



# HIGHER EDUCATION



Monday, May 20, 2024

**GULF TIMES** Special Supplement

## How AI is revolutionizing global education systems

**A**rtificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionise global education systems and improve the experiences of educators and students alike.

AI, experts say, could transform education by enhancing personalisation, boosting digital skills and empowering teachers with advanced capacity-improving tools.

They maintain that AI can tailor educational content to individual students' needs, interests, and learning styles. By analysing students' performance data, AI systems have the ability to provide personalised recommendations, adaptive learning paths, and targeted interventions to help each student reach their full potential.

A new World Economic Forum report explores how artificial intelligence could revolutionise education systems and improve the experiences of educators and students alike.

The new research outlines AI's wide-ranging potential – from personalising learning experiences, to streamlining administrative tasks, integrating AI into educational curricula and more – and finds that a responsible application of emerging technologies could herald a new era in education worldwide.

The new report, 'Shaping the Future of Learning: The Role of AI in Education 4.0', indicates how emerging technology can help educational systems meet the increased demands for digital literacy and personalised learning environments.

Through a series of case studies, it shows how innovative AI applications are already transforming education by improving learning outcomes, empowering educators and equipping students with the skills of the future.

"AI is rapidly reshaping the global education landscape," said Saadia Zahidi, managing director, World Economic Forum.

"If deployed safely and strategically, AI can help adapt learning to the needs of each student, enabling an innovative, scalable personalised learning experience that is vital for both student engagement and the effectiveness of educators."

The report analyses the varied opportunities AI introduces to the education sector, emphasising the refinement of assessment



processes for more timely and holistic evaluations and insights into student progress. It also details how AI can optimise educator roles by automating and augmenting up to 20% of educator clerical tasks, reducing administrative burdens and enabling more time for teachers to focus on personalisation, improving pedagogy and supporting students' social-emotional needs.

AI's integration into educational curricula also equips students with essential future skills and knowledge, while personalised learning content and experiences provide tailored educational pathways to

meet diverse student needs. AI's potential to dramatically improve educational outcomes necessitates a proactive approach to harness these technologies while carefully addressing the challenges they pose.

These include ensuring equitable access to technology, addressing concerns of data privacy and bias, and navigating the potential displacement of traditional teaching roles.

The report calls on policy-makers and educational leaders to integrate AI responsibly into their education systems by ensuring the protection of sensitive information through the implementation of robust data privacy and security protocols.

The paper also provides a call to action for stronger collaboration between AI developers and educators to ensure that new AI tools promote better student outcomes.

There is every reason to believe that AI has the potential to democratise education, making high-quality learning experiences more accessible, affordable, and effective for learners around the world.

However, it is essential to address ethical, privacy, and equity considerations to ensure that AI technologies benefit all students and contribute to the advancement of education globally.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

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# Emerging Trends in Higher Education

Several key trends are shaping the future of higher education, offering insights into the evolving needs and expectations of learners in a rapidly changing world

In today's dynamic higher education sphere, keeping pace with emerging trends is imperative for institutions, educators, and students alike. A myriad of influential trends are currently shaping the trajectory of higher education, providing invaluable insights into the evolving demands and aspirations of learners within an ever-evolving global landscape.

As we navigate through this era of rapid change, it becomes increasingly apparent that higher education must continually adapt to meet the evolving needs of students and society at large. From technological advancements to shifting societal paradigms, a multitude of factors are reshaping the educational landscape, compelling stakeholders to remain vigilant and proactive in their approach to innovation and development.



One prominent trend that is reshaping higher education is the integration of technology into learning environments. With the proliferation of digital tools and online resources, educators are exploring new avenues for delivering content and engaging with students. From virtual classrooms to interactive learning platforms, technology has become an integral component of the modern educational experience, offering unprecedented opportunities for collaboration and personalized learning.

Moreover, the globalization of education is another significant trend that is transforming the higher education landscape. As borders continue to blur and economies become increasingly interconnected, students are seeking out international experiences to enhance their academic and professional pursuits. Institutions are responding by expanding their global reach through partnerships, exchange programs, and cross-cultural initiatives, thereby fostering a more diverse and inclusive learning environment.

