

Weekly

DISTED

COLLEGE

Discourse

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➡ New Gaming Lab

New Technologies in Games, Programming, and Cybersecurity



One of the most exciting developments in the gaming industry has been the growth of cloud gaming services, which allow users to stream high-quality games over the internet. Services like Google Stadia, Microsoft xCloud, and Nvidia GeForce have now made it possible to play console-quality games on any device with an internet connection. Additionally, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies have continued to advance, offering increasingly immersive gaming experiences. The latest gaming consoles, including the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X/S, also provide advanced features like haptic feedback and ray tracing, taking gaming to a new level.

In the programming world, machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) have been among the most significant areas of development. With the growing amount of data generated daily, machine learning, and AI are being used to automate and optimise tasks, make predictions, and improve decision-making. Additionally, low-code and no-code platforms have made it easier for non-technical users to create apps and automate workflows, democratising the power of programming and making it accessible to more people. Other

areas of development that has become more critical than ever is cybersecurity and blockchain technology, which is being used to create more secure systems for storing and sharing data. The tech industry continues to evolve and innovate, with developments that is reshaping how we live, work, and play.

The demand for computer science professionals is rapidly increasing in Malaysia, especially in Penang. As businesses and organisations continue to digitise their operations, the demand for skilled computer science professionals is expected to rise. At DISTED, we offer Diploma in Computer Science, Diploma in Business Information Technology and Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production. We have labs equipped with state of the art, high-end PCs, including Alienware, for gaming, video editing, 3D Modelling and Animation, Virtual Reality, machine learning and graphics design. Our labs are designed to create a collaborative environment that fosters creativity, innovation, and teamwork. We avoid wasting resources and educate our students on the importance of respecting and caring for equipment and the environment, which are our essential principles.

Seethai Subramaniam
Head of School of Computing

Digital Transformation Impacting the Future Career



Digital transformation is revolutionising how businesses operate and impacting the future career landscape. New job roles are being created with the increasing adoption of digital technologies. For example, data scientists, digital marketing specialists, cybersecurity professionals, and user experience designers are all relatively new job roles that have emerged due to digital transformation. Digital transformation leads to automating specific tasks, such as data entry and repetitive manual tasks. Hence, some jobs will become redundant, but it also means that there will be a greater demand for workers with skills in managing and maintaining these automated systems. Digital transformation has made remote work more accessible and viable for many industries. Thus, workers can work from anywhere, increasing job opportunities and reducing the need to relocate for work.

As job roles evolve due to digital transformation, workers need to upskill or reskill to keep up with the changing requirements of their jobs. Continuous learning and development will become essential for career advancement. As businesses increasingly rely on digital technologies, there will be greater demand for workers with digital skills, such as programming, data analysis, and digital marketing. Hence, workers with these skills will be in high demand and have better career prospects.

Overall, digital transformation is transforming the job market and creating new opportunities, but it also requires workers to adapt and continuously improve their skills to stay relevant in their careers. At DISTED College, we are constantly adapting to digital transformation by introducing new courses in all programmes, updating existing courses, offering online courses, providing hands-on experience, fostering collaboration, and encouraging continuous learning. Listen to my talk on this topic at the Malaysia Education Fair on 2nd April 2023 at 5 pm at SPICE Convention Centre.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President

Conversation with DISTED's Experienced Academic Staff



Mrs. Allen Tan Siew Gaik
(Senior Lecturer with 33 years at
Pre-University Studies, DISTED College)



Dr. Teo Soon Beng
(Principal Lecturer with 20 years at
Pre-University Studies, DISTED College)

Q: What makes DISTED a premier College in Penang?

A : DISTED College is synonymous with Education par excellence and our belief that those who can teach do so here. We have a dedicated team of lecturers who have produced outstanding results in the realm of education. Our college boasts a rich heritage (not only of its buildings) but of students who have gone through its doors who naturally elect to send their children to the college from whence they graduated. What better advertisement can a college boast than those it serves and can fully trust that it will continue to produce more cohorts of students who will make the college proud?

