



**impact lab**

社會影響力實踐課程

# Impact Report 2023 – 2024

# What is Impact Lab?

Impact Lab is a groundbreaking program offered at The University of Hong Kong, aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Our core mission is to provide a platform for students to translate their academic learning into tangible, meaningful contributions that directly enhance societal well-being.

Since its establishment in 2013, the Impact Lab Course has welcomed a total of 1,304 students from diverse backgrounds. Representing 65 countries and spanning nearly every faculty within the University, this diverse student body reflects the inclusive and multidisciplinary approach of the program.

Collectively, our students have dedicated an impressive 156,480 hours of service in collaboration with 40 social impact organizations. This effort, valued at roughly HK\$10,953,600, has resulted in positive outcomes that have touched the lives of many, driving impactful change within both local and global communities.

More than just an academic course, Impact Lab offers a transformative experience that empowers future leaders with the skills and mindset to effect enduring social change.

## Since 2013



**1,304**  
**students**

gained valuable real-life experience by joining the course



**156,480**  
**hours**

dedicated towards social impact partners



**10,953,600**  
**HKD**

in value created for our social impact partners

## Students with diverse backgrounds from



**134**

different universities



**65**

different countries & territories



**1**

overseas Summer Program



# Message from the Founder

Dear students, partners, colleagues, and friends,

I am delighted to present Impact Lab's annual Impact Report for the 2023-24 academic year, showcasing the amazing work of our students and partners, as well as the success of our impact-based learning model.

Since its inception, Impact Lab has been at the forefront of delivering on HKU's Vision, specifically by fostering student opportunities in the areas of internationalization, innovation, interdisciplinarity, and especially impact. Through international collaborations, innovative projects, and tangible social impact, we have exemplified the core values and goals set forth by the University. More importantly, our students have not only grown their skills and become more future-proof, they have done so while simultaneously making a meaningful difference in the local and global communities we serve.

Central to the Impact Lab's mission is the belief in empowering students through impact-based and experiential learning opportunities. By engaging in real-world projects that address pressing societal challenges, our students have not only honed their academic skills but have also cultivated a deep sense of social responsibility and empathy. Through hands-on experiences and collaborative initiatives, our students have embraced the opportunity to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways, fostering personal growth, leadership development, and a lifelong commitment to creating positive change in the world.

Looking ahead, we aspire to continue our efforts in driving the University's vision for the next decade beyond 2025. Impact Lab remains dedicated to being a catalyst for positive change, a hub for creative collaboration, and a champion for impactful innovation within the HKU community and beyond. I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have been part of this remarkable journey and invite you to explore this report to learn more about our achievements and contributions. Together, let us continue to strive towards a future where the principles of internationalization, innovation, interdisciplinarity, and impact are not just goals but lived realities.

Warm regards,

**David Bishop**

*Founder & Course Instructor Impact Lab*





# Word from the Impact Lab Team



**Ms. Lucia Lopusova**  
Demonstrator

Dear Impact Lab Students and Alumni, Partners, and Supporters,

I would like to thank you for making Impact Lab what it is today. Your active engagement as students, mentors, or partners is bringing about positive change around us. Over 100 students every year are empowered through Impact Lab to lead with integrity and to make a positive impact through their future careers. It is wonderful to witness the fruits of this labor as more and more alumni join the workforce and pursue meaningful projects.

With one decade under our belt, we saw the opportunity to improve Impact Lab and so following Impact Lab's 10th anniversary, we embarked on several new projects and enhancements to the program.

Rebranding, establishing the Alumni Network Committee, and engaging our alumni network through new programs as well as establishing the Advisory Board were some of the major initiatives aiming at improving the Impact Lab experience, its impact and reach. I am looking forward to witnessing how these will shape Impact Lab in its next decade.

In this coming year, we would like to focus on integrating practices that enhance the resilience and well-being of our students as a priority. The increasing prevalence of anxiety and mental health issues has come to the forefront in the past couple of years and it is of our utmost priority to ensure students are doing well so that they have the right environment and mindset to develop their skills and contribute meaningfully to society. With that in mind, we are planning targeted activities and integrating practical tools and resources into our course toolkit so that students can be empowered at all times. We are also exploring new leadership programs that can engage students beyond Impact Lab and aid in their entrepreneurship journey.

