

The Education University of Hong Kong
23rd Congregation
Words of Appreciation by Ms Tam Hoi Sang
(Session 3)

Professor Cheung, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

Today is an exciting day and I thank you all for coming to share our joy and happiness.

I am Ellen Tam, a graduate of the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Global and Environmental Studies. It is my honour to deliver this speech on behalf of my fellow graduates. To start with, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the academic staff and administrators, who have shared their experience during and outside classes, giving us invaluable advice in response to our incessant queries. We surely have gained a lot from their kind guidance and unfailing support throughout this four-year journey. In the following time, I would like to use G-E-S, the acronym of my programme's title, to reflect upon our university life during the past four years.

First, the letter G represents Gain. While “no pain, no gain” may sound cliché, we are no strangers to staying up all night in the Library or computer rooms to complete our essays and assignments before looming deadlines. Nonetheless, those are memorable moments, part and parcel of our university life. Not only have we gained new knowledge, experiences and prospects in life through different intellectual exposure, most importantly, we have also gained friendships that we will cherish forever.

Next, the letter E represents Eagerness. Prior to entering this great University, we were eager teenagers, expecting to meet new friends, to start a new chapter in our lives, to learn, to grow, and ultimately, to become a person who can make a positive difference in this uncertain world. To be sure, our to-do-list was long but the time available was short. Now that four years have gone by, we pause to reflect upon our accomplishments. Even though we may not have done everything as originally planned, we can all take comfort and pride in our sustained eagerness, one that can take us to the next chapter of our bright future. Unnecessarily dwelling on past hiccups is unproductive. Eagerly embracing future prospects will continue to be a useful guiding light for our successful endeavours in the years to come.

Finally, the letter S stands for Start. Graduation is not an end; it is the start of our life's next phase, may that be further study or immediate employment. We will face challenges, enjoy opportunities, overcome setbacks and triumph over adversities. Let me make it clear: Life is full of ups and downs. With each new turn, however, there will be another fruitful start. Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said ‘Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.’

In summary then, my dear fellow students, we finally made it! We have achieved a milestone in our life! The Education University of Hong Kong is the place where we met, where we shared and where we grew up together. I will always treasure all the happy moments and hopefully you will too. Once again, to the cohort of graduates in 2017, congratulations! Sincerely from the bottom of my heart, thanks to all of you.