

# The popularity of ECE with AeU's lifelong learning



Punithavathy an AeU alumna in GradDip (ECE) plans to continue her Master in Education (ECE) with AeU.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is one of the most popular programmes and highly demanded by Malaysians. Ms. Punithavathy A/P Kupasamy, age 42, married and a mother of 3 children (a daughter age 19 and sons, age 17 and 15), is the owner and principal of Taska Day Care Center, Genting Highlands. She is a believer in lifelong learning and has recently obtained her Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education (GradDip, ECE) at Asia e University's (AeU) 5th Convocation. She shares her learning experience at AeU.

Before I join AeU I was student of London Montessori Centre in 1997/98. I have attended short courses to upgrade myself. Finally I decided to further my Graduate Diploma studies in Early Childhood Education. I was looking for a university that is convenient for me to study since I am very busy with my Day Care School and I need to take care of my family.

AeU was my best choice because of its affordable fees, flexible mode and easily accessible online. I need only to attend 2 days classes in a month during the weekends. Assignment carries 60 per cent marks and exam 40 per cent. I was excited and happy when I first started in May 2013.

My initial journey with my studies was a difficult one having to juggle between family, career and study commitments. It have not touch any books nor study for exam for about 5 years so it was very difficult for me adjust my timing for my school, family and assignments. Furthermore, the very thick notes per subject given by AeU to read almost made me cried. I did not know how to complete my assignments because I have no time. I need to attend to my Day Care School and teach as well, prepared the lessons and at the same time handle my pupils' parents.

Every morning, I need to wake up at 4.00 a.m. so that I will arrive in my Day Care School, Genting Highland by 7.00 a.m. After work,

I travel home to Batu Caves to arrive at 6.00 p.m. Once I reach home I need to fetch my sons from school and send them to tuition. At home I will cook dinner for my family. Only after 10.00 p.m. I will have time to do my assignments. By the time I finished, I will be very tired and still able to stay awake until 12.00 midnight. Every day I will try to spend 2 hours for studies.

That was my daily routine. Saturday and Sunday were more taxing, as sometimes I have no time at all to do my assignments. But I had never skipped any AeU classes. With determination and good time management, I was able to complete my assignments on time. During AeU classes, the lecturers/academic facilitators were most helpful in giving guidelines on how best to complete my assignments. After few months I was able to adapt and adjust to my studies. With god's grace,

I managed to complete my studies and graduated in September 2015. Despite the many challenges, it was a dream come true and I enjoyed my learning experience because the knowledge I gained was relevant and applicable to my occupation. I have decided to further upgrade myself by registering with AeU for their Master of Education with a specialization in Early Childhood Education programme in January 2016.

## Fast Facts on AeU

AeU is a collaborative multinational university established under the auspices of the 33 Asia Cooperation Dialogue Countries (ACD). All academic programmes are internationally benchmarked, approved by the Malaysian Ministry of Education and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

AeU has garnered several awards such as the Brand Laureate Awards 2010 for "Best Brand in Education - e-Education," and the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards 2010 under the "Most Promising Entrepreneur" category. Additionally, in 2012, the University was announced as "the best ACD Project" during the ACD Meeting in Kuwait.

Established since April 2007, AeU now has an enrolment of more than 22,000 students from 65 countries, and has graduated over 7,000 graduates thus far. As one of the leading provider of Open Distance Learning in Malaysia, AeU has a diverse and international community of over 1,000 fellow doctoral students from 46 countries. By delivering a world-class learning experience, AeU aspires to be the leader and the premiere educational hub in the promotion of affordable quality e-learning throughout Asia.

AeU has spread its wings to ACD member countries such as Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam, as well as to non-member countries such as Denmark, Hong Kong, Iraq, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Somalia, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

There are three intakes annually; January, May and September. AeU will assist Malaysian students to apply for their loans and EPF. You can apply online at [www.aeu.edu.my](http://www.aeu.edu.my) or call Tel: 1300 300 238 for more information.