Energized by the latest group of Impact Lab students, I am looking forward to meeting the next cohort to keep expanding our impact-driven family!

# New Decade - New Brand

As we entered the new decade of empowering young people and making an impact, we were prompted to review our brand. We are no longer a ‘baby’ but a mature program with a track record of success. This deserved a stronger story and identity for our ever-growing community of students, alumni, and partners.

In collaboration with an Impact Lab student, Qinghui Yu (2024 Spring), Impact Lab successfully underwent a brand refresh, complete with a redesigned logo. The new logo exudes a cohesive symmetry, encased within an implied circular boundary. This design plays with positive and negative space to evoke a dual image—a blazing sun and the intricate human iris—capturing the essence of vision and energy.



Delving a bit deeper, you'll discover the logo's composition of circles and triangles, each pair symbolizing an individual. The variety in shapes signifies the rich tapestry of personalities and talents that the Impact Lab brings together.

The narrative woven into the design tells of the Impact Lab's diverse cohort of students, each with distinctive traits and perspectives. The Impact Lab serves as a nexus, uniting them in a shared space where collaboration, learning, and the exchange of ideas thrive. The triangles illustrate the sharpness and acuity each person brings—their unique strengths and ideas—while the encompassing round border symbolizes a harmonious and inclusive environment.

In the collective presence of Impact Lab, students are akin to a luminous sun, emanating their fervent energy and exerting an influence that extends beyond their immediate surroundings. Moreover, as a united entity, they form a discerning “eye”—a metaphor for a deeper vision that perceives challenges with acuity and seeks knowledge with a voracious appetite. Together, they don't just see the world; they envision it anew, equipped with the skills and insights to forge a path of meaningful change.

# HKU's Vision (2016-2025)

The University of Hong Kong's highest priorities are to create opportunities for the very best academic talents to excel and to advance human knowledge to the benefit of society. Not only has the Impact Lab Course aided in achieving the University's overall mission, but the unique and innovative course has contributed specifically to all aspects of the vision, as outlined below.



## Internationalization

Promoting global citizenship and competitiveness through a diverse exchange of ideas and international experiences.

## Interdisciplinarity

Bringing together different and divergent minds, in order to drive and catalyze new ways of thinking, new ideas and concepts, and new ways of doing things.

## Innovation

Continuously encouraging critical thinking and questioning in order to innovate for change and social good.



## Impact

From contributing to finding cures for diseases, to promoting oral hygiene in developing countries and more, our aim is to embed impact into all of our academic and educational outcomes.



Instagram

IMPACT  
LAB impact-lab.co



**Impact Lab provided a remarkable opportunity to break out of a bubble and truly immerse myself in a diverse and international community. It was a fun and exhilarating experience to interact with people from various cultures and backgrounds.**

**The range of students in Impact Lab was incredibly diverse, and when we all got together in the workshops, it almost felt like we were transported beyond the borders of Hong Kong.**



**Saha Sapnojit**  
Fall 2023, GREEN Hospitality



# Internationalization

Impact Lab is a great training ground for youth to become global citizens. By placing students in important roles as the Course's social impact partners, we expose students to intractable social issues and encourage their creative problem-solving skills to innovate change. By communicating and collaborating with fellow students from 134 universities in 65 countries and territories, students can immerse themselves in an environment diverse in gender, ethnicity, and culture, gaining valuable inter-cultural experience important in the globalized workplace.

## Our Students Around the World

**194**  
from Europe

From **65**  
Countries & Territories

**96**  
from North America

**923**  
from Asia

**5**  
from South America

**5**  
from Africa

**29**  
from Oceania

**69%** Full-time HKU Students

**31%** Exchange Students

## Our Students in Asia

**4** from Western Asia

**69** from Southeast Asia

**5** from Central Asia

**91** from South Asia



**923**  
from East Asia

**164** from China (Mainland)

**513** from Hong Kong & Macau

**16** from Taiwan

**52** from South Korea

**9** from Japan





**My Impact Lab experience brought me opportunities to interact with people from many diverse backgrounds with one thing in common that brought us all together: the love for art. Passion brings people closer despite our differences, and this is a valuable lesson I will never forget.**



