribute to campus inclusion!

Eligibility:

- Non-final year students of HKUST
- Support the mission of the program and committed to cultivating campus inclusion
- Can attend at least one training workshop and support events of the program for at least one semester in academic year 2017/18

Program timeline for the ambassadors: Program period: November 2017 – October 2018

Enrollment and Selection:

- Complete and submit the enrollment form to Student Affairs Office on or before 9 October 2017 (Monday)
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a selection interview by end of October 2017
- Selection result will be announced in early November 2017

Ambassador Planning Meeting: *November 2017 (details to be confirmed)*

Training and Learning:
From the basic knowledge on SEN to the etiquette and communication techniques, from team building to creativity workshops, our ambassadors will receive a variety of fun, yet useful training to prepare them for initiatives of promoting SEN awareness.

Serving and Observing:
The ambassadors will be given opportunities to take part in volunteer services / short-term internship at NGOs and social enterprises in the community; and on-campus SEN services, such as conducting campus tours for incoming SEN students, creating accessibility maps for campus events, etc. Through the serving and observing opportunities, our ambassadors will get to know more about both the challenges and coping skills of students to plan on projects for addressing the special educational needs of the campus – and of course, build friendship with peers from diverse backgrounds.

Planning and Practicing:
"diversAbility – a festival for All" is the University's festival on SEN and is held every Fall term. The ambassadors will involve in planning and organizing events of the Festival as a team.

Initiatives and Inclusion:
The ambassadors will take the lead to initiate their own projects to promote SEN awareness and campus inclusion. It can be designing new signage to enhance campus accessibility, developing assistive tools, holding a flash mob event on campus to promote SEN awareness, filming a micro movie to celebrate the diversity of the campus… YOU have more creative ideas!

Enquiry:

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