



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Education Technology and the Skills Gap

Welcome to the very first edition of the School of Education newsletter for 2024. In this issue, we delve into the transformative role of educational technology in shaping teaching methods, curriculum design, and confront the skills gap.

This challenge is underscored by Malaysia's current labor market situation, as detailed by the Department of Statistics Malaysia. The nation faces an aging population, with 7.4% over the age of 65, alongside youth unemployment affecting approximately 300,000 individuals aged 15-24.

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Compounded by an emigration rate of 5.6%, surpassing the global average, these factors contribute to a pressing need for upskilling. Estimates suggest an investment of US\$68 billion is required over the next five years to upskill 10 million workers, ensuring Malaysia maintains a globally competitive workforce.

Highlighting the criticality of this issue, the Malaysia Critical Occupations List by TalentCorp reveals an acute demand for IT skills across 18 economic sectors. This need aligns with the World Economic Forum's prediction of 150 million new technology-related jobs globally in the next five years, with a staggering

77% of all jobs requiring digital proficiency by 2030.

-- Yet, only a third of technology positions are currently filled by adequately skilled labor. The pandemic catalyzed a significant shift towards digital technology in education and training, with 86% of Malaysian companies digitalizing their training programs to bridge the digital skills gap. This shift remains pertinent as an Impact Economist survey highlights that 87% of employees now seek both basic and advanced digital skills training.

Educational technology stands at the forefront of bridging these market gaps, offering learners critical access to the digital skills demanded by employers. There's a burgeoning need for industry-education partnerships to produce skilled, motivated, and versatile graduates. Utilizing AI and Machine Learning to craft personalized learning experiences, and incorporating advanced technology into pedagogy and curriculum, are pivotal in preparing learners for a dynamic labor landscape. Educational technology not only makes instruction more accessible but also customizes learning experiences to meet individual needs and preferences.

7.4% of the Malaysian population is currently over the age of 65

Unemployment currently affects **300,000** individuals aged 15-24

Malaysia has an emigration rate of **5.6%** higher than the global average

Estimates suggest that **US\$68 billion** is needed to upskill **10 million** workers for a globally competitive workforce

The infographic features several illustrations: a group of three men in business attire shaking hands; a group of four people holding signs that say 'I NEED JOB' and 'I LOST MY JOB'; a laptop with a globe icon and a 'PASSPORT' label; a person climbing a large yellow arrow pointing upwards; and a large green money bag with gold coins and dollar signs.

Malissa

Assoc. Prof. Dr Malissa Maria Mahmud
Dean, School of Education

Education Development and Innovation Department's Tea Talk: AI for Engaged Learning



By now, most academics in higher education have experienced firsthand or been exposed to the potential benefits of AI in education. These benefits include personalizing learning journeys for students, increasing engagement and the implementation of more meaningful assessments.

However, integrating AI into the classroom may present unique challenges that need to be carefully navigated. The high demand for learning and networking opportunities in this area is evident. In 2023, the 3 AI training sessions offered by EDI were fully subscribed. Additionally, data from the 2024 Professional Development Needs Analysis Survey revealed that 116 out of 168 academics who responded requested support in using AI for active learning activities. Addressing this need, EDI's Tea Talk Series provides a platform for sharing practical applications of AI integration in a casual, collaborative setting.



The first EDI Tea Talk, held on 21st March from 10 am to 12:30 pm, focused on AI for Teaching and Learning. Prof Chai Lay Ching, Pro-VC of Education welcomed the speakers and over 30 participants to the event, highlighting the potential of AI to enhance educational experience. She encouraged participants to embrace AI but at the same time learn and help their students to learn how to use AI ethically.

Participants actively engaged in discussions revolving around specific questions related to AI implementation. Key takeaways included the need to explore various AI tools and platforms to ensure they are used effectively to facilitate students' learning and independence. Good planning, responsible and ethical AI use, assessments and rubrics that focus on higher order thinking skills were all seen as instrumental for successful AI integration.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn from and engage with four speakers:

Dr Stephen Homer (Sunway Business School)

shared his research on students' perspectives on the use of AI in education, identifying important ideas that emerged and the lessons to be learned from it. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring that students don't over-rely on AI and the need to avoid "lazy learning".



Assoc. Prof. Dr Tom Pierard (School of Arts)

discussed his use of ChatGPT as a virtual assistant to facilitate meaningful student interactions and provide real-time, personalized feedback throughout their learning journey. He explained how careful planning and integration of AI tools can lead to deeper student engagement and subject understanding.

Dr Sally Anne Malar (Centre for English Language Studies)

shared her experience adopting AI-assisted ArcGIS Story Maps for students' project. She highlighted the benefits of this approach in promoting student-centered learning which resulted in high quality projects.