**Tonia Pao**  
Spring 2024, Gowld Art Centre

# Interdisciplinarity

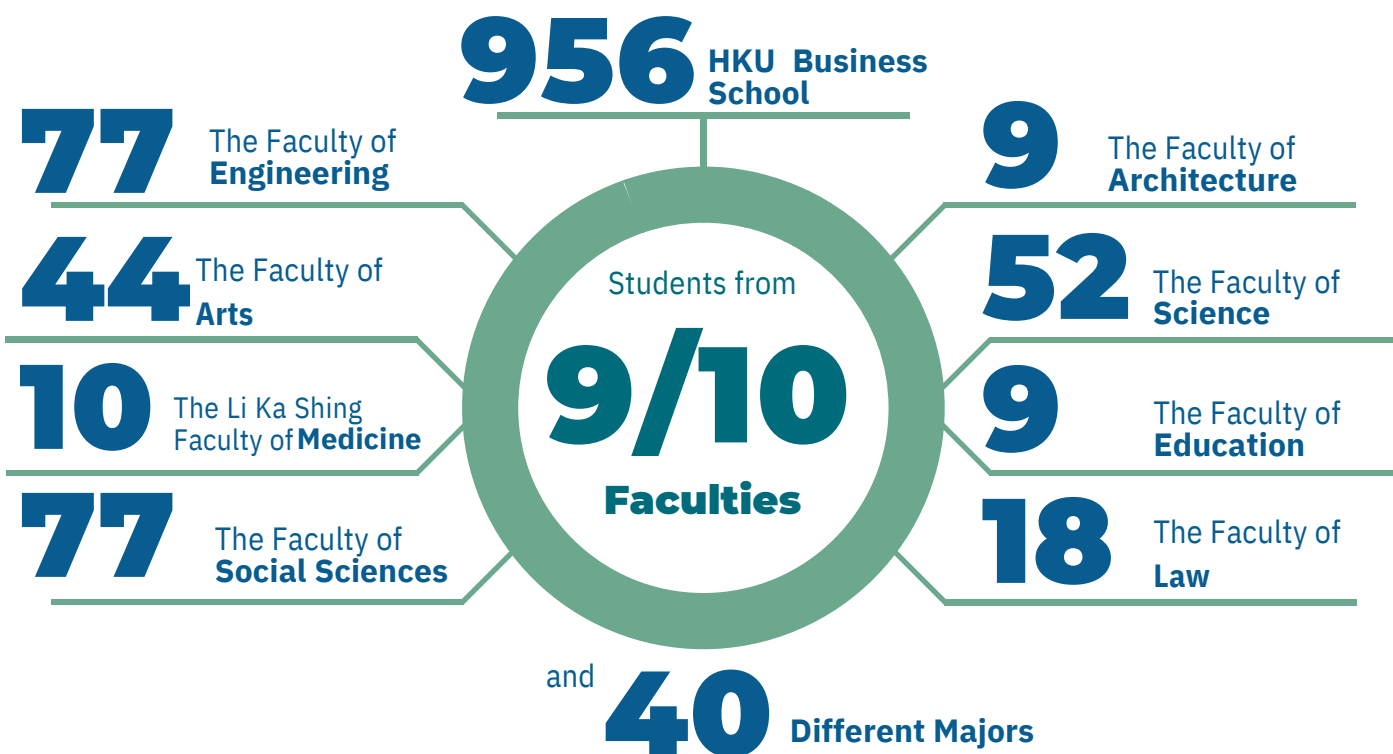
The diverse areas of focus of our social impact partners and the wide range of roles and responsibilities students are placed into, give Impact Lab its unique, interdisciplinary nature. This means the Course is relevant, practical, and value-added to students, regardless of their academic disciplines. By uniting youth and entrepreneurs across disciplines and industries under the primary goal of driving social impact, Impact Lab imbues in youth the fact that every job can and should be a social impact job.

