

# A girl who failed to get into DSE and applied to IVE Engineering won a scholarship to study in the UK: Work should not be restricted by gender

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With the results of the Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (DSE) about to be announced, many candidates are carefully planning their further studies so as to seize the opportunity to demonstrate their expertise and lock in the development path that best suits them. Two fresh graduates of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) Higher Diploma in Engineering have shown a keen interest in engineering since childhood and are determined to join the industry. Despite failing the HKDSE examination, they decided to stick to their interests and aspirations and enrolled in engineering-related programmes at IVE. They worked hard during their studies and were eventually awarded the Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship for their outstanding results. They will soon go to the UK to further their university studies, embarking on a professional path through vocational education.

Written by: Vocational Training Council

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IVE fresh graduate of Higher Diploma in Electrical Engineering Kitty Chan (left) and fresh graduate of Higher Diploma in Building Services Engineering Wilson Chong (right) are two of the recipients of the Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship this year. (Photo provided by VTC)

A total of 13 IVE students were awarded the Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship this year, including IVE fresh graduate of Higher Diploma in Electrical Engineering Ms Kitty Chan and fresh graduate of Higher Diploma in Building Services Engineering Mr Wilson Chong.

Kitty has studied applied learning courses in electrical and energy engineering in high school. Her interest in engineering has grown stronger, making her more determined to pursue a career in the engineering industry. Engineering is generally seen as a male-dominated industry. Kitty admits that her father was more traditional and once opposed her pursuing a career in engineering. However, with her passion and dedication to the subject, coupled with her outstanding performance, she finally gained the recognition and support of her family. She said: "Job development should not be limited by gender. Both men and women have their own strengths. Girls' patience and attentiveness can also be utilized in engineering projects."



IVE Higher Diploma in Electrical Engineering graduate Kitty Chan and Higher Diploma in Building Services Engineering graduate Wilson Chong both failed in the HKDSE examinations. However, they remained determined to enroll in engineering-related programmes at IVE. With their outstanding results, they were awarded the Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship and will soon go to the UK to study at university. Through the vocational education ladder, they will embark on a professional path. (Photo provided by VTC)

### Participating in smart grid activities to promote green technology innovation

The most memorable experience for Kitty during her studies at IVE was her participation in a smart grid application research jointly organized by CLP Power and the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom. She said that she did not know much about smart grids at first, but she strengthened her knowledge by participating in the department's "Smart Grid Operation Center" activities, including studying the operation of smart meters with senior students, and using the Real-Time Digital Simulation System (RTDS) to simulate a community power grid connected to different physical hardware, and testing the performance of the hardware in real time, collecting and analyzing data under different simulation scenarios.

Kitty said that smart grid will be a major development trend, and said: "Smart meters can quickly locate faults. When there is a problem with the grid, the meter transmits information to detect the location of the fault. What we do in the department is to simulate a community grid. Using RTDS with smart meters, we can quickly and accurately find the location of the grid fault to ensure stable power supply."



Kitty said that smart grid will be the development trend and she hopes to return to the engineering industry after completing her studies. (Photo provided by VTC)

Kitty will be enrolled in the University of Sheffield's Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Honours) programme in September. She is grateful that the scholarship has made her dream of studying abroad come true and given her the opportunity to study at a UK institution of higher learning.

"With this opportunity, I can go abroad to learn about smart grid technology and knowledge, and then return to Hong Kong to apply it in the development of Hong Kong's smart grid, working towards my goal of becoming a smart grid engineer. I am full of longing for life in the UK and look forward to communicating with students from all over the world and learning from each other." She plans to continue her studies for a master's degree after completing her bachelor's degree. After she has achieved success in the future, she will return to contribute to Hong Kong and help promote the development of smart cities.

#### **Following my interest, I embarked on the vocational education path to seize new opportunities and hope to participate in large-scale projects in Hong Kong**

Wilson, another scholarship student, has parents who both work in the engineering industry. He was influenced by his parents and his childhood activities were all engineering-related. He recalled, "When I was six or seven years old, I went to my mother's office and saw different drawings on the notice board. I found them very interesting. I also wanted to become a member of the engineering industry in the future." Wilson said that the IVE Higher Diploma in Building Services Engineering programme covers a wide range of areas, including air-conditioning, fire protection, plumbing and electricity. He was also recommended by his teacher to take up an internship at a local engineering consultancy company, where he participated in drawing drawings and observed the operation of water supply and testing systems, which helped consolidate and apply what he had learned. Wilson believes that the learning experience at IVE combines both theory and practice, which helps him become work-ready and lays a solid foundation for him to obtain the registered engineer qualification in the future.



Wilson said that Hong Kong's "Northern Metropolitan Area" planning will bring new opportunities to the building services engineering industry. (Photo provided by VTC)

Wilson will be heading to Scotland in the new academic year to study for a bachelor's degree in building services engineering at Glasgow Caledonian University. He said that the cold weather there makes heating a necessity, which complements his knowledge of heating systems. Looking ahead, Wilson hopes to return to Hong Kong to continue his studies and obtain a registered engineer's license. He also said that Hong Kong's "Northern Metropolitan Region" plan will bring new opportunities to the building services engineering industry. He hopes to be able to participate in similar large-scale projects in the future and witness the milestones of Hong Kong's urban development.

Wilson advised DSE candidates not to set frameworks or restrictions for themselves when choosing subjects, but to choose subjects based on their personal interests. As long as they actively engage in learning and seize every opportunity to add value to themselves, they will definitely have an ideal career path.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship has benefited over 200 VTC graduates. More than half of the awardees have continued their studies to obtain a master's degree after completing their bachelor's degree. Some have even successfully completed their doctoral degree programmes and have returned to Hong Kong or made full use of their expertise to contribute to society in different places. Among them, there are awardees in engineering disciplines who have pursued doctoral degrees in the UK and become registered engineers, engaging in environmental technology and contributing to the promotion of energy conservation and emission reduction. There are also awardees who studied for a higher diploma in game software development and have participated in the design of mobile games after returning to Hong Kong, becoming developers of popular games.