

Discover the freedom of personalised learning



Sabahanim Mohd Noor, graduate of AeU finds flexible learning fits her busy lifestyle

As economies the world over become more knowledge-based, working professionals find themselves faced with the reality of having to continuously upgrade themselves to keep up. However, modern lifestyle commitments may mean people find it hard to make time to go back to university. What to do?

If you turned to Prof. Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed, he would, of course, advise you to play smart, and opt for the open learning concept. The President and CEO of Asia e University (AeU) puts it this way: "Do you want to go back to university or have the university come to you?"

Prof. Ansary is well-positioned to make a statement like that with his university being an internationally recognised brand in the business that caters to the adult learners. AeU was selected by the Higher Education Ministry, under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), as "the gateway university" for international education for distance and online learning, a decision that, Prof. Ansary says, reflects how AeU is considered "the most appropriately positioned Malaysian university". Through "the AeU gateway", collaborating institutions have access to an Integrated E-learning platform. Partner institutions use the online gateway to deliver their programmes, provide expertise and can conduct assessment and quality assurance, while AeU through the gateway is in a position to provide the necessary administrative support, on behalf of the partner institution.

AeU is among only 70 universities in Asia that cater to the workforce using the open university concept. "We made the conscious decision that we are the university that comes to you," Prof. Ansary says. AeU believes in removing barriers for an individual to choose what he or she wants to study. "It gives you a second chance to do what you like to do because as you mature and gain life and work experience,

interests change. And that is where we come in," says Prof. Ansary.

Open learning does not put any pre-requisite to enrolling in a programme. For example, you can decide to do an engineering programme without having a credit in mathematics as opposed to close learning where you must have a pass or a distinction for the university to consider your application.

Prof. Ansary explains "Open learning is a philosophy that says anybody, at any age can enter a university. Nobody says you must have qualifications to study a particular course. Distance Learning is different. It is a methodology where there is a space between the student and the lecturer. People tend to think it is the same. E-learning, on the other hand, is different. It is a form of learning where digital resources are used to learn.

AeU practices the fifth generation of distance learning which uses the internet and smart mobile devices like tablet computers (e.g. ipad). The first generation used postal to correspond, followed by the use of radio and television, a concept initiated by the first open university founded in the UK. "The sixth generation, Web 2.0 is coming and it will promote collaborative learning using social networking," says Prof. Ansary.

AeU offers undergraduate, postgraduate diploma, master and doctorate programmes. There are more than 40 programmes in business, management, education & cognitive science, information & communication technology, arts, humanities & social sciences and over 200 professional and executive programmes, executive education and professional courses. All academic programmes are internationally benchmarked, approved by the Malaysian Ministry of Education and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

Students are taught by highly

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qualified lecturers and academic facilitators. The programmes are not structured but are instead "like a buffet where you get to pick out the subjects you want to do." "The students are empowered to make their own choices," adds Prof. Ansary.

One distinguishing feature of AeU is the way our programmes are delivered. Crafted to suit the demanding schedules of working professionals and adult learners, independent learning is the focal component of our courses. Our students also benefit from the valuable real world experiences of their peers through numerous interactive opportunities. AeU adopts a flexible and practice-focused teaching and learning approach and offer programmes that are rigorous, multi-mode and relevant – factors that are highly valued by busy executives who demand learning that can be tailored to suit their busy schedules, and knowledge and skills that are immediately applicable to

their jobs.

Enrolment for May semester is now open. Candidates can apply for studies through normal entry or via open entry system. For open entry into the degree programmes, those aged 21 and above with minimum Diploma/SPM/MCE/UEC/PMR or equivalent qualifications and with related work experience, are eligible to apply. For postgraduate programmes, those who are 35 and above with Diploma/STPM/'A-Levels'/Foundation/UEC or equivalent and 2 years working experience at supervisory level, can apply. Open entry refers to flexible entry or non-restrictive entry requirements which allows applicants a second chance at higher education as prior learning experience is acknowledged as valuable learning and used to compensate for paper qualifications.

For further enquiries, please call Tel: 1 300 300 238, or apply online at www.aeu.edu.my

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