

# AeU Boosts Higher Education for Pre-school Educators

The aspired excellence in the national educational system in producing highly skilled and competent human capital is beyond doubt, may be impacted by sheer quality of the pre-school education. Children from age 4 and above who are admitted to primary schools without any pre-school education may find difficulty in competing with their classmates who have undergone such pre-education - which later may also struggle in coping with their study. Statistics of Malaysian pre-school education shows that until June 2011, there was nearly 77% enrolment or around 430,000 pupils have been taught by approximately 17,899 teachers, both in public and private pre-schools nationwide. However, this number is still far below the targeted Education's National Key Result Area (NKRA) based on the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) that aims a 100% enrolment across all levels of education spanning from pre-school to secondary school by year 2020. Subsequent to this, the demand for academically qualified pre-school teachers has been on a rise, since only 3% of the current total of teachers possess at least a Diploma in Early Childhood Education.

In the wake of the national pre-school's re-alignment based on GTP, Asia e University (AeU) feels that it is obliged to support the process in strengthening the industry by providing an ideal avenue to improve the academic qualification for the educators, particularly for those who are involved in Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE).

## AeU Early Childhood Education Programme

Parallel to the pre-school education needs, School of Education and Cognitive Science (SECS) at AeU is distinctly offering early childhood education at Bachelor and Graduate Diploma levels to all pre-school educators including pre-school or kindergarten operators. Approved by the Ministry of Education and accredited by the Malaysian Quality Agency, both programmes are dedicated towards pre-school teacher development needs in Asian countries with emphasis on specific local requirements.

The Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education) (Hons) is developed especially for pre-school teachers who have already possess at least a Diploma. The period of study covers around 4 years or 13 semesters via part time and on-line distance learning.

Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education is designed specifically for pre-school teachers who are SPM leavers and have been working in the industry for a few years. The study period includes 2 years or 7 semesters, encompassing 18 subjects and a practical in teaching. Compare to the existing early childhood education in the market, this programme is comprehensively structured and almost equivalent to the second year of bachelor level in term of its learning modules and syllabus.

Both programmes offer flexibility in its course delivery that is either fully online or blended learning - a combination of face to face tutorials and online learning, where students can choose according to their lifestyles. Tutorial sessions which are conducted by qualified and experienced Academic Facilitators, allow students to accommodate their work schedule with the course of study through the provision of weekend classes, held once a month.

Based on its e-learning system, relevant learning materials will be uploaded in a user friendly e-learning platform called Personalised Learning Space (myPLS) for students to download, read and practice at their own learning time. The access to our myPLS is given to both full-time and part-time students. myPLS works not only for the merit of a flexible yet easier way of learning but also to ameliorate your discipline in daily time management.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

The programme learning outcomes are driven by the current needs of the local early childhood education and in sync with the teacher's continuous professional development agenda stated in the Malaysian Education Blueprint (2013-2025).

The outcomes of the early childhood education at AeU embraces holistic approach in enhancing knowledge, teaching ability and competency needed to nurture student's moral, cognitive, emotional and social development particularly for children age from 4 until 8 years old. The teacher will learn the knowledge to trace the historical and philosophical origin of early childhood education; the ability to apply knowledge of child development in planning respectful, supportive and challenging learning environments for all children; the ability to plan and implement developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) for young children, with sensitivity to individual needs; and appreciate the importance of involving parents and families as partners

in the education of young children.

The graduates will also acquire skills and competency in establishing and maintaining responsible practices for promoting childhood health, safety, and nutrition for their pupils. They will also able to apply the organisational regulations, policies, ethical guidelines, and standards associated with the provision of early childhood education services; demonstrate the ability to teach young learners a variety of teaching methods and techniques; as well as able to appreciate that teaching young children is an art, science, craft and profession and the need to be reflective.

"The fundamentals of pre-school education ecosystem like the educators and the school operators have undergone various critical phases since the Independence Day. Pre-school teachers play greater role in nurturing the children behaviour from the early stages. As a role model, teachers need to stay professional, uphold integrity and qualify enough to take care of this children, especially the Alpha generation who are highly exposed to elements of technology and materialistic," says Prof. Dr. John Arul Philips, Dean of School of Education and Cognitive Science.

"A lot of improvement in teaching pedagogy and learning approach have been found which relates to the early childhood education that need to be acquired by pre-school educators. The nation needs academically recognised and graduated teachers in order to achieve the GTP especially in education sector. All of this can be learnt at AeU," he adds.

## AeU Offers Learning Flexibility

Aligning itself with the recent development in the local and global mainstream educational growth, AeU always provides the opportunity to pursue study at a competitive and flexible cost. Such flexibility in learning allows teachers and educators to stay working and studying at their own pace without neglecting any of their professional and personal obligations. E-learning facilitated by AeU, capacitates full-time and part-time study modes as working students do not have to resign their job in order to study. As good as 'killing two birds with one stone', why quit your job to study, when you can do both? Learning methodology and resources at AeU makes it possible to learn and work without sacrificing any of it.

## Fast Facts on AeU Academic & Students

Since opening its door in April 2007, AeU today has an enrolment of more than 15,000 students internationally, in 56 countries and has produced over 5,000 graduates thus far. All academic programmes are internationally benchmarked, approved by MOE and accredited by MQA. AeU provides tutorial sessions once a month at its many Learning Centres located in major cities at all states including those in rural areas such as Ranau & Kota Marudu in Sabah. They are fully-equipped with tutorial rooms, computer laboratories and academic resource centres with internet facilities.

## Learning Resources At AeU

At AeU, e-learning has played a fundamental role to serve a greater number of students and to reach out to those students from any locations. As part of the university's blended learning pedagogies, e-learning has been able to support an enrolment of thousands of students from within and outside the country. AeU has successfully connected thousands of students, faculty members, academic facilitators, subject matter experts and administrators via the internet using a common platform referred to as the myPLS, the University's learning management system. Through the myPLS, various learning resources such as web-based modules and multimedia courseware are made available for students to view or download. In addition, AeU students have access to the library digital collection comprising more than 100,000 e-books, 71,000 e-journals, and 1.6 million e-theses titles.

Aiming to provide comfortable learning experience and match the student's lifestyle, AeU allows flexibility in terms of payment of fees and study options in order to tailor to student's learning process with their needs and lifestyle. AeU offers special financial incentives to assist students during their period of study, including AeU Merit Scholarship for top-performing students; and discounts for student loyalty schemes, full payment of semester fees, senior citizens (from 55 years of age & above) and disabled people. AeU also assists students to apply for PTPTN loans and EPF withdrawal, MyBrain15 Sponsorships (for Doctoral & Master's Degree only) and Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF).



## Join AeU Scholars!

AeU inaugurates three intakes annually; January, May and September. Registration is available via Online Application at [www.aeu.edu.my](http://www.aeu.edu.my). Meet us at the following Education Fairs:

Date	Event Name	Venue	Time
14-15 June	NAPEI 33rd Malaysian Education Fair	Mid Valley Exhibition Centre	10.00 am - 6.00 pm
19-20 July	Higher Education Fair 2014		

Further inquiries, just call us at toll-free 1 300 300 238, or visit [www.aeu.edu.my](http://www.aeu.edu.my)