T : DISTED College is a leader in private education in Northern Malaysia. It pioneered Pre-University education by establishing the South Australian Matriculation (SAM) programme in 1987 and the Cambridge A-Level (CAL) programme. It also offered the Computer Science programme in collaboration with Universiti Sains Malaysia, Engineering with Strathclyde University in Scotland and Business with Deakin University in Australia. The leadership then had the vision and courage to introduce courses relevant to the time. The Administration of the College, from the Registry to Finance, Human Resources and Marketing, were headed by dedicated and highly competent people. The College hired academic staff of high calibre, comparable to the best in the country.

Q: Why have you been dedicated and loyal to DISTED for many years?

A : Dedication to one's job, particularly in the field of education, is perceived as the ultimate best use of one's given gifts upon which we were entrusted when we were blessed with the ability to educate (as opposed to mere dissemination of information). I adhere to such heartfelt core values. Loyalty is the ability to continue to take up the heavy responsibility to provide and improve on how to teach students who have allowed one to shape part of destiny. By sharpening one faithful sword, one can use the opportunity to learn from one's mistakes and find ways to improve on what one is doing. Persistence, perseverance and courage mark one who is loyal to the institution as it fluctuates through cycles of success and not-so-successful times. We grow with it and continue to be proud of its resilience.

T : When I joined DISTED as Head of School in 2003, the Pre-University programme was in shambles. There were less than 50 students in the whole programme. With much hard work and planning, the numbers swelled to around 500 within 5 to 6 years. The car parks were always full. The Cantonment and Macalister Roads were lined with cars from DISTED. I was part and parcel of that success story and have since pledged my loyalty and dedication to DISTED - I will swim or sink with DISTED.

Q: What is your aspiration for DISTED moving forward?

A : To navigate through rough waters, one needs people with experience. DISTED must move forward by hanging on to its core values, building on those strong foundations, and using more modern tools that reflect the times.

T : I hope that DISTED's leadership will continue to have the foresight and courage to innovate and lead in changing and improving the direction and landscape of higher education in Malaysia. Apart from the traditional programmes, it is hoped that DISTED will bring in programmes associated with Big Data, Fintech, Cyber Security, Biomed and other relevant courses that are in sync with the fast-changing world. At the same time, high standards in education must be maintained to produce competent and competitive graduates.

Q: What are your most memorable moments at DISTED?

A : The most memorable moments at DISTED were when the lecturers came to work when they wanted to, even during the weekends. We just sang and danced impromptu to songs and tunes when we had a high level of stress, and we loved each other and cared for each other and the students as though they were our own. And our students loved us back, joining in our camaraderie.

T : When I joined DISTED in 2003, I was voted the best male lecturer that year. I have many memorable moments at DISTED, but I always remember the great pride I felt when I posed for photo shoots with students who had excelled in their exams. Many parents and students used to shower me with gifts out of joy and gratitude, but I always told them that a "thank you" will do.

DisTED TALK at Open Day

On the 10th of March, 2023, DISTED hosted its first-ever DisTED Talk. Student Representative Council (SRC) members and other students were thrilled to be allowed to speak in front of an audience during DISTED Open Day. A wide selection of students were chosen for this Talk from the diploma, A-Levels, and psychology programme, and even an alumnus of DISTED. Hence, each student could portray their experiences in different courses in DISTED.



→ DisTED Talk Presenters

They include:

- Claresse Phoon Jern Ning, Diploma in Business Studies: Pros of Pre-University studies compared to Diploma
- Divinaa Dayalis A/P Deenadayalan, Bachelor of Psychology (Hons): Preparing for industry readiness while studying
- RN Umayal, Cambridge A-Levels: Life of a lecturer and student

- Ashley Lim Jia Xin, Cambridge A-Levels: The delight of staying away from home
- Victor Wong, Cambridge A-Levels: Living in Space Residence
- Tan Yik Chean, alumni of Cambridge A-Levels: Life after DISTED... How my College life prepared me for the future



View from CAL Alumnus



↑ Tan Yik Chean
DISTED Alumnus
Cambridge A-Level
(2022)

Hello there! I just graduated from the Cambridge A-Level programme in November 2022. How were my two years at DISTED, and how did my College life prepare me for the future? Let me share my experience. That period under the Movement Control Order (MCO) was harsh. We were forced to do everything online. Even the orientation day was done remotely. Nonetheless, DISTED did an excellent job motivating students to study online by making the classes livelier. During the same period, I got the chance to join the Student Representative Council (SRC).