Over the years we have had students from



## Multiple Faculties

Impact Lab students are from almost all of the faculties at HKU



## All Years of Study

Impact Lab students are from almost all years of study at HKU

**153**   **371**   **327**   **154**   **28**

First Year

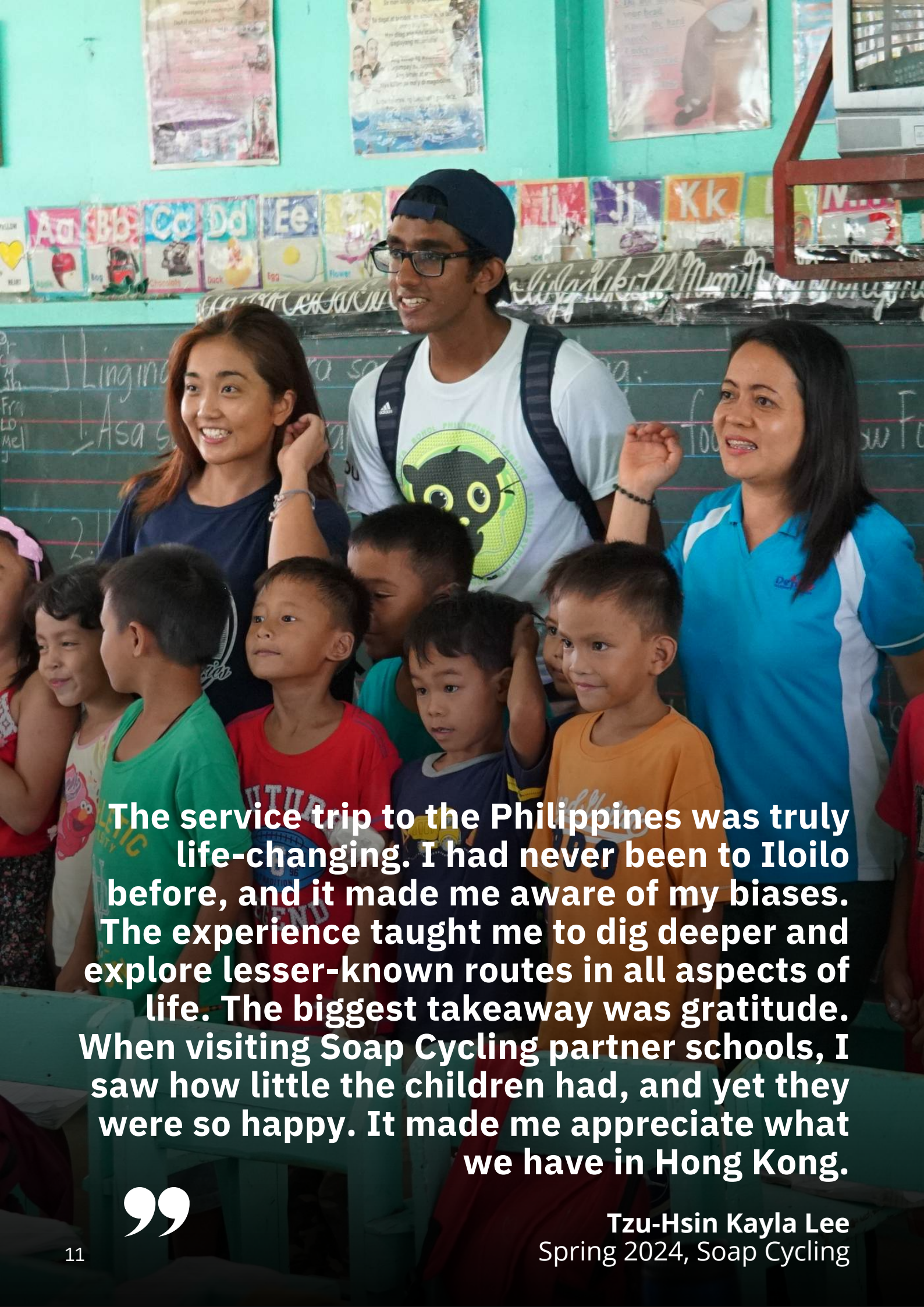
Second Year

Third Year

Fourth Year

Fifth + Year





**The service trip to the Philippines was truly life-changing. I had never been to Iloilo before, and it made me aware of my biases. The experience taught me to dig deeper and explore lesser-known routes in all aspects of life. The biggest takeaway was gratitude. When visiting Soap Cycling partner schools, I saw how little the children had, and yet they were so happy. It made me appreciate what we have in Hong Kong.**



**Tzu-Hsin Kayla Lee**  
Spring 2024, Soap Cycling





# Impact

Many Impact Lab alumni have started their social impact organizations, landed careers focused on social impact, or are driving impact from within their private sector employers. Our impact on youth empowerment and capacity building for under-resourced social impact organizations is widely acknowledged by the University Grants Committee and the 2023 Teaching Award it grants to Impact Lab’s instructor, David Bishop.

