The Faculty of Education launched the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education, the first Chair specifically to be framed by the field of Comparative Education among the 74 established Chairs of its 195 Member States.

Members of the Faculty have long focused on dimensions of quality education across cultures and income groups, and Hong Kong as a whole needs to be involved in sustainable development as much as other parts of the world. The creation of the UNESCO Chair opens a new avenue for collaboration with multiple partners to serve both local and global communities.

“Education for All” (EFA) and “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD) are UNESCO’s two flagship programmes. These two programmes will provide the core mandate for the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education at HKU.

Professor Mark Bray, the UNESCO Chair Holder, is a founding member of the Comparative Education Research Centre (CERC) at HKU, which opened in 1994, and is its current Director. He was appointed to a personal Chair of Comparative Education in 1999. Between 2006 and 2010 he was granted leave from HKU to take up the post of Director of UNESCO’s International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) in Paris. Between 2004 and 2007, Professor Bray was President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES).

A launch ceremony was held on May 18, 2012. It was followed by a lecture on “Sustainability and Education for All: Partnership for Service in the Global Village” delivered by Professor Mark Bray, and a Community Dialogue with Professor Lee Ngok, Vice-President, UNESCO-HK; Dr David Atchoarena, UNESCO Director of Division for Teacher Development and Higher Education; Dr John Tan, Principal, Wah Yan College Kowloon; Ann Kildahl, HKU Sustainability Manager; and Sulata Maheshwari, HKU postgraduate student.