

A SIA e University (AeU), the new kid on the block, has its target of becoming a research-based institution of higher learning in Malaysia.

Towards this, the university is giving much emphasis to research and development project with at least 10% of its annual budget set aside for research work.

The AeU's School of Graduate Studies, dean, Prof Dr Siow Heng Loke says research opportunities are not only open to every staff and student of the university but the university also does not bind them to any terms or conditions.

The university, he adds, conduct research workshops once a month to coach their learners on research methodologies.

"Besides that we have the colloquia where we invite prominent speakers to share ideas and experience on research work," he said.

The research colloquia is aimed at assisting post-graduate students in preparing research proposals and providing opportunities for students to present their preliminary proposals in a mock defence session.



AeU aspires to be a research-based institution



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AeU is a preferred distance learning option as it provides flexibility, affordability and quality.

Aside from that, it helps to create rapport between the supervisors and their respective students in the learning process.

To ensure standards are maintained and improved from time to time, the university also appoints external examiners to moderate the graduate programmes.

AeU's School of Graduate Studies shines as a one-stop centre promoting postgraduate study and research opportunities besides organising courses, compiling databases and monitoring them throughout.

Prof Dr Siow says students are not required to submit research proposals to qualify but they will be coached to become talented researchers in their respective fields.

"AeU's business administration programmes are a big hit and the number of postgraduate students has been promising. Our main role is to ensure that students graduate on time so each of them will be given a supervisor who will keep them on track.

"We develop a timeline for the students, and then we monitor and motivate them. Basically we hold their hands until they graduate."

He said this is necessary as most adult learners are usually motivated at the beginning of the course but lag behind after a period of time which causes them to take a long time to complete their studies.

The university offers programmes that vary from diplomas to masters and doctorates. There are three types of postgraduate courses namely: research only, coursework and research and coursework only.

Postgraduate degrees by research help students to independently undertake a sustained and in-depth study on a

specific topic under the guidance of one or more supervisors to produce a thesis.

A Masters degree and doctorate can both be obtained by research.

The coursework and research approach requires students to complete a number of credit hours of the coursework. Upon completion of the coursework, students can undertake work on a research project that leads to the submission of a dissertation for examination.

For postgraduate studies by coursework, students need to regularly attend lecturers and tutorials through face-to-face learning or the e-learning mode, or both, where assessment is based on assignments, quizzes, presentations and case studies submission. The school helps each postgraduate student by coordinating and managing their research work.

The programmes at the university are conducted in collaboration with the industry to gain valuable and current input during the study period and help meet the demands of the industry with a pool of talented graduates.

AeU is a preferred distance learning option as it provides flexibility, affordability and quality.

Its main campus, which is located in the city centre, is easily accessible via public and private transport.

● AeU is located on the ground floor of the Takaful Building, at Jalan Sultan Sulaiman, Kuala Lumpur. For details, call AeU hotline at 1300 300 238 or 03-2785 0088. Alternatively e-mail enquiries@aeu.edu.my or visit their website at www.aeu.edu.my.