Furthermore, the rise of alternative credentialing and flexible learning pathways is challenging traditional notions of higher education. In an era where lifelong learning is becoming the norm, learners are seeking out non-traditional avenues for acquiring skills and knowledge. From micro-credentials to competency-based education, these alternative pathways offer learners greater flexibility and agility in achieving their educational goals, while also providing employers with a more comprehensive understanding of an individual's capabilities.

In essence, the future of higher education is being shaped by a convergence of technological innovation, globalization, and changing learner expectations. By embracing these emerging trends and fostering a culture of innovation, institutions can position themselves at the forefront of educational excellence, empowering students to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

## Online Learning and Hybrid Education Models

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of online learning, prompting institutions to pivot swiftly to remote instruction. As a result, hybrid education models, combining online and in-person elements, have gained traction. These models offer flexibility for students while enabling institutions to optimize resources and expand access to education. Going forward, we anticipate continued innovation in online pedagogy, including the integration of virtual reality, gamification, and adaptive learning technologies.

## Micro-Credentials and Lifelong Learning

Traditional degree programs are no longer the sole pathway to acquiring skills and knowledge. Micro-credentials, such as badges and certificates, are gaining popularity for providing targeted, industry-relevant training in a shorter timeframe. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on lifelong learning, with individuals seeking continuous upskilling and reskilling to remain competitive in the workforce. Higher education institutions are responding by offering flexible, stackable credentials and personalized learning pathways tailored to individual needs.

## Data-Driven Decision-Making

Data analytics and predictive modeling are revolutionizing higher education administration and student support services. Institutions are harnessing data to optimize recruitment strategies, improve student retention, and enhance academic outcomes. Predictive analytics can identify at-risk students early on, enabling proactive interventions to support their success. Moreover, data-driven insights inform strategic planning and resource allocation, fostering institutional efficiency and effectiveness.



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

Addressing systemic inequities and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion have become imperative for higher education institutions. From diversifying faculty and curriculum to implementing inclusive pedagogical practices, there is a growing recognition of the importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive campus climate. DEI initiatives not only enhance educational outcomes for all students but also contribute to a more equitable society.

## Globalization and Internationalization

Higher education is increasingly globalized, with institutions forging international partnerships, hosting diverse student populations,

and offering cross-cultural learning experiences. Internationalization efforts encompass study abroad programs, joint research collaborations, and the integration of global perspectives into the curriculum. As the world becomes more interconnected, students are encouraged to develop intercultural competence and global citizenship skills.

## Alternative Pathways to Credentials

Non-traditional pathways to credentials, such as competency-based education and prior learning assessment, are gaining traction as alternatives to traditional degree programs. These pathways offer flexible options for learners, including working adults and non-traditional students, to earn academic credit based on demonstrated competencies rather than seat time. By recognizing and valuing diverse learning experiences, institutions can promote greater access and equity in higher education.



## Wellness and Mental Health Support

The mental health and well-being of students have emerged as pressing concerns for higher education institutions. Factors such as academic stress, social isolation, and financial pressures can significantly impact students' mental health. Institutions are expanding counseling services, implementing mental health awareness initiatives, and promoting a culture of wellness on campus. Recognizing the interconnectedness of mental health and academic success, holistic support systems are being developed to address the needs of the whole student.

In conclusion, the higher education landscape is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by technological innovation, changing societal needs, and evolving student expectations. Institutions must adapt to these emerging trends to remain relevant and responsive to the needs of diverse learners in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. By embracing innovation, fostering inclusion, and prioritizing student success, higher education can continue to serve as a catalyst for individual advancement and societal progress.

# Al Rayyan International University College (ARIU)

## Elevating Qatar's Education Landscape with UK-Accredited Degrees and Professional Development Programs



**Al Rayyan International University College (ARIU)** is the successor of the first private university in the State of Qatar, Stenden University Qatar, which opened in September 2000 and specialised in providing business-related degrees in International Business, Tourism, and Hospitality Management.

In 2021, ARIU entered into a strategic partnership with the University of Derby in the UK. Through this partnership, ARIU offers top-ranked internationally recognised UK-accredited undergraduate and postgraduate degrees:

- BSc (Hons) International Business Management
- BA (Hons) International Hospitality Management
- BA (Hons) International Tourism Management

- MSc in Tourism Management
- MBA Global
- MBA Global with a pathway in Hospitality Management

All their programmes are approved by Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and they are the only university in Qatar offering International Business, Hospitality, and Tourism Management Programmes. The programmes and degrees ARIU offer are the same as those delivered at the University of Derby in the UK, and all graduates receive a degree from the University of Derby upon graduation.

