

Towards halls of residence as living and learning communities: Lingnan University's fully residential campus

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Introduction

- Lingnan University's liberal arts education
- Offers full residence for all UGC-funded undergraduate and post-graduate students
- Management structure of our Halls of Residence (hostels)
- Challenges and support structures
- Looking to the future

Lingnan University's liberal arts education

- Small student enrolment (2,600 student population)
- Small class size
- Broad-based curriculum
- A fully residential campus
- Close faculty-student relationship
- Emphasis on exchange and extra-curricular learning experiences

Structure of Student Hostel Management at Lingnan

- 10 Halls of residence
- Residential requirements – 2 years minimum (1 for Direct Entry students)
- Financial assistance
- Warden's Office (Warden, Senior Tutor and Tutors)
- Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
- Student Services Centre
- Student Hostel Associations
- Floor Representatives

Challenges

- Too many things, too little time
- The culture of “chur”; “burning GPA”
- Consumerist attitude
- Reluctance to step out of their “comfort zone”

Table 1 Normal Daily Life Pattern mean hours (Weekdays)

Items	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Sleeping	7.13	7.03	6.98
Academic Learning/ Classes on campus	4.46	4.67	4.68
Learning/ homework/ internet surfing for academic purpose at hostel	3.47	3.78	3.89
Internet Surfing for leisure such as Facebook and Twitter	3.39	3.34	3.31
Entertainment, chatting and social life with hall-mates	2.66	2.41	2.44
Part-time job	0.83	1.17	1.18
Others	2.06	1.60	1.52

Table 2 When do you normally go to bed? (%)

Time	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
21:00 – 22:00	3%	2%	>1%
22:00 – 23:00			3%
23:00 – 00:00	30%	30%	8%
00:00 – 01:00			21%
01:00 – 02:00	51%	55%	30%
02:00 – 03:00			26%
03:00 – 04:00	15%	12%	9%
04:00 – 05:00			3%
Other than the above time slots	1%	1%	>1%

Table 3 Satisfaction on Hostel Environment (mean scores, 10 point scale)

Items	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Hostel Living Environment	6.85	6.83	6.88
Cleaning Service	7.06	7.09	7.16
Security and Access Control	7.48	7.67	7.48
Repair and Maintenance	6.39	6.85	6.25
Internet Service	5.97	6.42	5.46
Noise Nuisance	5.64	5.89	5.85
General Satisfaction Rate	7.13	7.15	7.17

**Table 4 Would you like to choose the following hostel/ living environment?
(Mean scores, 10 point scale)**

Items	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Triple Room with Bunk Bed	4.51	4.63	4.79
Reside with non-local students	5.03	5.20	5.41

Policies and measures

- Building social support networks
 - New Student Orientation, hostel orientation camps
 - 4-6 peer mentors who reside in the same hostel as each new student
- Internationalisation
 - All non-local and exchange students should normally share a room with a local student
 - Warden's Office, SHAs and informal support networks

Policies and measures

- Integrated Learning Programme Hostel Education
 - the Student Services Centre organizes activities to promote 'green living', community health, and skills and values that enhances community
 - Warden's Offices organize activities to enhance skills and values conducive to hostels as living and learning communities and broaden students' horizons
- Conflict management
 - Many students lack the resources to handle conflicts
 - Role of Warden's Office and the Student Services Centre

Table 5 Agreement to the statements based on what you have learned from hostel life (mean scores, 10 point scale)

Items	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
I feel comfortable building relationships with people from different backgrounds	7.40	7.36	7.54
I learn from interpersonal relationships	7.46	7.49	7.63
I cooperate successfully with other students in a variety of situations	7.36	7.3	7.46
I feel comfortable to present my ideas in front of others	7.05	7.13	7.35
I know how to communicate my ideas in a situation that is new to me	7.11	7.21	7.32
I participate effectively in group discussions and activities	6.62	6.87	7.16
I trust my abilities to lead others	6.41	6.6	6.94
I know how to allocate tasks to group members	6.35	6.6	6.97
I can plan activities independently	6.73	6.87	7.19
I feel confident in tackling problems	7.12	7.12	7.4
I understand that problems usually have more than one cause	7.36	7.4	7.59
Before I solve a problem, I gather as many facts about the problem as I can	7.14	7.28	7.43
It is my responsibility to help improve the community	6.99	7.17	7.44
I believe that taking care of people who are in need is everyone's responsibility	7.53	7.46	7.59
I act as if my behaviors make a difference in other people's lives	7.08	7.32	7.47
I like to explore and appreciate new cultures	7.39	7.55	7.54
I have the sense of the global dimensions of citizenship	6.88	7.24	7.34
I am able to work with people from other cultural backgrounds	7.21	7.31	7.44

Table 6 How much have Hostel Activities impacted your development on these aspects? (mean scores, 10 point scale)

Items	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Interpersonal skills	7.09	7.26	7.34
Communication skills	7.09	7.34	7.32
Management skills	6.35	6.88	7.09
Problem Solving and Analytical Abilities	6.62	6.82	7.15
Social Responsibility and Civic Awareness	6.55	6.72	7.04
Global perspective	6.32	6.43	6.93
Independence	7.50	7.74	7.52
Sense of belonging towards Lingnan	6.92	7.35	7.23
Sense of belonging towards my Hostel	7.01	7.31	7.27
Adaptability	7.37	7.54	7.46
Self-confidence	6.93	6.97	7.15

Looking to the Future

- Building trust, leading by example
 - Investing time and effort to make hostel life a transformative experience
- A diverse student population
 - Sexual orientation, religion, physical and mental health status, special needs
- Warden's Office staff recruitment
 - Shortage of qualified and suitable applicants

The End