

Highlights

- Happy New Year 2024!
- PTE Academic versus IELTS: Key Differences and Preparation Tips
- Penang STEM 4.0: Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders Today
- Dynamic Educators Joining DISTED Team
- Procurement Internship in B. Braun Medical Industries
- From Toastmaster to Alumni Mentor: A Journey of Growth and Inspiration
- Adapting to Water Disruption

Happy New Year 2024!

Greetings to all, and a heartfelt Happy New Year to each one of you as we embark on this exciting journey into the new year. I trust that you had a well-deserved break during the year-end festivities, allowing you to rejuvenate and refocus on the thrilling challenges that await you.

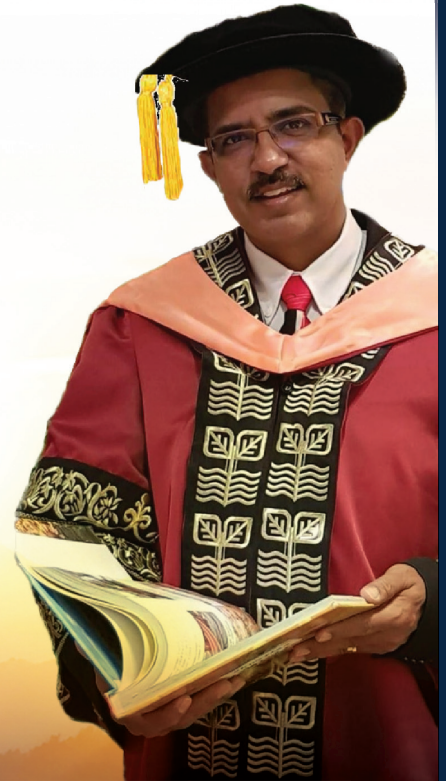
The past year may have posed its fair share of obstacles, not only at DISTED College but also within your organisations. Nevertheless, together, we have demonstrated unwavering resilience, boundless determination, and remarkable adaptability. Our collective efforts, regardless of where we are based, will undoubtedly help us overcome hurdles and achieve significant milestones in the year 2024.

We remain committed to propelling DISTED College to even greater heights. It is crucial to recognise that our individual and collective contributions play a pivotal role in shaping the future of DISTED College. Your dedication and support have been the driving force behind our achievements, and for that, I am profoundly grateful.

In the spirit of the new year, let us reaffirm our dedication to excellence, innovation, and collaboration. Together, as a united team, we shall leverage our strengths and talents to facilitate positive change and create an environment where students can thrive and excel.

May this New Year usher in joy, good health, and the realisation of your personal and professional aspirations. Together, we shall confront challenges with unwavering enthusiasm and seize the opportunities that come our way with unparalleled determination.

Let us make it a year marked by growth, accomplishment, and shared success.



Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President 院长

2024新年快乐!

大家好，祝愿每一位朋友在迎接这段激动人心的新年里，新年快乐，衷心祝福你们。我相信你们在年末的庆祝活动中得到了应有的休息，让你们能够恢复活力并重新专注于等待着你们的激动人心的挑战。

在过去的一年里，不仅在立达学院，而且在你们的组织内部，都可能遇到不少障碍。尽管如此，我们共同展现出了坚定不移的韧性、无限的决心和非凡的适应能力。无论我们身处何地，我们的集体努力无疑将帮助我们克服困难，在2024年实现重要的里程碑。

我们仍然致力于将立达学院迈向更高的高度。我们必须认识到，我们个人和集体的贡献对立达学院未来的发展起着至关重要的作用。你们的奉献和支持是我们取得成就的动力，对此我深表感谢。

在新的一年里，让我们重申我们对卓越、创新和协作的承诺。作为一个团结的团队，我们将共同努力，发挥我们的优势和才能，促进积极的变革，为学生创造一个茁壮成长和出类拔萃的环境。

祝愿大家新年快乐，身体健康，并实现个人和职业理想。我们将一起以坚定不移的热情迎接挑战，以无比的决心把握机遇。

让我们在这一年里共同成长、取得成就和共享成功。

(Mandarin Translator, Dr. Tan Sze Huey, Senior Lecturer, School of Pre-University)


IELTS™
English for International Opportunity

VS


Pearson

Key Differences and Preparation Tips

Overall structure

Listening	30 mins.
Reading	60 mins.
Writing	60 mins.
Speaking	11-14 mins.