ARIU is the first and only university offering MBA Global from the UK in Qatar. All their Master's

programmes are accredited by leading industry bodies, academically rigorous, industry-relevant, designed to accommodate working professionals with evening classes. They also offer a pathway to doctoral degrees, including PhD and DBA. All the Master's programmes run in one year full-time or two year part-time modes.

In addition to the UK academic programmes mentioned above, the university also offers the only BA programme in Event Management in the country.

ARIU enrolls students twice a year, in February and September, and is able to offer student visas for international applicants.

The university is well-situated to provide students with great opportunities for career development;

our students always have great internship and job placement opportunities in world-renowned organisations.

Apart from the academic programmes, ARIU also offers customised Professional Training & Development programmes. Their professional training & development portfolio covers a range of management, leadership, communication, service excellence, hospitality, and personal development topics. They provide opportunities for professionals to gain fresh perspectives and unique insights through short and intensive courses. Their main objective is to let people become better future leaders with a new set of practical skills, be able to generate innovative ideas, and define actionable strategies for their work.

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- BA (Hons) International Tourism Management
- MBA Global
- MSc in Tourism Management
- MBA Global with a pathway in Hospitality Management
- BA in Event Management (Qatar degree)  
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# 11th Media and Research Awards celebrate Northwestern Qatar student creativity and scholarship

Northwestern Qatar recognized more than 150 student works, nine of which won research, journalism, and media accolades at the 11th Media and Research Awards.

Every year, students submit academic and creative projects produced both in and outside the classroom across nine categories. Submissions are presented to the wider community and reviewed by a panel of industry professionals.

"For the past 11 years, the Media and Research Awards have recognized immense distinction, and this year is no exception," said Marwan M. Kraidy, dean and CEO of Northwestern Qatar.

## 2024 Media and Research Awards winners

### Creative Writing

"Memory in Tibet" by Randolph Liu

### Documentary

"House of Memories" by Al-Jazi Al-Mazroei and Khalid Al-Thani

### Interactive Media & Animation

"Jumbo: Jewels of Realm" by Khalifa Al-Kuwari

### Journalistic Writing

"Acid Attacks: A Story of Survival" by Muhammad Wasay Mir and Laiba Mubashar

### Journalistic Visual Storytelling

Mel Aquino: A McDonald's Toy Collector by Anudit Basnet, Khalid Aldisi, and Tasnim Bouziane

### Narrative Fiction

"Umm Al Duwais" by Maryam Al-Mohammed, Noora Marafih, Deema Al-Ali, and Aisha Al-Khanji

