Phaung Daw Oo International University: Pre-College Program
Providing further education for students with leadership abilities
The Pre-College Program (PCP) was established in 2012 by two venerable Buddhist monks to provide underprivileged Myanmar high school graduates access to civic education and university preparation.

Leading on from Phaung Daw Oo Monastic School, which was established in 1993 to provide free basic education from kindergarten to high school, PCP extends to further educate students of advanced civic education as well as community contribution and leadership. The programme is also designed to help connect graduates to educational opportunities at foreign universities, given that the current capacity of local universities remains somewhat limited and highly regulated.

The main aim of PCP is to develop students into engaged community leaders and responsible citizens who will be able to contribute to the democratic development of Myanmar and its community institutions.
How It Works

In each academic year, PCP comprises of a 10-month Academic and Inter-Cultural Studies, followed by a 2-month Service Learning Course.

❖ The 10-month course of Academic and Inter-Cultural Studies (Apr – Jan) is instructed primarily in English and introduces subjects from politics to social issues and environment, namely:

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<tr>
<th>Politics</th>
<th>Philosophy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>International Relations, Diplomacy &amp; South East Asia Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Citizenship</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Environmental Studies</td>
<td>Peace Education</td>
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The course is intensive with an offer of 6 hours of class on average daily, over 5-day weeks. To not be confined to classrooms, students are also periodically engaged in community outreach and other extra-curricular activities throughout the study to encourage continuous civic engagement.
How It Works

- The 2-month Service Learning Course (Feb – Mar) is the period of social engagement practicum. This is implemented to enable students to apply what they have learned towards the benefits of disadvantaged communities across Myanmar, build up their confidence as leaders and earn practical experience and understanding about the communities.

Each student opts for a service learning site among PIU’s more than 30 partner organisations – monastic schools, community-based organisations and educational foundations, etc. Students usually volunteer to teach life skills, arrange intellectual debating events and train teachers about Child Rights.
Beneficiaries

With approx. 20 intakes per annual batch, 150 students have benefited from the programme since 2012. 24 students are accepted into the new academic year of 2019-2020, taught by five educational staff. Over 500 community members in the host partner organisations will benefit from PCP students’ training during their Service Learning Course.

Objectives

PCP has four principal objectives:

• To provide students with the skills required to design community development projects that focus on community responsiveness and engagement

• To improve student access to university education by improving English and critical thinking skills

• To promote global political awareness and encourage social citizenship and engagement in democracy

• To improve general civic education and leadership skills through service learning.
Budget

The total amount of the programme’s overall running costs is **USD 65,000** for the 2019-2020 academic year (April – March).

Transfers from Child’s Dream to PIU-PCP are made in four quarterly instalments during the financial year.

**Monitoring & Reporting**

We receive quarterly narrative and photo reports, as well as monthly financial and activity reports. Feedback is also collected directly during regular site visits by our local team in Yangon, Myanmar.

We report to donors on a semester basis and site visits can easily be arranged anytime.