Overall time : 2hrs. 45mins.

Speaking Writing	24-67 mins.
Reading	29-30 mins.
Listening	30-43 mins.

Overall time : Approximately 2 hrs.
With integrated skills testing

PTE Academic and IELTS are well-known English language tests with unique characteristics and formats. Candidates need to understand these differences to excel in their chosen exam.

PTE Academic is tailored to reflect real-world English use, integrating speaking and writing skills assessment, a method more aligned with natural language usage. This contrasts with IELTS, where these skills are assessed separately. Such integration necessitates different preparation approaches for PTE Academic.

While both tests evaluate speaking, writing, reading, and listening skills, the sequence and organisation of these tasks differ. In PTE Academic, the Speaking section is computer-based and assessed using artificial intelligence, diverging from IELTS's face-to-face human examiner approach. Many students find PTE Academic's computer-based Speaking test less daunting, potentially easing exam stress.

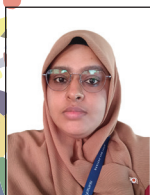
Another key difference is in scheduling. PTE Academic allows completion of all test sections, including Speaking, on the same day. Conversely, IELTS often schedules the

Speaking test on a different day, sometimes up to a week later, influencing preparation and test-taking strategies.

PTE Academic provides several resources for preparation:

- Scored Practice Tests:** These help candidates gauge their performance and understand the exam format.
- Question Bank:** This includes 300 questions with sample answers for the Speaking and Writing sections.
- The Official Guide to PTE Academic:** Offering detailed information, practical advice for each exam part, and additional online resources.

Candidates can explore PTE Academic's format and style through the official website (<https://www.pearsonpte.com/preparation>). For specific inquiries about PTE at DISTED College, contact pte@disted.edu.my for further assistance.



Noriah Kallanjiam
Lecturer, School of Pre-University



Penang STEM 4.0: Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders Today



In a bid to foster a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) among young minds, Penang Maths Platform, in collaboration with various institutes of higher learning, has initiated the Penang STEM 4.0 programme. This transformative initiative is backed by mainly the generous sponsorship of Micron, a global technology leader. DISTED is one of the collaborating Institutions, adding its expertise to make this program a reality.

A year into the two-year journey, Penang STEM 4.0 has seen the active participation of 10 schools, impacting the lives of 250 Form 4 students. This is not your average academic programme; it is an extra-curricular STEM powerhouse explicitly focusing on computing, strategically designed to complement formal school education.

Representatives from the 10 participating schools, alongside dedicated trainers, recently gathered for a pivotal meeting to reflect on the challenges faced over the past year and chart the

course for even greater success. The focus was on refining the delivery of classes and booth camps, ensuring that the program remains a beacon of innovation and inspiration.

Penang STEM 4.0 stands out for its immersive, hands-on approach to computing education. It not only bridges the gap between theory and practice but also cultivates essential problem-solving skills crucial for navigating the complexities of the tech landscape.

As the program moves into its second year, the recent meeting becomes a strategic platform for addressing challenges and enhancing the program's impact. This collaborative effort ensures that Penang STEM 4.0 continues to evolve, providing an enriching experience for the bright minds actively shaping the future.

Seethai Subramaniam
Head, School of Computing & Engineering



Dynamic Educators Joining DISTED Team

Ms Nurshakirin Sulaiman, joins the School of Pre-University Studies as a Psychology lecturer, and boasts a double degree in Psychology and Communication with honours from Upper Iowa University, USA, and a master's degree from Universiti Sains Malaysia. She co-authored a paper at the International Conference of Social Science titled "Experience of Work of Kindergarten Teachers" in partnership with Dr. Ong Beng Kok from USM. With over six years of teaching experience in Psychology, she has guided students across various levels, from foundation to degree programs. She has held multiple academic roles, including academic supervisor, tutor, and external Psychology Advisor. Nurshakirin's teaching philosophy centres on nurturing individual strengths and fostering meaningful student-teacher relationships to facilitate significant learning. Her approach is to be clear, informative, and engaging.



