

# D S C O U R S E

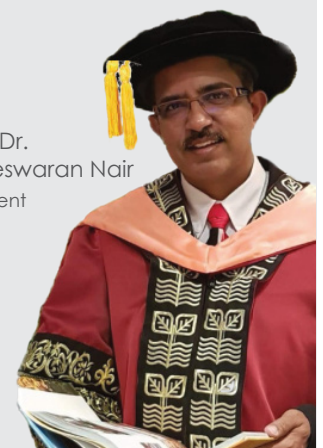
Weekly Vol. 8. Issue 05



## Remarks from the President

At DISTED College, we believe that continuous professional development for our staff is crucial to maintaining and enhancing the quality of education we provide. These recent trainings at DISTED are crucial for ensuring that our assessments accurately reflect students' knowledge and skills, ultimately preparing them for real-world challenges. By aligning our programmes with national standards and industry expectations, we ensure our graduates are well-equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to excel in their professional careers.

Upgrading staff knowledge is crucial to enhancing teaching quality, keeping up with educational trends, and ensuring students receive current and relevant education. It fosters a culture of continuous improvement, boosts staff morale, and aligns with institutional goals, ultimately leading to better student outcomes and institutional success. Investing in our faculty's professional growth underscores our commitment to academic excellence and the success of our students.



Prof. Dr.  
Vikneswaran Nair  
President

## Enhances Education Quality with Back-to-Back Staff Training

DISTED College held expert-led training sessions on student assessment and programme design to strengthen its alignment with national standards.

### What's inside

- **DISTED** College Enhances Education Quality with Back-to-Back Staff Training
- **New** Additions to the DISTED College Team
- **Evaluating** Internship Progress and Enhancing Practical Skills
- **Developing** a Unique Perspective in Visual Arts
- **A** Journey with StudyAdelaide and the SACE International Ambassador Programme

## Cover Story

# DISTED College Enhances Education Quality with Back-to-Back Staff Training

DISTED College organised two comprehensive staff training sessions to elevate educational standards on July 18-19 and July 20, 2024. Facilitated by Associate Professor Ts. Rozita Husain from Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM), these sessions focused on student assessment and programme design.

The first training, "Guideline to Good Practice (GGP): Assessment of Students," provided a thorough framework for creating and evaluating exam questions in Malaysian higher education. Key principles such as fairness, validity, reliability, and relevance were emphasised. The training introduced outcomes-based assessment (OBA), which aligns assessment activities with learning outcomes to ensure practical application and academic knowledge. Active learning and constructive alignment were also highlighted to promote student-centred learning.

Participants learned to allocate Student Learning Time (SLT) proportionately to achieve course outcomes and to use diverse assessment methods, including coursework and performance-based assessments. The session underscored the importance of question vetting to maintain quality and avoid bias and advocate for inclusive practices and culturally responsive teaching.

The second session, "Guidelines to Good Practices in Programme Design and Delivery," aimed at helping higher education providers (HEPs) develop programmes that align with national standards. Key highlights included defining Programme Educational Objectives (PEOs) and Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) to outline graduates' career milestones and requisite skills. Conducting systematic needs assessments was emphasised to align curricula with market demands.

The training detailed a structured programme development process, from stakeholder needs analysis to curriculum planning. Continual quality improvement was stressed, with ongoing monitoring and stakeholder engagement ensuring programmes remain effective and relevant.

These sessions provided a robust approach to programme design and student assessment, ensuring higher education programmes in Malaysia meet national standards. DISTED College, with its unwavering commitment to supporting educational excellence, continues to lead the way through continuous staff development and best practices.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair  
President





## New Additions to the DISTED College Team



Tan Jia Huey



Shabana Gany

DISTED College is pleased to welcome two new team members, each bringing unique skills and experiences. Shabana Gany, joining as an IT cum Administrator Executive, holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from KDU College Penang. Her expertise in computer hardware and software and her proactive problem-solving skills position her well to support our IT and administrative needs. Tan Jia Huey, our new Student Experience Officer, holds a Bachelor of Communication (Hons) in Public Relations from the University Tunku Abdul Rahman and has a rich background in event organisation and the Food and Beverage and hospitality industries. An enthusiast of outdoor activities like hiking and camping, Jia Huey's adventurous spirit and resilience will significantly benefit our team. Shabana and Jia Huey are poised to bring fresh perspectives and contribute significantly to DISTED College's success.

