

Lead for Life (L4L) Service Project FAQ

Part I: General FAQ

1	<p>What is the L4L service project?</p> <p>The L4L service project is one of the compulsory components of the L4L character leadership certificate programme. This experiential learning component will offer opportunities for you to practice what you had learnt about character leadership.</p>
2	<p>What constitutes a good L4L service project?</p> <p>A L4L service project can be performed individually or as a team. It should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Identify and address a meaningful social issue with the objective of creating positive social change;b) Have an emphasis on application of character leadership, which is beyond mere acquisition of academic knowledge and skills; andc) Involve about 20 hours of direct community services, either in HK or outside HK.
3	<p>What is ‘character leadership’?</p> <p>The core notion of character leadership is that everyone can be a leader, as leadership is not limited to personality types or to having position or power, but each one can lead from who and where they are. The theory and practice of character leadership can be conceptualised as an individual’s journey of commitment to developing and demonstrating good character qualities and leadership competencies consistently and appropriately for different contexts, aligned with the individual’s best version of self, and with a transcendent moral sense of purpose to influence the common good goal of building flourishing communities. In simpler words, character leadership is about who you are, how you can consistently be the best version of yourself, and learning together how you can lead others to create the best version of a flourishing community. Community is integral to L4L’s character leadership as community is both the means that affects formation of character and the end goal that allows expression of leadership influence.</p>

4	<p>What does it mean by ‘direct community services’?</p> <p>These are hours that you will be spending on the frontline in direct interaction with and service to the community. The hours counted toward direct community services do not include time for other indirect tasks, such as the pre-service training workshop, proposal writing and application, office or lab-based work during internship /attachment /placement, portfolio submission, and presentation.</p>
5	<p>What is the objective of the L4L service project?</p> <p>Through participation in a community service project and reflection on your experience, you will increase in self-awareness to identify and cultivate your character-based leadership strengths and style, and develop your sense of purpose to bring about positive social change to build a flourishing community.</p>
6	<p>When do I need to complete this L4L service project?</p> <p>You can undertake this component during your year 2 to year 4 studies. You can choose to do it during the semester, reading week, winter break or summer break. You just need to notify us of your CONFIRMED plan in accordance with the yearly timeline specified.</p>

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What are the different pathways for me to complete the L4L service project?

Option 1: Faculty Service Placement

If one of your academic courses requires you to undertake a service project/ placement, either in HK or outside HK, you can choose to make use of this opportunity to concurrently fulfil your L4L service project. You will not be required to undertake any extra tasks or duties during your faculty service placement. The top-up requirement is submission of a L4L reflection journal on the application of character leadership in your faculty service placement.

Option 2: L4L Service Placement

If you are not required to undertake any community service project by your academic courses and you do not have prior experiences in organising any service project, you can apply for one of our pre-arranged service placements.

Option 3: Self-initiated Community Programme

If you have extensive experiences in organising or leading community services and you have lined up an NGO partner who is ready to support your project, you are encouraged to start your own service project to apply and explore your character leadership knowledge and skills.

Option 4: Volunteer Community Programme

If you have signed up for a volunteer community programme during your year 2 to year 4 studies and the programme meets the L4L service project criteria: (a) requires about 20-hour direct community services, (b) includes pre-service training, (c) offers guidance and feedback to volunteers; your concerned service experience may qualify for the L4L service project.

Option 5: Designated Programme: Building Leaders of Tomorrow

You will be eligible for this pathway if you have received a confirmed offer of admission to the designated programme 'Building Leaders of Tomorrow' (BLT). The pre-requisite to taking BLT is successful completion of 'The Way To Success' (TWTS) programme.

8	<p>When do I have to finalise my arrangement? Do I have to seek prior approval from the L4L Team?</p> <p>If you plan to undertake the service project in the first semester (normative period is from September to December), you need to tell us your CONFIRMED plan by early-October of the academic year by completing the on-line form. The L4L team will consider your plan before an official endorsement is pronounced by mid-October.</p> <p>If you plan to undertake your service project in the second semester (normative period is from January to May), you need to tell us your plan by mid-January of the academic year by completing the on-line form. The L4L team will consider your plan before an official endorsement is pronounced by late January.</p> <p>If you plan to undertake your service project in the summer break (from June to August), you need to tell us your plan by mid- May of the same academic year by completing the on-line form. The L4L team will consider your plan before an official endorsement is pronounced by late May.</p>
9	<p>Will I receive any training before commencing the L4L service project?</p> <p>There will be a briefing / training session at the beginning of every semester.</p>
10	<p>How will I be assessed?</p> <p>Though no formal grading will be given, we are keen to gauge your personal growth. In addition to a feedback questionnaire, you will be submitting a 500-word reflection journal upon completion of your service project. In the journal, please share with us 2 to 3 incidents that demonstrate how you have learnt or applied one or a few character leadership strength(s) during the service project. You are expected to identify and describe the challenges you encountered, how you overcame or are overcoming them, and what you have discovered about yourself through the experience.</p>
11	<p>Do I have to present my L4L service project after completion?</p> <p>Please share your service project experience with your peers and mentors in your mentor group, preferably in the semester following the completion of your service project.</p>
12	<p>I have more questions, is there anyone whom I can consult?</p> <p>Please drop us a line at <mcffok@hku.hk> and we are happy to advise you further.</p>