Dr Bawani Lelchumanan (Sunway Business School)

shared the recent updates on Padlet, with its recent integration of AI features in Padlet. She provided practical suggestions and examples from her own practice on how AI has further enhanced Padlet's efficiency in supporting group work, ideation, and student interaction.




Upcoming Educational Development and Innovation Workshops

Do expect more of EDI Tea Talk Series in the future. In the meantime, watch out for upcoming EDI workshops related to AI:

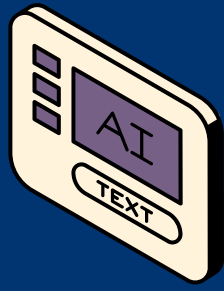


Designing and Supporting Learning Using Padlet (with AI Integration)
15th April 2024



Introduction to Generative AI for Assessments
16th April 2024

Introduction to Generative AI for Beginners
17th April 2024



For more information, email:



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Technology to Bolster Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning for Access Delivery

In recognition of lifelong learning ambitions set out by the Malaysian government to advance career growth, Sunway University's APEL Unit has strived toward providing the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning for Access (APEL.A). The initiative was first introduced by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency to accredit formal, informal and non-formal experiential learning of Malaysians otherwise locked out from tertiary education.



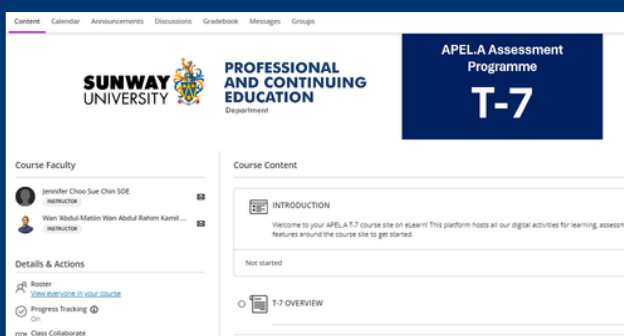
The APEL.A journey undergoes three stages. Upon completion, candidates can use the results to join an academic programme at Sunway University

Technology Use in Addressing Non-Traditional Learner Needs

Due to the unconventional accrediting criteria, Sunway University's APEL.A Assessment Programme (AAP) caters to the often overlooked, non-traditional learner market segment of working adults with commitments based in Klang Valley and beyond. Due to this, the AAP is designed to be accessible, convenient and efficient for candidates to accredit their lifelong experiential learning.

Candidates can expect to complete the programme from the comfort of their own homes, with flexible scheduling that lets them complete the programme despite having work or life commitments. Sunway University's robust and flexible digital ecosystem is used to fully support the minimal time commitment needed.

Upon entry, candidates can expect the use of SU's digital ecosystem to support their experience;



Sneak peek of the APEL Assessment Programme Course Site on eLearn

- eLearn LMS for assessment management, group communication & rapid grading.
- Respondus Monitor for artificial proctoring of simultaneous Aptitude Test sessions.
- MS Teams videoconferencing to host interview sessions with candidates based in any location.
- Responsive digital scoresheets and generators for assessment marking to ensure minimal human error.

APEL.A Candidate Experience

Since the launch of the AAP in December 2023, the AAP has seen numerous applications from non-traditional learners of varying backgrounds. After a stringent process, the APEL Unit now sees the fruits of their labor; candidates have completed the AAP process and are ready to participate in their academic programme of choice.



Ms. Joey, part of our inaugural batch of successful applicants, interacting with Dr Stella, our APEL.A Assessor and Assoc. Prof. Dr Jolyne, our APEL.A Advisor via Microsoft Teams

These completed candidates hailed from a variety of entrepreneurial and professional backgrounds in varying sectors, aged between 30 to 40. The use of Sunway University's digital ecosystem allowed the candidates to comfortably complete all APEL.A assessments without ever setting foot on campus while accommodating their very busy schedules!

One candidate could promptly attend their interview right after their business meeting while another could complete their interview via video call while being overseas. Candidates could comfortably focus on their aptitude test within the allocated time limit and submit their work remotely, thanks to artificial proctoring that eliminated the need for direct observation by human proctors.

Feedback from Our Candidates

“Because we are adult learners, time is limited to troubleshoot issues, so the responsiveness and quick solutions are much appreciated”

“Appreciated the opportunity to be advised by Dr Chen Jit Ern”

“Really good experience – straightforward, easy process”

“Advisor Prof Lim Weng Marc was very helpful”

“Did not expect to finish this within 3 months”

Know More

Interested in knowing more about the APEL Assessment Programme?



apel@sunway.edu.my



03 7491 8622 (7692/7693)



sunwayuniversity.edu.my/school-of-education/pace/apela

The APEL provisions are brought to you by:



Department of
**PROFESSIONAL
AND CONTINUING
EDUCATION**

Preparing for a Changing Workplace: Micro-Credentials

With technology advancing at an unprecedented pace and industries constantly shifting, individuals and organizations alike must embrace continuous upskilling to remain competitive. Enter Micro-credentials – a game changing pathway that is flexible, and adaptive to professional skill development.