## Impact on Students

“Working with the Youth Empowerment group in FSI was a truly eye-opening experience that allowed me to understand the profound impact Impact Lab has on its students in creating brilliant leaders and change-makers for our future, and I myself aspire to be one of them.”

**Laveen Rekhani, Spring 2024, FSI**



“Through Impact Lab, I discovered that the most valuable lessons extended beyond accounting and finance. The experience provided me insights on the interconnectedness of different departments within FSI, as well as its commitment to facilitating social impact.”

**Matt Jung, Spring 2024, FSI**



## Impact on Our Social Impact Partners



“What was great about the students’ engagement was not only that they facilitated the CBS team to run workshops with the entrepreneurs, but they also committed part of their placement to document the learnings and resources into Toolkit articles so that they can be shared with the broader public.”

**Vivian Seo, Executive Director**



“Impact Lab students have been the backbone of our company operations. We give them a lot of responsibility and they often surprise us with very good work and ideas that we can then implement in the form of event topics or IT solutions. It is great to see the new generation being passionate about social impact and the environment.”

**Lucia Loposova, Executive Director**

# Course Advisory Board

This year, we formally established the Impact Lab Advisory Board, whose members are the key actors that create the vision for Impact Lab's future - proactively managing resources to help alumni find valuable opportunities to make social impact, building a tight-knit community of Impact Lab students, planning fundraising and networking events, and supporting the professional development of Impact Lab students beyond their work with the course.



**David Bishop**  
Associate Professor of  
Teaching  
HKU Business School



**Andrea Qi**  
VP of Learning & Development  
Goldman Sachs



**Lucia Loposova**  
Demonstrator  
HKU Business School



**Edmond Li**  
Humanities Teacher  
Seeds of Service Coordinator, HKIS



**Sumichhya Gurung**  
Programme Manager  
EmpowerU



**Matt Gollop**  
Managing Director  
ConnectedGroup



**Kent Mundle**  
Lecturer  
HKU Architecture



**Vera Pao**  
Student Representative  
Spring 2024 - Impact Lab



**Edwin Ng**  
Chair.- Alumni Network Committee  
2021 - Impact Lab Alumni



# Impact Lab Alumni Network Committee

The Impact Lab Alumni Network Committee, established in 2024, is composed of six brilliant alumni and students who collaborate to build a strong network of social impact leaders by facilitating close connections within the Impact Lab community. Most of their current work revolves around networking opportunities for students and alumni and establishing a mentorship program to provide invaluable guidance and leadership opportunities to Impact Lab students and alumni.



