


25
 Oct
 2024

 Weekly
 Vol. 9.
 Issue 07

DASCOURSE

Titles of the Week

- **Budget 2025:** Timely Support for Developing Courses in Digital Technology, AI, Data Science, and Related Fields
- **Exploring Career Opportunities:** DISTED College Team Visits Jabil GBS for Future Collaborations
- **Energising Learning:** The Role of Gamification in Student Engagement
- **Shining a Light on Mental Health in Education:** Celebrating 10th October 2024
- **Colourful Expressions:** Pulled String Art Workshop

The 2025 Budget's incentives for developing courses in digital technology, AI, and data science align perfectly with DISTED College's upcoming Bachelor of Information Technology (Data Analytics) (honours) programme, supporting innovation and workforce readiness.

Budget 2025:

Timely Support for Developing Courses in Digital Technology, AI, Data Science, and Related Fields

The 2025 Budget's emphasis on digital technology, AI, data science, and related fields marks a crucial moment for Malaysia's future readiness. The government is positioning the country at the forefront of technological innovation and global competitiveness by prioritising these rapidly advancing sectors. This focus ensures that Malaysia will not only be a consumer of advanced technologies but also a producer and innovator within the digital economy.

Introducing special tax incentives for higher education institutions developing courses in AI, digital technology, and data science is a crucial step. It will encourage universities and colleges to offer cutting-edge programmes that equip students with the skills necessary for tomorrow's workforce. These fields are critical to the digital transformation across industries, from manufacturing and healthcare to finance and beyond.

The growing reliance on data-driven decision-making makes expertise in data science invaluable. AI and IoT are revolutionising every aspect of our lives and equipping the next generation with knowledge in these areas is essential for Malaysia to remain competitive in the global market.

This focus on digital innovation aligns with the nation's broader strategy to foster sustainable growth, create high-skilled jobs, and secure Malaysia's position as a regional and global leader in the digital economy.

Remarks



President

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
 President



DISTED College wishes everyone a very *HAPPY Diwali* on 31 October 2024!

Cover
Story

Budget 2025: Timely Support for Developing Courses in Digital Technology, AI, Data Science, and Related Fields



The 2025 Budget's introduction of special tax incentives for higher education institutions developing courses in digital technology, AI, data science, and related fields is timely for DISTED College, which plans to launch its Bachelor of Information Technology (Data Analytics) (Honours) in collaboration with HELP University in January 2025. This programme, pending final approval from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), aligns with the government's focus on building a future-ready workforce to meet the demands of the global digital economy.

The budget encourages educational institutions to invest in programmes like data analytics, which is crucial for leveraging big data and driving informed business decisions in various sectors. With data analytics becoming increasingly essential in healthcare, finance, and manufacturing industries, this course prepares students for high-demand roles in a rapidly evolving job market. The programme also will contribute directly to Malaysia's broader goals of becoming a leader in technology and innovation. Graduates equipped with data analytics skills will be critical in helping businesses navigate the digital transformation, thus bridging the gap between educational outcomes and industry needs.

In short, the budget's incentives come at a pivotal time for DISTED College, reinforcing its role in producing skilled graduates who will contribute to the nation's growing digital economy, while benefiting from government support aimed at driving innovation in higher education.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President



Exploring Career Opportunities: DISTED College Team Visits Jabil GBS for Future Collaborations

Recently, a team from DISTED College's School of Business and Hospitality visited Jabil Global Business Services (GBS) in Bayan Lepas to explore career and internship opportunities for their graduates and students. They were welcomed by DISTED alumni Kelvin Oo and Alex Lee, who shared their experiences and skills gained at Jabil GBS, where they now work. The visit included a session with Jabil's Talent Acquisition team, who provided an overview of staffing needs in IT, Supply Chain, and Finance, along with insights from department directors on the essential skills required. Both sides discussed potential future collaborations, such as internships and training opportunities for DISTED students. The visit was a valuable experience for DISTED staff, equipping them with knowledge to better guide students in their career paths and fostering stronger ties between the college and Jabil GBS, enhancing future career prospects for graduates.

Sharizan Abdul Rashid
Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality



Energising Learning: The Role of Gamification in Student Engagement

Gamification is revolutionising e-commerce education by incorporating interactive elements like points, badges, and competitive challenges, transforming traditional learning into a more engaging and dynamic experience. This approach helps students better understand complex topics such as digital marketing, customer engagement, and online sales strategies by making the learning process more interactive and enjoyable. Even simple gamified activities can significantly improve focus, motivation, and retention. For instance, platforms like Gartic.io allow students to draw and guess key e-commerce terms in real-time, making abstract ideas easier to grasp. This fun and collaborative method enhances both individual learning and group dynamics, as students actively learn from one another. Furthermore, gamification encourages teamwork through group challenges that mimic real-world e-commerce scenarios. These activities help students develop essential soft skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking, preparing them for the fast-paced digital marketplace. At DISTED College, we are committed to integrating these innovative teaching methods to equip our students for the future of e-commerce.



Kaushalya Tinakaran
Lecturer, School of
Computing & Engineering

Shining a Light on Mental Health in Education: Celebrating 10th October 2024



As a psychology lecturer, I recognise mental health as a vital component of both academic study and daily life. It shapes how we think, feel, and behave, influencing our ability to manage stress, build relationships, and pursue goals. Mental Health Awareness Month in October provides an important platform to discuss these issues and break the silence caused by societal stigma. In my classroom, I foster a supportive environment for open conversations about mental well-being, advocating for a holistic approach to health that prioritises mental care alongside physical health. By emphasising self-awareness, preventive care, and healthy habits, educators can guide students to become future advocates for mental health in their communities. Through raising awareness and promoting dialogue, we can work towards a society that values mental health, encourages seeking help, and promotes compassion and support for all.

Thireshyinie A/P Tamil Chelvam
Lecturer, School of Psychology

Colourful Expressions: Pulled String Art Workshop

On October 4th, 2024, DISTED Art Club hosted a Pulled String Art workshop, inviting students to explore this creative and spontaneous painting technique. Club advisor Ms. Khairu Nisa led participants to use strings dipped in paint to craft intricate and organic designs by pulling them across a surface. The workshop encouraged experimentation with different colour combinations, resulting in mesmerising patterns, from abstract shapes to floral designs. The session offered students a relaxing, enjoyable opportunity to express themselves artistically. New member Abirhami praised the experience, calling it a "fun and creative way to explore abstract designs with simple materials." Beyond creating art, the workshop fostered a sense of community among participants, making it a memorable and collaborative event. The club looks forward to organising more such workshops in the future.

Khairu Nisa Wazir
Lecturer, School of Computing and Engineering and Art
Club Advisor



DISTED Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd

Company Registration Number : 199701020079 (435576-U)
MOHE Approval Number: DK187(P)

340, Macalister Road,
10350, George Town, Penang

Please scan to read



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