

Valuable experiential learning

TO really stand out in today's job market, information and communication technology (ICT) professionals need a combination of technical and managerial skills as well as exposure to an international environment.

Asia e University (AeU)'s Master of ICT Management programme (MICTM) produces professionals who can successfully implement ICT in their organisation.

Girija Sachidanantham, a data analyst with an international software distribution company in Malaysia, is a student of AeU's MICTM and shares her learning experience here:

"Coming from an IT background with 10 years of working experience and being a strong believer in lifelong learning, I have always wanted to pursue a postgraduate programme at a well-known university and enhance my working life.

I chose AeU because it gave me the flexibility to structure my learning around my hectic lifestyle.

The course equipped us with skills and knowledge needed in managing business data and leading the implementation of ICT in our respective departments and organisations.



Girija Sachidanantham is an AeU student of the Master of ICT Management programme and data analyst of an international software distribution company.

Lifelong learning has been an important pursuit for me as I want to self-improve and upgrade all aspects of my career and personal life.

In contrast to most conventional universities' approach to education, students at AeU are not pressured to finish their studies within a certain time, providing a stress-free environment where we

can have a good work-life balance.

As MICTM is fully online, it is a good option for working adults such as me. When I first started, one of the most challenging tasks was to strike a balance between work, family and my personal life.

I have learnt how to manage my time more effectively now after two years of study and having the support of AeU's academic and

non-academic staff, especially Assoc Prof Dr Roshayu Mohamad, dean of AeU's School of ICT, who has given me the confidence to pursue my studies.

The theories I learnt are relevant and applicable to my work. Learning is interesting as we have constant interactions with the friendly academic facilitators.

AeU's Knowledge Management Centre is one of the most comprehensive online libraries with large amounts of invaluable resources with links to other local libraries, which supported my research.

I can access both print and online formats from a wide range of invaluable resources with the assistance of AeU's friendly librarians who are always happy to assist students.

Students can choose to study fully online or part-time blended modes where classes are only held once a month on weekends.

They can increase their understanding of core subject modules by going to seminars or engaging with online materials on the user-friendly web-based portal learning management system called Personalised Learning Space (myPLS).

myPLS allows me to check my tutorial timetables, related news, announcements and submit my assignments, examination preparations and research projects.

Another competitive advantage of AeU is the quality of its academic facilitators who are not only professionally qualified but also have extensive industry experience. They impart invaluable knowledge to students who can also share their experience with coursemates.

Such experiential learning is highly beneficial to students such as me, who can relate to the theories learnt and apply them to our work.

I am glad to have inspired some of my friends who have joined AeU to pursue different fields of study. I hope to inspire more people, especially those who are married with children, to not give up but strive towards lifelong learning to achieve their dreams.

The past two years of studying at AeU and working at the same time have been an enriching experience."

■ For more information, call 1300 300 238 or apply online at www.aeu.edu.my.