

Work-based learning programme at AeU

IN a world of ever changing technological advancement and innovation-based market, one has to catch up quickly with the surrounding changes.

The rapid transformation and the failure to adapt to changing times, will push people towards being irrelevant in the current environment especially at their workplace.

For working people especially in ICT industry, learning on the job (experiential learning) is deemed suitable for them to be trained and to enable them adjust quickly to their working environment while improving work related skills and competencies.

A recent study had revealed that Malaysia is experiencing a shortage of professionals and skilled workers especially in Science & Technology (S&T) or ICT-dependent industries.

Computer technology as one of the most competitive industries in the country is responsible for nearly two-thirds of the 1.3 million jobs demanded by S&T industries. However, Malaysia currently can only supply not more than 50 percent of the demand.

Aligning itself with international standards and inculcating market needs in ICT, Asia e University (AeU) had introduced the new Work-based Learning (WBL) programme; Bachelor



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of Technology (Information Technology) with Honours or BTech (IT) (Hons).

In addition to their classroom learning, the WBL programme will enable students to earn additional credits through hours spent on a work site. Hence, the marks earned are recognised as part of the course's assessment.

Basically WBL will set an understanding between the supervisor at the industries and the university on what is the

required skill sets, experiential learning, assessment tools and knowledge content that supposed to be covered in the university curriculum.

The engagement by the industries is at the entire phases of the students' development including work assignment and assessment, teaching and learning.

In this manner, the university is able to close gaps between the skill sets needed by the industries against what is taught and offered

to the students in the university in which they are able to apply the theories immediately at the workplace.

The assignments given to students are rather flexible in such way that it is designed towards the nature of their work.

The BTech (IT) is one of the latest programmes designed and offered by the School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT) at AeU to cater market demands.

This programme will open new opportunities for potential students to further their studies by utilizing their current job and working experiences through WBL mode.

The programme will benefit students through the collaboration established between AeU and major ICT players of various technologies ranging from multimedia, creative media, software development and telecommunications.

WBL is the most ideal for working students as it is designed to recognise and match the learning outcome of the course to the work experience and the activities or output resulted from the workplace. There are many graduates with diploma certificates who are already working in the industry and are involved in various areas of IT.

The programme was formulated by incorporating the emerging fields in ICT, such as computer network security, web and mobile computing, service oriented architecture, and software development.

These are the elements essential to produce graduates who are capable of managing large scale communication network and security, build mobile applications for iPad and Android-based devices, cloud computing and other areas.

Students are required to produce three IT prototypes in the projects

that may ensure its suitability and ability in the technical knowledge as well as application for business uses.

BTech's graduates are highly demanded by industries from various sectors including banking, finance, insurance, IT consultancy, telecommunication, education and services.

The ICT industry had provided a plethora of career choices for its graduates that ranged from business system analyst, computer software or hardware engineer, computer and information systems manager, computer programmer, computer support specialists, network systems analyst, computer network engineer, system architect, software or web developer to web master.

"Work-based Learning is not new in the global practices in the countries such as Australia, USA and UK and many researches have been conducted to study the impact towards graduate profiles, work efficiencies, experiential and learning curves that seen significant contribution to higher employee loyalties, staff retention, salary scale and productivity. BTech (IT) uses WBL pedagogy for college or school leavers who are already on the job with working experience related to Information and Communication Technology," said Professor Dr. Syed Malek Fakar Duan, the dean of SICT.

About AeU

AeU is a multinational university established under the auspices of the 32 Asia Cooperation Dialogue Countries (ACD). AeU had been recognised as a provider of quality higher education to Asian adults from all walks of life.

With a focus on personalised learning, AeU is leading the way in providing flexible, innovative and affordable quality education in Asia. Its unique selling point is the fact that it had tailored higher education for adult learners.

AeU's programmes will help working adults pursue desired career paths and the flexible mode of delivery, makes it convenient for them to attain their qualifications while juggling other commitments.