Part II: Pathway-Specific FAQ

Option 1: Faculty Service Placement

1	<p>I plan to complete the service project via the faculty service placement pathway, do I have to tell my faculty and/ or my placement/ internship supervisor?</p> <p>You are advised to inform your faculty and placement supervisor of your concurrent programme fulfilment after you have obtained endorsement from the L4L team.</p>
2	<p>I plan to complete the L4L service project via the faculty service placement pathway, can you tell me the application procedure?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Ensure your faculty's service placement meets the L4L service project requirements (refer to Q2 in general FAQ).b) Submit an on-line application on the L4L website by the specified deadline (refer to Q8 in general FAQ).c) The L4L team will inform you of your application result via email.d) Inform your faculty and placement/ internship supervisor of your concurrent programme fulfilment.

Option 2: L4L Service Placement

1	<p>Can you tell me more about the L4L service placement?</p> <p>If you opt for this pathway, you don't have to line up any service opportunity by yourself. You can sign up for one of the pre-arranged service placements made by the L4L team. The L4L team has already identified qualified community service opportunities with one of our community partners. You will complete the services under the guidance and support of our community partners (mostly NGOs). The community partner will provide an additional briefing on the concerned social issue before you commence your service placement.</p>
2	<p>How can I sign up for the L4L service placement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Details (including the community partner, service period etc) will be posted on the website in September (1st semester) / December (2nd semester).b) You may sign up on our website by the specified deadline. Since only limited places are available, please sign up early.c) The L4L team will inform you of your confirmed service placement after the application deadline via email.

Option 3: Self-initiated Community Programme

1	<p>I plan to initiate my own service project, do my teammates or project participants have to be HKU students?</p> <p>No, they don't have to be HKU students, but you have to provide evidence (e.g., reference letter from the community partner or project advisor) to demonstrate your leadership role in the concerned service project.</p>
2	<p>I have started a community service project with my friends /classmates; will it meet the L4L requirement?</p> <p>You can submit a copy of your updated and detailed project proposal to the L4L team for further consideration. In general, your service project has to meet the L4L service project requirements, your project is supported by an NGO or a community partner and the service project is not yet completed.</p>
3	<p>I plan to self-initiate my community service project to fulfil the L4L service project requirement, can you tell me the application procedure?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Ensure your service project meets the L4L requirement as stated in Q2 of general FAQ.b) Prepare your project proposal (refer to the on-line application form).c) Submit an on-line application on the L4L website by the specified deadline (refer to Q8 in general FAQ).d) The L4L team will inform you of your application result via email.

Option 4: Volunteer Community Programme

1.	<p>Am I eligible for this pathway?</p> <p>If you have received a confirmed offer of admission to a qualified volunteer community programme (refer to Q2 in general FAQ) in the coming semester, you will be eligible for L4L service project. Please note that retrospective application is not accepted.</p>
2.	<p>How can I register for this pathway?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Ensure you have received a documentary proof on your admission to the concerned volunteer community programme.b) Submit an on-line application on the L4L website by the specified deadline (refer to Q8 in general FAQ). You will be required to upload your proof of admission.

	c) The L4L team will inform you of your application result via email.
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Option 5: Designated Programme ‘The Way to Success Level 2’

1	<p>Which programme is the designated programme under the L4L service project?</p> <p>At present, ‘The Way to Success Level 2’ programme run by CEO Global is a designated programme for the L4L service project.</p>
2	<p>Am I eligible for this pathway?</p> <p>If you have received a confirmed offer of admission to ‘The Way to Success Level 2’ programme, you will be eligible for the L4L service project. The pre-requisite is successful completion of ‘The Way to Success Level 1’ programme.</p>
3	<p>How can I register for this pathway?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure you have received a documentary proof on your admission to ‘The Way to Success Level 2 ‘ programme. b) Submit an on-line application on the L4L website by the specified deadline (refer to Q8 in general FAQ). You will be required to upload your proof of admission . c) L4L team will inform you of your application result via email.

September 22, 2022