



香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong

## From urban studies course to smart city knowledge hub: Developing innovative and interactive hybrid virtual teaching and learning (VTL) mode with international collaboration

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### **Abstract:**

The covid-19 pandemic fundamentally changed people's perception and expectations of teaching and learning mechanisms, particularly because of the use of emerging ICT techniques and virtual teaching tools. However, many current virtual teaching and learning (VTL) development programs have mainly simply moved the learning platform from the physical classrooms into online platforms, such as Zoom and Blackboard. There is still room for more innovative thinking enhance the flexible teaching environment (e.g., flexible timing), a broader application of VTL techniques, as well as the potential of increased international collaboration brought by digital technologies. In addition, in the post covid-19 pandemic period, students face critical challenges like overseas travel and online and offline interactive learning experiences. This new situation requires innovative, interactive hybrid VTL modules.

To tackle this challenge, and to contribute to CityU's new strategic research plan, which presents the 'smart city' as one of five key areas, this project aims to explore possibilities to transform an existing, traditional urban studies course into an urban sustainability 'knowledge hub' (a virtual "study studio" offering enriching teacher-student interaction, international learning experiences, and virtual tour to global cities), by developing innovative, interactive and hybrid VTL modules with international collaboration. To enrich the current VTL, and in line with the features of urban studies, online and offline lectures, virtual tours, student co-working platform (for discussion and assignments) will be incorporated. Based on an existing Sino-Dutch collaboration on the smart city by the PI, European and Asian cities (e.g., Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, Ho Chi Minh city, Amsterdam) will be developed to be the "virtual sites" for student learning, such as virtual tours and case studies. This project is expected to have a long-term benefit to CityU after the Covid-19, as the materials will continue to support follow-up teaching and learning. For example, besides continuing virtual learning in courses, the materials can further enhance the quality of learning in overseas studies and residential programs by enriching the learning experiences using hybrid learning tools.