Concurrently, AeU can also deliver similar programmes in other countries through

collaboration with institutional partners by leveraging on technologies to enhance teaching and learning and also to facilitate academic and administrative support for quality assurance.

AeU is offering a comprehensive range of academic and professional training programmes from graduate diploma, bachelor and master to doctoral levels in Business and Management, ICT, Education and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Enrolment for the September semester is now open and interested candidates can apply through a normal entry or via Open Entry System which consider the individual's working experience. For more information please log on to www.aeu.edu.my or call 1300 300 238.



UNIQUE UNIVERSITY: Asia e University (AeU) was set up in 2007 when representatives of the 32nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) governments unanimously accepted Malaysia's proposal to set up the university.

AeU set in Asia by Asians for Asia

ASIA e University (AeU) is a unique institution of higher learning set up 6 years ago when representatives

of the 32 Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) governments unanimously accepted Malaysia's proposal to implement the proposed Asia e University at the 5th ACD Ministerial Meeting held in Qatar on 23-24 May 2006.

For the past few years, AeU had established its reputation as an acclaimed online distance learning (ODL) institution with a forward thinking, market-driven, quality educational cross border agenda.

Flexible, Quality, Relevant & Personalised

Through collective expertise and strategic links with educational partners, AeU delivers programmes that focus on flexibility, quality, relevance and personalised learning for today's learners. AeU's cross-border and cross-culture programmes have attracted more than 700 PhD and 1,300 Master's students from Malaysia, Bahrain, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries.

A wide range of choices are given to AeU's mostly working learners – practical education in management, education and information technology. Most programmes offer specialisation areas that deeply in niche areas. The most popular programmes include the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), MBA and Master of Education.

Faculties/Schools
AeU had primarily focused on postgraduate programmes from PhD to Master level. All academic programmes are accredited by Malaysian Qualifications Agency

(MQA) under Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE).

AeU is one of the few universities allowed to practice Open Entry Systems for applicants with working experience rather than just paper based qualifications.

School of Graduate Studies (SGS)

SGS is a one-stop centre for graduate students and researchers from around the world and it helps students in independent research with the guidance of supervisor(s) and workshops as well as personalised support. PhDs in Business Administration, Education, ICT and Arts are available. Other programmes offered are Industrial Doctorate (IndD), Master of Science Management by Research, Master of Social Science by Research and Master of Science by Research.

School of Management (SOM)

SOM is offering demand-driven programmes in business and management which equip graduates with the necessary knowledge, skills and personality traits required by future business leaders in the evolving Asian business and economic environment.

School of Education and Cognitive Science (SECS)

Dedicated towards enhancing the practice of education in Asia, SECS is offering teacher education programmes which prepare educators with theory and practice to meet culturally and socially diverse classrooms. Programmes include Master of Education specialising in Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, Nursing Education,

TESL, etc.

As well as Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Graduate Diploma in Teaching, Bachelor of Education in (TESL/ Early Childhood Education/ Primary Science/ Teaching Islamic Studies in Primary School/ Teaching Malay Language in Primary School) and Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education Teaching.

School of Information and Communication Technology

The school is committed to offer cutting-edge academic programmes in wide ranging areas of ICT. The school is offering Masters in ICT Management (a non-technical Masters programme for managers of all backgrounds), Bachelor of Information & Communication Technology, Bachelor of Digital Creative Media, Bachelor of Technology (Information Technology), Professional Bachelor of Internet Marketing Technology, Professional Bachelor of Computer Technology and Professional Bachelor in Digital Creative Media.

School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHUSS)

SAHUSS is the latest addition at AeU and is offering the broadest scope of studies including arts, humanities, research on aspects of psychology and sociology, communications, linguistics, politics, religion and other social science related studies. Currently the school is offering Master of Knowledge Management, Executive Master in Public Administration, Executive Master in Islamic Administration & Management and Diploma in Islamic Studies.