

Asian Academy for Campus Ministry (AACM 2025)

"Nurturing Minds, Empowering Lives: Advancing Mental Health and Mentorship in Campus Communities"

Organized by: United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia

Host Institution: Hong Kong Baptist University

Dates: 30 Apr 2025 to 7 May 2025

Rationale

In recent years, universities face increasing challenges related to student mental health and well-being. Academic pressures, social expectations, and personal struggles have led to heightened stress, and anxiety.

The Asian Academy for Campus Ministry (AACM), under the theme "**Building a Culture of Care**," provides a platform for campus ministers to gain theological insights and practical tools necessary to address these challenges effectively. The program for 2025 with the theme "**Nurturing Minds, Empowering Lives: Advancing Mental Health and Mentorship in Campus Communities**", hosted by Hong Kong Baptist University, builds on the success of the previous year and aims to deepen the focus on mental health and mentoring skills through a combination of experiential learning, collaborative discussions, and exposure to innovative practices.

Objectives

- Enhance Understanding of Spirituality and Mental Health
- Foster Collaboration and Networking
- Promote Personal and Community Growth
- Empower Mentoring and Leadership Development

Outcomes

- Enhanced Capacity for Mental Health Support
- Improved Understanding of Mental Health and Mentorship
- Strengthened Peer Networks
- Action-Oriented Plans for Institutional Change
- Increased Awareness and Engagement in Holistic Ministry
- Practical Knowledge and Experiential Insights

The AACM 2025–Hong Kong is an opportunity to inspire and equip campus ministers to be agents of transformation, responding to the growing needs of their students and institutions. Through a well-rounded program of learning, reflection, and action, the initiative seeks to create ripple effects across campuses in Asia, fostering a culture of care that transcends borders.

Expected participants

Expected participants are chaplains, spiritual directors, faculty or staff engaged in campus ministry, spiritual formation, or counselling in the universities. An institution may nominate more than one representative; however, the United Board reserves the right to select the participants based on institutional representation and balance. The preferred number of participants is 25 .

Application

The online application is open now. **[Click here](#)** for the application. The deadline is the **19th of January, 2025 (Sunday)**. The selection result will be announced in February 2025.

For the selected participants, United Board shall cover their local costs related to the training program and venue, including meals and snacks for the duration of the training; as well as the cost of the accommodation for 7 nights (i.e. the 30th of April -the 7th of May 2025). Participants or the sending institutions are expected to shoulder the round-trip flight ticket to Hong Kong, and all related travel costs, such as insurance and visa fees.

For any enquiry on application, please contact Dr Anita Tiphagne, Assisstant Director, at atiphagne@unitedboard.org or by phone +91 99944 75585.

About HKBU

Hong Kong Baptist College was founded by the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong in 1956 as a post-secondary college committed to the provision of a whole person education. In 1983, it became a fully-funded public tertiary institution, and the College gained university status just over a decade later. It was renamed Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) in 1994.

Over the years, HKBU has remained committed to the pursuit of excellence in education, research and service to the community. As one of Asia's finest institutions of higher learning, HKBU is dedicated to nurturing future generations of civically engaged community members, and it provides them with a broad-based, transdisciplinary and creative education.

<https://www.hkbu.edu.hk/en.html>

About United Board:

The United Board is committed to education that develops the whole person – intellectually, spiritually, and ethically.

We draw strength from our Christian identity, values and our collaboration with Asian colleges and universities. Together we prepare individuals for lives of professional and personal fulfillment and meaningful service in community with others. We endeavor to respond to the diverse challenges and opportunities facing our colleagues in higher education in Asia, especially where the needs are great. We share their interests in developing institutions that offer multidisciplinary education and that nurture a spirit of compassion, equity, reconciliation, social responsibility, and mutual respect among religious and cultural traditions.

Our approach is ecumenical and inclusive: our primary involvement is with Christian institutions, but we also reach out to other colleges and universities that share our commitment to whole person education. Solidarity with educators at these institutions forms the foundation of our work. Through their insights we identify needs and through their creative responses we find ways to address them collaboratively. Given our long history of working with higher education institutions in Asia, we believe that the United Board is uniquely positioned to promote an ecumenical, multi-faith, cross-cultural ministry on Asian campuses.

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