Ms. Nur Aisya Najwa, joins as an Economics lecturer at the School of Business and Hospitality. She holds a bachelor's degree with first-class honours in Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Business Economics. She is on track to graduate with a Master's in Business Economics from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in February 2024. Her research centres on Malaysia's brain drain issue and its impact on human capital and economic technological growth. Aisya views teaching as a reciprocal learning journey where students and educators gain insights. A skilled economics lecturer imparts economic theories and illustrates their real-world applications. She believes education should transcend knowledge accumulation, emphasising problem-solving and practical application. Aisya employs a blend of problem-solving, technology-based, and game-based learning techniques to create an engaging and effective classroom environment, promoting deeper understanding among her students.

Procurement Internship in B. Braun Medical Industries

During my procurement internship at B. Braun Medical Industries (BMI) in Penang, I immersed myself in a dynamic and enriching experience that left a lasting impression. Over four months, I actively participated in the intricacies of the "Procure-to-Order (P2O)" process, gaining hands-on exposure to the day-to-day functions of indirect procurement.

Within the realm of BMI, my designated responsibilities encompassed fundamental areas such as price management, price analysis, and vendor management. I am grateful for the level of trust bestowed upon me by my colleagues, allowing me to execute tasks with a commendable degree of autonomy and responsibility.

Beyond the confines of the office, I seized the opportunity to contribute to one of BMI Procurement's flagship events—the B. Braun Asia Pacific Supplier Day. This engagement provided me with a profound understanding of Sustainable Procurement, adding a layer of significance to my internship journey.

The prevailing working culture within BMI Procurement is characterised by respect and positivity. I value the comprehensive training and guidance extended to me by mentors and colleagues alike. This internship honed my communication, problem-solving, and relationship management skills and instilled a sense of accomplishment and growth.

I express my gratitude to DISTED and BMI for facilitating this transformative internship experience, which has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on my professional development.

Poh Sze Xian
Student of BSc (Hons) International Business Management



From Toastmaster to Alumni Mentor: A Journey of Growth and Inspiration

Calvin Chan Yi Xuan

Alumni of Cambridge A-Level to Bachelor of Arts International Business Management

My journey as a Toastmaster has been a transformative experience, leading me from a novice eager to develop my leadership and soft skills to a confident leader and alumni mentor. Inspired by influential figures like Barack Obama, John C. Maxwell, and Brian Tracy, who attribute their success to lifelong learning, I embarked on this path of self-improvement.

My time at Bukit Gelugor Toastmasters Club allowed me to take on the role of Vice President of Education, a position that opened doors to events like the Club Officer Training 2 (COT2) at DISTED College. During this event, I not only served as an emcee but also coordinated seamlessly with DISTED students, ensuring the flawless execution of tasks. I provided them with comprehensive briefings, enabling them to handle their

responsibilities promptly. The students exhibited their ability to ask questions, act independently, and make quick decisions, particularly in managing hall entry and exit during speeches to minimise disruptions to the speaker.

Returning to DISTED as an alumnus, I have witnessed remarkable personal growth as a leader, conquering my shyness through the Toastmasters International program. This transformation has allowed me to inspire students, encouraging them to adopt a mindset of lifelong learning and fostering continuous growth.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Jesscia, Head of Student Affairs at DISTED, for warmly welcoming me back to the institution. Her support has empowered me to convey the importance of developing soft skills and

leadership to the students, emphasising that these skills lead to personal and professional growth, providing them with a competitive advantage in the adult world.

In conclusion, my Toastmasters journey has been a remarkable voyage from self-improvement to alumni mentorship, and I am grateful for the opportunities and growth it has afforded me. ”



Adapting to Water Disruption

Amid a substantial water disruption in Penang from January 10 to 14, colleges and universities are swiftly adapting their operations, reminiscent of COVID-19 adaptations. The primary strategy is transitioning to digital platforms like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Classroom, and other learning management systems for lectures and tutorials, reducing the need for on-campus presence and conserving water.

For essential in-person activities like laboratory work, institutions are implementing flexible scheduling and relocating to unaffected facilities. Resource management is crucial, focusing on conserving water and using hand sanitizers during limited

on-campus operations.

DISTED College plans to move all classes from January 10 to 12 online, utilising synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (on-demand) teaching through Moodle and Microsoft Teams. Synchronous learning involves live interactions through video conferencing tools, while asynchronous learning allows flexibility.

These measures showcase adaptability and resilience in the face of the water disruption, supporting the community during this challenging time.