**Edwin Ng**

Chair

Impact Lab '21 - Soap Cycling



**Yoyo Ma**

Secretary

Impact Lab '22 - Gowld Art Centre



**Yoyo Ma**

Career Development

Impact Lab '21 - Carbonbase



**Jolyn Yin**

Entrepreneurship Support

Impact Lab '22 - GREEN Hospitality



**Kyra Krall**

Community & Events

Impact Lab '22 - EmpowerU



**David Izikowitz**

Entrepreneurship Support

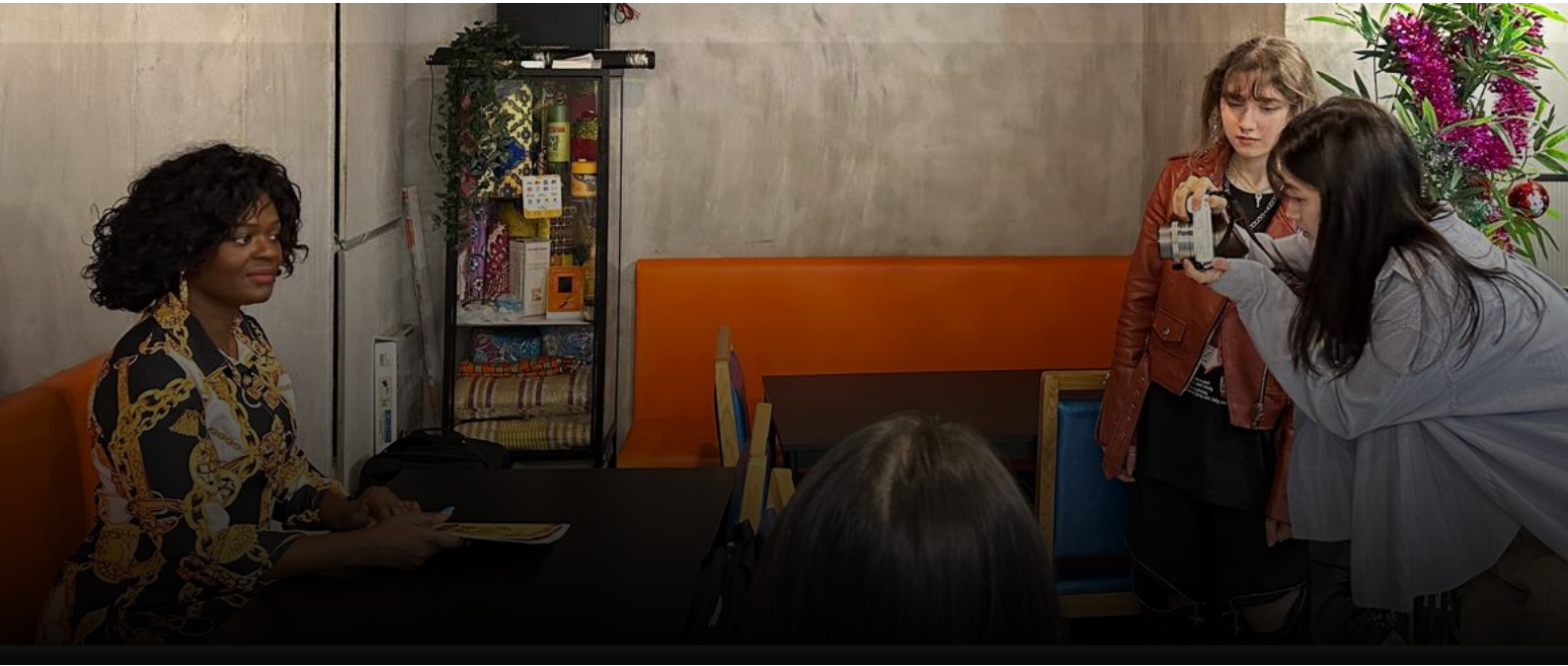
Impact Lab '16 - One Degree

The alumni committee showcases the diversity of Impact Lab as its current members participated in the course at different times or joined different social impact organizations, representing the network's essence. While the majority of the committee members are based in Hong Kong, some of them are based abroad with the hope of engaging alumni across the globe in the future.



# Mentoring Program

The Impact Lab Mentoring Program connects Impact Lab alumni and professionals with students and recent graduates to provide career guidance, share knowledge and experience, and shape the future of the Impact Lab community. This is a valuable opportunity that allows alumni to hone their leadership and communication skills, build their network, and learn about other organizations and industries through their mentees. This year, we have accumulated support from 13 brilliant mentors who helped enhance the Impact Lab experience for 28 student mentees.



# 10th Anniversary Celebration

The robust growth of social entrepreneurship in the past decades was a fueling power behind the introduction of the Impact Lab Course in 2013 (then called the Social Venture Management Course). To celebrate the 10th anniversary of this award-winning experiential learning course, a ceremony was held at HKU iCube in 2023 and attracted more than a hundred guests, including partners, NGO representatives, students and alumni.



*“Seeing students grow and hearing from students who are now instituting different programs around sustainability, social entrepreneurship, or leading in their communities – those are the things that really matter the most to me.”*

**David Bishop**  
Impact Lab Founder

# Impact Lab 2023-24

In its 11th year running, the Impact Lab Course continues to connect skills and knowledge gaps in youth and social impact organizations in Hong Kong and beyond. Our alumni making social impact central to their career decision-making is an affirmation of the work we do in revolutionizing education and learning, enhancing youth's employability, and building the next generation of social impact leaders.