Micro-credentials are concise courses honing in on specific skills, providing a flexible and swift route to acquire targeted expertise. Unlike traditional degrees or lengthy certifications, they're completed swiftly, typically within weeks to months, offering tangible proof of skill proficiency prized in today's job market.

Micro-credentials in Workforce Upskilling

Micro-credentials offer a key advantage: they support upskilling efficiently and affordably. Unlike traditional degrees, they focus solely on relevant skills, saving time and resources. Their short duration allows learners to upskill without lengthy career breaks, minimizing disruptions.

Upcoming Micro-credentials

April 2024

1. Micro-credential in Object-Oriented Programming Fundamentals
2. Micro-credential in Computer Mathematics Fundamentals
3. Micro-credential in Startup Foundry
4. Micro-credential in Networking Principles
5. Micro-credential in Global Digital Talent - Part 1
6. Micro-credential in Global Digital Talent - Part 2
7. Micro-credential in Business of Tourism and Hospitality
8. Micro-credential in Food and Beverage Management
9. Micro-credential in Accommodation and Revenue Management
10. Micro-credential in Advanced Revenue Management
11. Micro-credential in Contemporary Issues in Hospitality
12. Micro-credential in Events Planning and Management

May 2024

1. Micro-credential in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
2. Micro-credential in Sustainable Management and Operations

June 2024

1. Micro-credential in Principles of Sociology

July 2024

1. Micro-credential in Finance & Sustainability
2. Micro-credential in Pre-calculus

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Practice

The Department of Educational Development and Innovation (EDI) is proud to announce that the 3rd intake of the *Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Practice* (PCHEP) will be open in September 2024. For the first time, the programme will also be open to the public.

Theoretical and Practical Grounding in Teaching and Learning

PCHEP is a Level 7 Qualification in the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF). It is also the first and only Malaysian university programme to be accredited by Advance HE and benchmarked against the *Professional Standards Framework for teaching and supporting learning in higher education* (PSF 2023). As a result, PCHEP graduates are also uniquely positioned to earn Fellowship of Advance HE.



Academic staff who enroll on the programme will embark on a transformative journey to develop their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the area of teaching, learning and assessments in higher education. This programme equips academics to become critically reflective, relevant, empathetic, current and innovative.



Programme Approach

The programme adopts a blended approach, with online and face-to-face components. Students can expect to engage with their instructors and peers and in independent learning activities. They can expect to constantly engage in informed reflection on and evaluation of their practices and develop a more realistic, concrete and valid understanding of their practice. Classes are held on Saturdays.

The 20-credit programme offers the following subjects:

- Introduction to Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- Curriculum Design
- Reflective Practice in Teaching
- Technology to Support Learning
- Professional Practice
- Mentoring and Supervision or Educational Psychology

Entry requirements*:

- a Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent, with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 as accepted by Senate or
- a Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent, not meeting CGPA of 2.50, can be accepted subject to a minimum of 5 years of working experience in relevant field

** Please note that academic staff enrolled on the programme will also need to have teaching responsibilities throughout the programme as this is a practice-based programme that is closely connected to their ongoing teaching practices.*

For more information on the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Practice, contact the Programme Leader and Programme Administrator!

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The PCHEP programme is brought to you by:



Department of
**EDUCATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
AND INNOVATION**

Upcoming School of Education Programmes

In anticipation of the School of Education's upcoming programmes, we are thrilled to introduce three exciting educational opportunities - Master of Education (ODL), Master of Education (by Research) and Doctor of Philosophy in Education (by Research) which is slated for launch sometime this year!

Unlock Your Educational Potential with



**Master of Education
(ODL)**



**Master of Education
(by Research)**



**Doctor of Philosophy in
Education (by Research)**

These programmes offer flexibility, rigorous learning, and the opportunity to explore advanced educational research as well as education theories, pedagogies, curriculum, and technology. With M Ed ODL, you can pursue higher education without disrupting your professional life. M Ed by Research allows learners the opportunity to explore research interests while honing research skills, and the PhD programme empowers learners to become a leader in educational scholarship.

Learners enrolling in these programmes can enhance their career prospects, bolster personal and professional growth, and build invaluable professional and academic networks. Learners are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's dynamic educational landscape.

Meet the experts from the School of Education and explore how M Ed ODL, M Ed by Research, or PhD in Ed by Research can unlock your full potential. More information on the upcoming programmes is coming soon!