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DISCOURSE

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Adelaide University maintains its partnership with DISTED College while broadening opportunities for Malaysian students globally.

Adelaide University Expands Global Reach for Malaysian Students

Remarks from the President



Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President

The partnership between DISTED College and South Australia via the South Australian Certificate of Education International (SACEi) programme and collaboration with the University of Adelaide has been a cornerstone of our commitment to providing world-class education to Malaysian students, giving our students the opportunity to access high-quality Australian education right here in Malaysia. This type of collaboration is crucial as it offers our students a global perspective, which is increasingly vital in today's interconnected world.

International partnerships like this allow us to elevate the academic standards of our programmes and align with global industry demands. Working with institutions such as the newly merged Adelaide University ensures our curriculum remains relevant, future-focused, and competitive. Students benefit from the best of both worlds: the strong educational foundations provided by DISTED and the global insights and cutting-edge research of a Go8 university.

Moreover, this collaboration enhances employability. With Adelaide University's strong ties to industry, our graduates are well-prepared to thrive in the rapidly evolving job market locally and globally. We are proud to continue this partnership and look forward to further strengthening our efforts to internationalise education for the benefit of our students.

Cover
Story

**Adelaide University Expands
Global Reach for Malaysian
Students**



Adelaide University, a merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, will officially launch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to welcome Malaysian admissions. As a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight (Go8) research-intensive universities, it offers a world-class education to prepare students for a rapidly evolving job market.

Adelaide University has a long-standing partnership with Malaysia's DISTED College through an articulation agreement. For three decades, DISTED has successfully run the South Australian Certificate of Education International (SACEi) programme, and this collaboration is set to continue under the new university, further strengthening the ties between the institutions.

The university's curriculum emphasises digital fluency, cyber security, and artificial intelligence, incorporating industry collaboration and work-integrated learning in every degree. By leveraging global partnerships and cutting-edge technology, Adelaide University aims to offer a flexible and future-focused learning experience through modular and stackable programmes. Its proximity to South Australia's growing tech industry provides students with direct access to industry opportunities.

Leading the Malaysian delegation at the launch are Professor Jessica Gallagher, University of Adelaide's vice-president and deputy vice-chancellor (external engagement), and University of South Australia chancellor John Hill. Professor Gallagher highlights the institution's focus on cybersecurity, data science, digital business, and renewable resources to address Malaysia's skill shortages.

Adelaide is ranked 28th in the QS Best Student Cities 2025, attracting students with its cosmopolitan lifestyle, multicultural community, and scenic surroundings. When it opens in 2026, Adelaide University will educate both domestic and international students from over 100 countries, with an initial offering of 200 degrees. Graduates will join a global alumni network of more than 400,000 persons across 150 countries.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President



The Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia is Ms Danielle Heinecke delivering her opening address

Panel discussion chaired by Professor Jessica Gallagher

Empowering Teaching and Learning through OBE

On 12th September 2024, DISTED College's School of Language and Communication held an outcome-based education (OBE) workshop for new academic staff, led by Dr. S. Maartandan Suppiah from Universiti Utara Malaysia. The workshop focused on developing constructive alignment in teaching and learning, essential for understanding OBE. Dr. Maartandan highlighted that OBE shifts the focus from traditional pedagogy to student outcomes, involving students in achieving specific objectives within a harmonised curriculum, teaching methods, and assessments. He emphasised that OBE enhances transparency by making educators' expectations clear to students and allowing adjustments based on different learning needs. OBE also promotes continuous quality improvement, encouraging educators to reflect and modify teaching to meet intended learning outcomes. Ultimately, this approach equips students with skills for real-world challenges and supports Malaysia's National Education Philosophy, fostering a sustainable future through improved teaching strategies and outcomes.

Nadia Jefri

Senior Lecturer, Programme Leader,
School of Language and Communication



Leveraging Technology for Enriched Learning in the Digital Age

In today's digital era, students are constantly connected to devices, making it crucial for educators and parents to guide their technology use positively. Instead of resisting, we can embrace technology to enhance learning experiences. By integrating multimedia in education, students can engage in more interactive and meaningful learning. Tools like educational apps and games offer personalised learning that caters to individual needs, helping students grasp complex concepts more effectively. Technology also encourages collaboration through platforms like Google Classroom, promoting teamwork and communication skills. Furthermore, digital resources such as online libraries and virtual field trips broaden students' knowledge and foster critical thinking. To ensure positive usage, teaching digital literacy, online safety, and responsible tech habits is vital. Educators and parents should also model healthy technology behaviours. Thoughtfully embracing technology can create enriching learning environments, equipping students for the future. DISTED's Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production utilises such technology to enhance student skills across disciplines.



Luqman Aliff Abdul Rashid
Programme Lead, School of Computing
and Engineering

Inspiring Creativity: Exploring the Art of Sculpture



Image source:
<http://www.muthiatheexplorer.com/2019/01/butuh-ide-weekend-getaway-2d1n-penang.html>

“On July 12, I gave a talk on sculpture at SMK Hamid Khan to about 40 Form 5 SPM students. Although sculpture isn't my primary expertise, it's a subject I've explored as a hobby. The talk covered key themes such as the history of sculpture, materials, techniques, and its importance in Penang, with a focus on the iconic "Tsunami" sculpture at Gurney Drive, symbolising prosperity. The session ended with a quiz to reinforce learning, and the students left with a renewed appreciation for the craft. I also introduced DISTED's study pathways in visual arts, offering career opportunities in fields like graphic design, illustration, fine art, and animation, inspiring students to explore creativity and pursue careers in the creative industries.”



Khairu Nisa Wazir
Lecturer, School of Computing and
Engineering

Mooncake Festival Fundraiser



A Celebration of Culture and Compassion

In celebration of the Mooncake Festival, DISTED College's School of Pre-University organised a fundraising initiative to support the Fo Yi Hemodialysis Centre in Penang. Students, faculty, and the community contributed RM10 or more, receiving a snow skin mooncake as a token of appreciation. Led by Ms. Lee Lei Yong, the initiative blended cultural celebration with social responsibility, promoting compassion and generosity. Students gained valuable skills in community involvement, leadership, and organisation, while raising funds for crucial dialysis treatments for patients in need. The project highlighted the importance of healthcare accessibility and the role of community support. By aligning the Mooncake Festival's themes of unity and togetherness with charitable giving, the college aims to inspire a tradition of philanthropy that fosters a lasting sense of social responsibility throughout the campus and community.

Geong Chooi Peng
Head, School of Pre-University Studies

Teacher, I cannot count



Teaching accounting to students who struggle with math can be challenging. One student admitted to consistently failing math, which raised the question: "How do you teach accounting to someone who can't even add?" More and more students who dislike numbers are enrolled in the subject, hoping to develop a love for counting. It often feels like being on a mission to convert them, especially in a society that no longer values education as the key to success. Wealth is seen as the ultimate goal, overshadowing traits like persistence and hard work. Many students, deemed "unteachable," are treated as discards, with little effort made to help them succeed. There's never enough time to focus on their needs, as completing the syllabus takes priority. Despite these challenges, the goal remains clear: to equip these students with the skills they need to succeed and ensure they aren't left behind.

Allen Tan Siew Gaik
Senior Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies

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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 & Sea Yun Xuan & Tan Jia Huey (Student Affairs News); Design & Layout: Tay Hooi Khoon; Distribution: Felecia Ng Lay Hong & Grace Tan Suet Yee