



## Towards a New Generation of Engaged Universities: *The Need to Act, Adapt and Transform*

16<sup>th</sup>– 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 | Kempinski Central Avenue  
(Formerly the Address Dubai Mall), Dubai, UAE

# Creating an Agile and Flexible Curriculum for Learners in Higher Education

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جامعة الامير سلطان  
PRINCE SULTAN  
UNIVERSITY





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## Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Research questions
3. Details of the case study
4. Findings
5. Recommendations
6. Q&A





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## Introduction

Higher Education plays a significant role in society by serving as a catalyst for lifelong learning. Prince Sultan University's approach to lifelong learning stems from its mission to promote it. This project gives a glimpse into what the institution does to instill lifelong learning among its graduates and faculty. The Teaching and Learning Center works with faculty members, administrative staff, and students alike to enrich their educational experience. The Center encourages innovation and the exchange of ideas and methods.





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This project addresses stakeholders of higher education institutions, including students, faculty, and administrative staff. The aim of this project is to find creative ways that will help us address two main questions:

1. What can we do to educate our students about jobs that have yet to be created, to be able to use technology that is not available yet, or to solve social problems that may arise?
2. What programs can be created to support faculty and learners to prepare them for their future career paths?







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Take 5 seconds and reflect on what lifelong learning means to you.

How often do you attend sessions that support your career or personal goals? How many hours a year do you devote to your development.





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## Lifelong Learning

Traditional Education: it has a beginning and an end

Lifelong learning: let's us pursue our desires to gain knowledge outside formal education.





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# Prince Sultan University

## A Case Study







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Prince Sultan University's approach to life long learning stems from the university's mission to promote it. This short presentation will give a glimpse of what the institution does to instill lifelong learning among its graduates and faculty alike.

**The Vision 2030 of Saudi Arabia fully supports creating a culture of lifelong learning and encourages educational institutions to take action in this regard.**

**Teaching and Learning Center @ PSU**





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## Curriculum Integration

According to the OECD (2022), “education shapes the world we live in by developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values on which societies rely, forging social cohesion and preparing people to become and remain competent workers and active citizens” (p.4).

## Digital Literacy

As technology continues to develop and expand in its use across all disciplines, students need the knowledge, skills, and attitude that will enable them to navigate the digital world safely and successfully.





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## Agile and Flexible Learning Strategies

According to the World Economic Forum 2023, the top ten skills needed to obtain a job are

1. Analytical thinking,
2. Creative thinking,
3. Resilience, agility, and flexibility,
4. Motivation and self-awareness,
5. Curiosity and lifelong learning,
6. Technological literacy,
7. Dependability and attention to detail,
8. Empathy and active listening,
9. Leadership and social influence,
10. Quality control (Masterson, 2023).







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## Methodology





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## Curriculum Integration

We conducted several training sessions prior to the implementation. We created a clear system to help facilitate the integration of the courses, guided projects, certifications, etc, offered on the Coursera platform into the curricula of selected courses.

You can refer to [here](#) to learn more about the process we practice.

## Professional Development

In order to promote the use of Coursera, we drafted several brochures and conducted training sessions. Emails were sent to all stakeholders at PSU to encourage them to enroll.





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## Initial Findings





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Total Learning hours spent on the platform	Average hours per learner	Average Monthly learning hours	Learners making progress
10,602	4.9	757	2,150







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## Lifelong Learning and agility achievement

The initiative directly supports the goal of fostering engaged, adaptive educational practices that support lifelong learning and agility. By emphasizing lifelong learning and embedding agile practices into the curriculum, PSU has demonstrated a proactive approach to preparing students and faculty for future challenges, including jobs that have not yet been created and technologies that are still emerging.





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## Interdisciplinary education, creativity, and comprehensive approach

The focus on interdisciplinary education and the encouragement of creativity and innovation align with the intent to transform educational practices, which aligns with the Saudi Vision 2030. This approach prepares students for a rapidly evolving job market that values flexibility and the ability to think across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The case study demonstrates a comprehensive approach to engaging various stakeholders in the learning process, including students, faculty, and administrative staff. This collaborative effort is key to creating an engaged university community that is prepared to act, adapt, and transform according to societal and technological changes.





