

Undergraduate Halls, Office of Student Affairs

Green Quest 城林綠影

What is Green Quest 城林綠影

The Undergraduate Halls believes **GREEN** is a living style in striving for balance and aiming for economic, social, and environmental sustainability. **Green Quest** is an annual programme organised by the Undergraduate Halls since 2014/15. It aims to enhance green awareness of HKBU students through local projects and overseas experiential tour. After the green journey, students share their experience from the programme and pass the green messages forward through student-initiated workshops/ activities.

Green Quest in Chinese is 城林綠影, which literally means a quest of green shadows through the city jungle.



Programme Outline

Participants from **Green Quest** are coming from different academic and cultural backgrounds but with one common interest, the pursuit of green living. To enrich students' understanding to the green development in Hong Kong, **Green Quest** begins with a series of trainings delivered by local experts on topics covering public space, local farming business development, urban planning, green mindset and green buildings etc. Participants are also required to work on individual and group projects to be familiar with the topics.

As a highlight to the **Green Quest**, selected students visit the two Scandinavian countries, Denmark and Sweden, where the pursuit of a green and sustainable society is at their heart. In around 12 days, participants experience the countries with their own body. Participants have the chance to meet with government officials, local residents and HKBU alumni in Copenhagen, and exchange ideas on living green in Europe and Hong Kong. Through the Green Journey, participants gain hands-on experience and develop new understanding to how green initiatives could be implemented into daily lives, from the infrastructure and system, city planning, government policy to culture and community engagement.

As a finale of the **Green Quest** programme, participants share their experience and pass the green messages forward through student-initiated workshops/ activities in the Undergraduate Halls or HKBU campus.



Feedbacks from Former Green Questers

“..., there were a lot of chances for us to communicate with locals, and amongst ourselves. These opportunities allowed me to practice to speak up and express what I think, without worrying how others might think about the content of my speech or my view towards something.

I grew up and gained a lot during this tour to Scandinavia. I have never travelled to Europe and be that far away from my family; I have to be a temporary tour guide and lead a group to places that I only researched online; I have to face many challenges on my own. Nonetheless, I overcame it all and did quite well throughout the trip. I made new friends, I learn new knowledge, I became greener and have a passion to change the lifestyle of my family and friends.

To sum up, **Green Quest allowed me to open my eyes and mind, to other cultures and I am grateful that I participated...**” *Veronica Lui*

“...The tour itself is really inspiring because we have the chances to meet and interact with local citizens in Copenhagen and Malmo with different backgrounds including academics, researchers, government officials, officers in famous companies and etc. If we travel on our own, we would not have developed deep insights of the two cities. **I have learned a lot from their green practices and I believed that individuals can make a difference.** I would definitely recommend the tour to my friends because the green quest activities are beneficial to Cultural experiences, English enhancement, Green life learning and so on. Love this study tour and hope more fellow students can join...” *Clare Wang*

“... From this programme I improved myself, including my communication skills. I used to be shy to talk to strangers. During this tour, I spent a lot of time to communicate with the locals, I become braver, and dare to talk to them even though my English is not that good. I found that it is a good way to practice your English. It is so good that through this **programme I do not only enriched my knowledge, but also improved my communication skills...**” *Melody Tsang*

“...I am lucky that I participated in the Green Quest Tour. **The overall experience of the whole programme is great and value added.** From the very beginning, the seminars were well structured and we equipped with related knowledge with the topic. During the tour, we had local guided tours to show us around the city. All of the activities enriched my learning experience on the topics of green living, sustainability and urban planning...” *Sophie He*



Feedbacks from Former Green Questers

“...Green Quest has proved itself as a magnificent tour for students with different cultural backgrounds. It invites participants’ own judgement and perception of the green and cultural issues. Just as what Jade said, “green” is always beyond just being eco-friendly. It is a lifestyle to treat things differently, an attitude to picture alternatives.

We met a few tour guides. Some of them are local experts with academic backgrounds. Some of them are believers of a better future. Some of them are practical with insightful campaigns. Some of them emphasize on the connection between “green” and neighborhood. Some focus on microclimate and community identity. It is as if we are asking a question of “what does green mean to you?”. And they have colorful and unique answers. Perhaps, it just tells us there are so many ways to achieve something, if we hold firm to some beliefs. Everything is possible.

If there is something wrong in the world, the chances are someone is fixing it. I hope I can be one of those. And, I will... ” *Elvis Lau*

“...One of the memorable moments experienced during the outreaching activity is gardening in the ecovillage. There are few opportunities for Hong Kong people to do gardening due to lack of space. After removing the weeds, putting the plant in the new position and watering the plant, I really treat it as my child. I hope my child can grow healthily and happily. Apart from planting, I also cooked my lunch in the ecovillage. Using the local organic ingredients, the food is more delicious....” *Rachel Chan*

“...Green Quest let us do is to explore the green lifestyle of Scandinavian people by planning our own tours or just simply freely touring around our city. It was actually a good way for us to experience first-hand on how to go green. Active leading role of participants enabling the chances to talk with native people, enriching culturally and boosting our English speaking skills. Jade has been a responsible, caring and helpful leader during all stages of Green Quest, making us worry less. I would highly recommend other schoolmates to join Green Quest ... ” *Ron Luk*

