

# Right attitude and hard work lead to a double master's degree in Germany



## Chung-hei

Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration

"If you can take it, you can make it." Chung-hei is an encouraging example of this maxim. Although his public examination results failed to meet the entrance requirements of government-funded bachelor's degree programmes, he didn't give up looking for alternatives to improve and upgrade his prospects. After completing an associate degree, Chung-hei's hard work and right attitude helped him continue his education at PolyU SPEED, and obtained a Bachelor's top-up degree in Public Administration in 2012.

### Broadening horizons with transferable credits

After graduation from PolyU SPEED, Chung-hei went to Germany and studied for a Master of Arts and an MSc in Social Sciences in European Studies, an international double degree programme jointly offered by the University of Flensburg and the University of Southern Denmark. "Apart from acquiring academic knowledge, I also experienced different cultures and broadened my horizons," he said. As students were allowed to transfer credits obtained from some European Union universities under the European Credit Transfer System, Chung-hei also took a summer course at the University of Copenhagen, one of the largest research and education

institutions in the Nordic countries, to earn academic credits.

In Germany, non-local students are allowed to work part-time for up to 120 days each year. However, Chung-hei preferred travelling to other German cities to immerse himself in local cultural heritage. "The overseas experience reminded me of an old Chinese saying: 'Similar nature nurtures similar culture'. My observation is that due to the influence of Anglo-American culture, people in Hong Kong have business acumen and place more emphasis on earning a return. It is clear that the Germans and other Europeans treasure their cultural inheritance and diversified values. They are keener to preserve their cultural

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inheritance than gain a financial return," he opined.

### Seize the opportunity with a firm belief

Chung-hei has finished his thesis, a comparative study of identity issues in Scotland and Hong Kong. Having completed his Master's degree, Chung-hei planned to work in Europe for a few years to accumulate valuable overseas work experience for his future career. "For those who have faith, just follow the right path, work hard and aim high. Life is full of opportunities," he said.



Despite his disappointing public examination results, Chung-hei reached his academic target via PolyU SPEED.