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## Tips for successful implementation

1. Developing ways to support course selection for curriculum integration
2. Having clear guidelines on curriculum integration from the beginning
3. Raising awareness and providing training sessions
4. Establishing a system for monitoring and tracking the progress of its use across the different programs
5. Creating forms that can be used to facilitate the process of enrollment
6. Teams to work on the project
7. A good support system with regular meetings with the Coursera Team





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## Discussion & Conclusions







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In summary, we are excited about improving the process to maximize the platform's use and encourage all PSU members to take advantage of this excellent opportunity. The university's support in enabling each individual to pursue their goals and personal growth is deeply appreciated. We eagerly anticipate continuing our utilization of Coursera as a valuable resource, aiming to amplify its usage across our academic community. Lastly, with more time, it will evolve and support interdisciplinary learning, independent learning, and lifelong learning.





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## Recommendations for the future





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- Further partnerships with industry leaders can enhance curriculum relevance and ensure that students gain skills directly applicable to their future careers. Engaging with industries can also offer students practical experience and networking opportunities.
- Integrate project-based learning that addresses real-world challenges, encouraging students to apply their interdisciplinary knowledge and digital skills in practical settings. This approach can foster critical thinking and innovation.





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- Ensure that digital tools and online learning platforms are accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. Improving accessibility supports inclusivity and ensures that every student benefits from technological integration into the curriculum.
- Develop mechanisms to track the long-term impact of the agile curriculum on students' careers and lifelong learning journeys. This could include alumni surveys and tracking career progression, which would provide valuable feedback for continuous curriculum improvement.







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- Encourage students and faculty to engage in global learning communities through Coursera and other platforms. This exposure to diverse perspectives can enhance cultural awareness and prepare students for a globalized job market.
- Continue to invest in faculty development programs that effectively equip educators with the skills to integrate technology and innovative teaching methods into their classrooms. Supporting faculty in adopting new pedagogies is critical for the success of the agile curriculum.





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## Closing Thoughts

Higher Education plays a significant role in society by serving as a catalyst for life-long learning. Institutions strive to provide students with the skill sets they will need for their future careers and throughout their life.





# Towards a New Generation of Engaged Universities: Transform

Forum (Formerly the Address Dubai Mall), Dubai, UAE



## Supporting Faculty Lifelong Learning





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## HETLCP

The Higher Education Teaching and  
Learning Certificate Program & Fellows  
Club





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**Participating in  
Exhibitions & Festivals  
support student lifelong  
learning skills**







## Engaged Universities: Form

(Formerly the Address L



بالتعاون مع مركز العلاقات العامة والإعلام  
بمركز التعليم والتعلم تنظيم رحلة تعليمية إلى  
ملتقى طويق الدولي للنحت 2021

الرحلة ستكون في  
يوم الخميس 25/11/2021

التسجيل متاح للطلاب والطالبات  
المهتمين في تطوير مهاراتهم الفنية حيث سيتعرفون على أنواع  
مختلفة من الفنون بالإضافة لفرصة الحصول على المشورة المهنية  
من الفنانين المحترفين

للتسجيل يرجى الضغط على الإعلان مع ملاحظة  
أن المقاعد محدودة



PR in collaboration with TLC

TLC works with students to enrich their educational experience.

**WHAT:**  
Educational  
Field Trip

**WHEN:**  
November 25,  
2021

**WHY:** provide  
students with real-  
world experiences  
and opportunities  
to meet  
professionals





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المؤتمر  
العلمي  
القيادي  
للجامعة  
الاميركية  
SDF



College of Architecture and Design

TLC works with students to enrich their educational experience.

**WHAT: CAD-**  
**Educational**  
**field trip**

**WHEN:** January  
23, 2022

**WHY:** provide  
students with real-  
world experiences,  
enhance their critical  
thinking skills, and  
give students a  
chance to think  
about a creative  
topic





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## PSU's Mission

Prince Sultan University aims to provide the Middle East with quality education to the highest international standards. **In its efforts towards successful and responsible life-long learning**, PSU integrates modern technology, pedagogy and human values for the advancement of scientific research, productivity and leadership towards a more meaningful societal role.

PSU is committed to effectively managing institutional resources to optimize its multiple roles as a catalyst for new learning opportunities, national and international partnerships, continuous studies, professional growth, community service, and diversity in educational horizons for the good of humanity and sustainability.





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Thank you!

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Center for Learning Innovations &  
Customized Knowledge Solutions

**FORUM ORGANIZER**