**121**  
students gained valuable real-life work experience



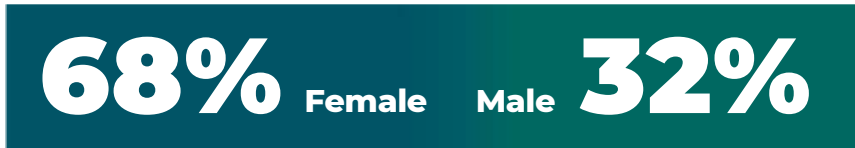
**13,960**  
hours dedicated towards social impact organization partners



**7**  
HKU faculties represented throughout the Impact Lab Course



Participating students represent  
**30**  
different universities



**3**  
North America

**25**  
Europe

**91**  
Asia



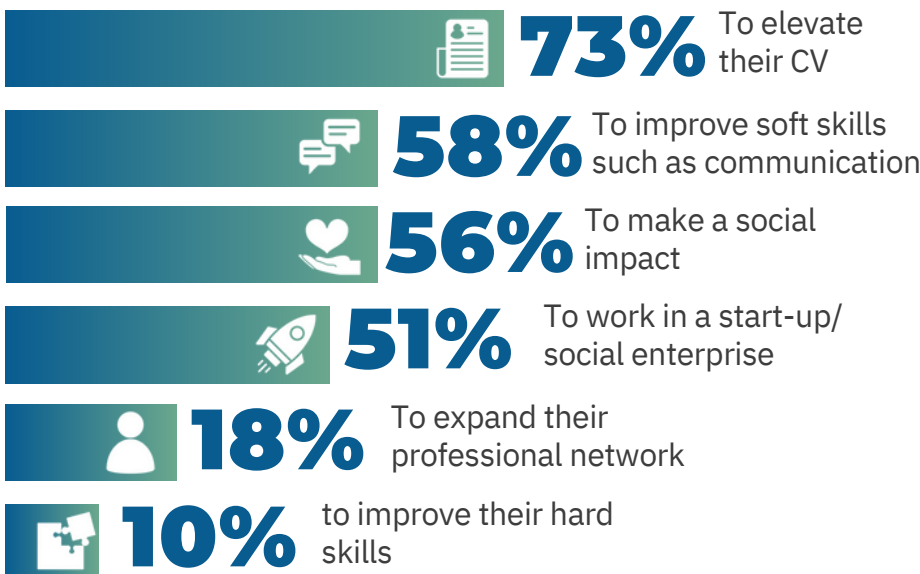
**2**  
South America



**31%** First Working Experience

**25**  
Different Program Majors

## Why did students join Impact Lab?



## Why did you join Impact Lab?

*"It represented an incredible opportunity to work with other motivated students in an international environment and make a real, lasting impact."*

Stefan Oliver Micsa





I appreciate the learning I had from my placement. There was a lot of new things to discover, as well as very helpful supervisor and teammates. I learned a lot from them in terms of work ethics like professionalism and accountability on top of soft skills, hard skills, and industry knowledge.

Prigitta Pricillya, 23-2024 Alumni, GREEN Hospitality



# 95%

- of students agreed they **felt more employable**
- of students felt that they had **achieved the goals they set for themselves** before starting the course

## Skills that students claimed to have learned



Communication

**93%**



Tech Skills

**71%**



Management Skills

**62%**



Teamwork

**53%**



Leadership

**45%**



Understanding

**20%**



# Way Forward

## Building an Open Online Course

After trialling a 10-part seminar series on what it takes to start and run an impactful business, we are now working towards building and publishing a pilot version of the “Starting an Impactful Business” course to make it accessible to the wider community and empower a broader group of youth.



## Expansion to Summer Opportunities

We hope to further expand our students’ opportunities by creating more overseas and summer programs. These programs will entail students working with local communities to bring about social impact ideas that can be developed in the area and honing their leadership skills.



## Mentoring & Buddy Program

In the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters, we successfully launched our first Impact Lab Mentoring Program with 28 mentees and 13 mentors. Adding value to the existing course structure, this Mentoring Program involves mentors from our corporate partners and alumni network, helping our students navigate their early professional lives and enrich their Impact Lab experience.



*Join us in our mission!*



**Become a Mentor**



**Join the Alumni  
Committee**



**Fund our Programs**

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