The following year, we were allowed face-to-face campus activities. I was glad finally I could see my coursemates and lecturers and enjoy the facilities at DISTED. Attending offline classes allowed me to discover that the lecturers were easy to interact with and willing to answer all our ques-

tions patiently. The way they conducted their lectures and the use of real-life examples really sparked my interest in continuous learning.

Joining SRC was the best choice I made throughout my college years. Through SRC, I learned to organise activities that I never got the opportunity to work on. Some of these activities include barbecue night and festive events. SRC brought vibrant life to DISTED. I have also learned a lot from my peer members and advisor, Mr Kelvin Lim. My soft skills improved due to SRC.

After graduating from DISTED, I plan to pursue my studies in UK for a Chemical Engineering degree. Currently, I have received an offer from the University of Manchester. The soft and hard skills gained from my two years at DISTED allowed me to meet the requirements to enter this highly-ranked university. Thanks to my SRC friends, I could write an impactful personal statement. I am very grateful to every individual I have met who helped me during my life at DISTED. Thank you all!!!

Roses are red, Violets are blue; Hope you love DISTED, and your wishes come true.

Foundation Pathway to Penang International Dental College

A collaboration is explored between Penang International Dental College (PIDC) and DISTED College for the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) programme. The visit to the College on 7th March 2023 explored the opportunities available to create the pathway for the Foundation in Science (FIS) programme to PIDC's DDS programme. PIDC's DDS programme is a 5-year programme that gives students training and qualification to be a dentist. PIDC operates the programme in collaboration with MAHSA University. Students enrolling on the programme will be trained for the first two years in MAHSA's campus for their pre-clinical, and the subsequent practical training will be at PIDC's campus in Butterworth. Students completing their programme at DISTED will enjoy the best of three worlds at DISTED, MAHSA, and PIDC's campus. DISTED's newly

launched FIS Programme in April 2023 creates this pathway for students aspiring to be dentists upon completing and fulfilling the DDS programme's stringent requirements



↑ The visiting PIDC team with the team from DISTED College

Discover DISTED Open Day: 10-11 March 2023

DISTED College organised a successful Open Day in their campus at Macalister Road on 10 to 11 March. Apart from one-on-one counselling, five informative talks were delivered by DISTED lecturers, namely on the topics Cambridge A-Level versus SACEi; What's next after SPM?; Navigating your future: A career pathway; AI versus Artist; and ChatGPT versus Programmer. Five students of DISTED and one alumnus spoke at the DISTED Talk, sharing their study and life experience at DISTED College. All the presenters were knowledgeable, engaging, and passionate about their subjects, and visitors found the sessions insightful and informative. In addition to that, series of IoT demos, and 3D Object Rendering Video demos were conducted. Prospective students had the opportunity to try out DISTED's brand

new "fast and furious" Alienware gaming computers that will be used by Computer Science and Creative Multimedia Production students. The day ended with games, musical performances and an appreciation dinner for all students and staff of DISTED College. The Open Day allowed visitors and students to have an excellent experience while learning about the college's offerings.

Don't worry if you had missed the Open Day on 10 and 11 March. You can still visit DISTED campus and consult our course counsellors during our next Open Day on 25 and 26 March, and discover the various courses offered, from Pre-University to Diploma to Degree courses. Be sure to also ask about the Merit Awards worth up to RM10k that are available to you. Do

bring along your forecast or trial examination result for early start of your studies, while waiting for your SPM results.

Discover DISTED OPEN DAY
25 & 26 March
 10am - 5pm
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