Raziah binti Ehia Mohd  
HR and Admin Executive, Human Resources & Administration

## Evaluating Internship Progress and Enhancing Practical Skills



On June 24, 2024, Ms. Thiresyinie Tamil Chelvam and Ms. Teoh Ker Hsin visited D'Home Mental Health Association to evaluate the internship progress of three DISTED Psychology students—Joanna Ho Woan Jiun, Ammar Amsyar Bin Azahar, and Eunice Soon En Ci. D'Home plays a crucial role in Penang, offering comprehensive mental health services and advocacy. The visit aimed to assess student performance and identify areas needing additional support. Ms. Sally Yeoh Lake Hoon, the onsite supervisor, detailed the center's operations, highlighting adaptations made to ensure effective care. She described the students' responsibilities, including designing educational strategies, behavior management plans, and engaging with mental health patients and NGOs. This visit emphasised the significance of hands-on learning, showcasing how D'Home's commitment to quality care and practical experiences enrich students' academic learning and professional development.

Thiresyinie A/P Tamil Chelvam  
Lecturer, School of Psychology

## Developing a Unique Perspective in Visual Arts



Visual art transcends mere replication of the observable world, serving as a medium for artists to interpret and present their unique perspectives. For students, developing a distinctive voice is crucial, involving the enhancement of observational skills, the embracing of individuality, and the exploration of diverse influences. Observational skills are foundational, requiring engagement with the underlying forms, colours, and textures beyond superficial viewing. Art students learn to capture these nuances to develop a deeper perspective. Personal experiences significantly influence an artist's work. Students are encouraged to draw from their own stories and emotions, integrating these into their creations to convey unique narratives. Exposure to various artistic expressions through museum visits and studying both historical and contemporary works enriches students' viewpoints. The SACEi Visual Art course at DISTED supports this educational journey, blending theoretical knowledge with practical application to foster appreciation and the ability to create impactful, personalised art.

Khairu Nisa Wazir  
Lecturer, School of Computing & Engineering



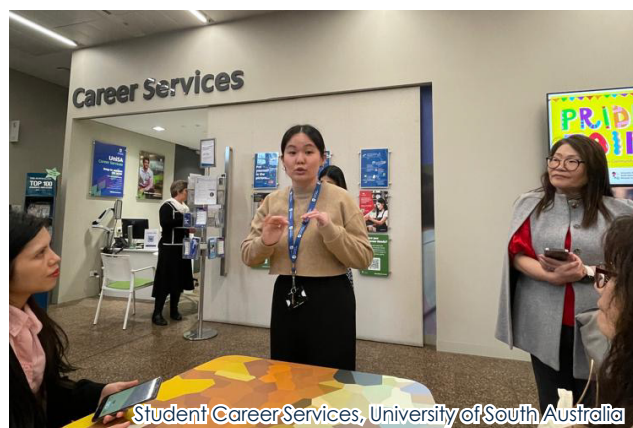
On June 21, 2024, a group of DISTED students, including those from the SACEi Visual Arts programme, visited the Muzium & Gallery Tuanku Fauziah at Universiti Sains Malaysia.





StudyAdelaide promotes Adelaide as a top destination for international students on behalf of the South Australian Government and the education sector, providing support from arrival through graduation and employability programmes. I am honored to be part of the StudyAdelaide and SACE International Ambassador Programme, held from June 15 to 21, 2024, in Adelaide, Australia. During my visit, I explored two of South Australia's biggest universities: the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. The University of Adelaide, the third oldest in Australia, ranks 82nd in the QS World Rankings for 2025 and is associated with five Nobel Laureates. The University of South Australia, established in 1991, has roots in institutions founded between 1856 and 1889. Both universities merged on July 15, 2024, forming Adelaide University, which will offer over 300 degrees in globally in-demand fields starting in 2026. Discover the South Australian Certificate of Education International (SACEi) programme at DISTED College for a pathway to success!

Dr. Tan Sze Huey  
 Senior Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies



Please scan to read


 the  
**FULL**  
 article

#### Our team:

Editor: Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair; Assistant Editor: Dr. Lum Li Sean;  
 Lead Contributors: Seethai Subramaniam (Computing & Engineering);  
 Geong Chooi Peng (Pre-University Studies); Dr. Lum Li Sean (Business &  
 Accounting); Kaitlyn Khoo Rui Ern & Tan Jia Huey (Student Affairs  
 News); Design & Layout: Tay Hooi Khoon; Distribution: Felecia Ng Lay  
 Hong & Grace Tan Suet Yee