

AeU's PhD Programme from an International Student's Perspective

Mr. Fazalur Rahman is a Director, Business Management for Talentpepz Career Solutions (India) Private Limited, Tamil Naidu, Chennai, India. A strong believer in lifelong learning, after some online searches, he found Asia e University (AeU)'s PhD programme as the most ideal and enrolled in 2013 as a fully online PhD student. He hopes to graduate in 2018 after attending his viva voce at AeU main campus recently. He shares his learning journey at AeU.

Fazalur says, "My training pursued from University of Edinburgh through Coursera.com on "Developing critical thinking in global challenges" helped me to excel my critical thinking for developing leaders in the competitive environment and making

quick decisions to manage uncertain circumstances. It also helped to reveal the gaps in my learning process which I needed to address as my hunger for more knowledge grows. Hence I decided to embark on the highest academic level in AeU's PhD (Business Administration) programme."

Fazalur continues, "Before I joined AeU, I had this mistaken belief that knowledge can only be gathered through experience and practical activities and I did not give much thought on the importance of the theoretical aspects of learning. After going through the PhD rigorous research and the learning process, my viewpoint had vastly changed. I realised I have gained more knowledge, inevitably improved my skills. I am now able to understand that theoretical knowledge lays the foundation for improving one's

self. I am glad this programme has contributed greatly in my self-development as well as my professional career. One of the important changes I experienced during this programme is to learn to accept criticisms and ideas from others and utilise them for both academic and professional improvement."

"When I wrote my thesis, titled 'Determinants of the Leadership Development Program Effectiveness'. I underestimated the amount of effort required to complete this research. This misunderstanding did not last long as my supervisor Dr. Mohamad Yazam was able to reflect the vastness of the topic to me and the challenges that lie in front of me. Beginning with the writing format to the presentation of the research, every aspect was a challenge and a valuable learning experience

for me. Another major benefit as a fully online student, I was able to study at my own pace and time from afar yet well connected online with AeU academic facilitators, my supervisor and staff. As the world is growing competitive the primary research knowledge and skills that I have gained will help me develop competitive advantage through developing a strategic business factors that will add value to the business." he adds.

"Lastly I must say I am glad my leadership, communications and time management skills has improved somewhat which enabled me to overcome my toughest challenge in trying to achieve a work life balance in my corporate life as well as my family life. I hope to allocate more time for my family who had been patient and supportive of me in my pursuit to complete my PhD studies. It is my objective, to keep evolving and improving myself continuously to reach my optimal self in all my future endeavors."

About AeU

Asia e University (AeU) is a collaborative multi-mode university established in 2008 under the auspices of 34 Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) countries. AeU is ranked as a "Very Good" university by the 2017 Setara Ranking and emerged as the top among the open and distance learning universities in Malaysia.

In just 10 years, AeU's cumulative student population has exceeded 29,000, spread over 84 countries. The students of AeU enjoy an immersive personalised education experience with goals



FAZALUR Rahman, Director of, Talentpepz India & PhD (BA) Student from AeU.

of flexibility, quality and relevance regardless of the geographical locations. Today AeU has 15,000 graduates worldwide. More than 3,000 students are taking its programmes at its collaborative learning centres abroad in the Middle

East, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Intakes for all postgraduate research programmes, are open throughout the year. For enquiries, call 03-5022 3456 / 013-3507270 or email: enquiries@aeu.edu.my or apply online at www.aeu.edu.my