### Research & Analysis

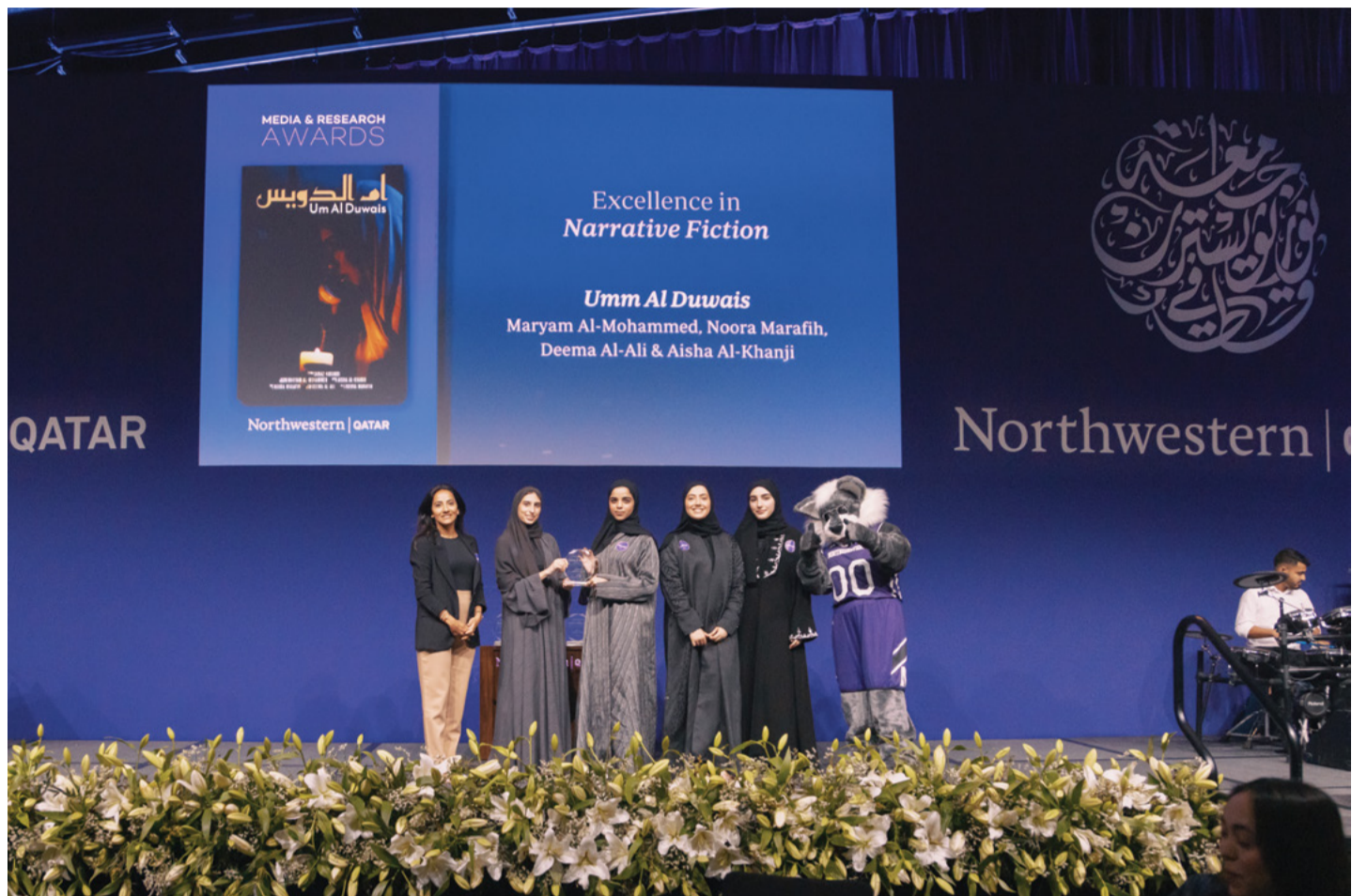
"Brokers in Migration from Ghana to Qatar" by Ishmael Bonsu Nyame

### Sound

"Pour Connection" Art by Samip Khulal

### Strategic Communication

"Remember, Refill, Reap-It!" by Sudesh Baniya, Samip Khulal, Anna Kurian, Sadick Mumin, Abenezzer Bekele, and Tasnim Bouziane



**"The student submissions exemplify Northwestern Qatar's collective pursuit of academic and creative excellence in the media arts, sciences, and crafts."**

Marwan M. Kraidy,  
dean and CEO of  
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"The student submissions exemplify Northwestern Qatar's collective pursuit of academic and creative excellence in the media arts, sciences, and crafts."

The 2024 edition received a record 150 submissions with two brand new categories: sound and interactive media and animation. These included creative writing, documentary,

moving images, journalistic writing, narrative fiction, research, and more, addressing emerging social, cultural, and political issues.

Shortlisted projects were judged by industry experts from the Doha Film Institute, Euronews, Qatar Science and Technology Park, Qatar Music Academy, Georgetown University in Qatar, VCUarts Qatar, and several local and international media and communication organizations. The judges joined the students and the wider community for an open networking session to discuss their projects and ways to support their work both academically and professionally.

Faras Ghani, Al Jazeera news editor and member of the jury, remarked, "The student quality was remarkable. What stood out for me was their thorough research and innovative storytelling. Each captured nuance and depth, applying sound journalistic principles and creative flair. It's inspiring to see the next generation of storytellers push the boundaries of traditional journalism and embrace new media platforms to engage audiences."

"The Awards brings faculty, staff, and students together to celebrate the pinnacle of student achievement. This has

become our hallmark to foster a culture of excellence and innovation in media and scholarship," said João P. Queiroga, 2024 Media and Research Awards Committee chair.

The 2024 Media and Research Awards is one of numerous platforms showcasing Northwestern Qatar students' creativity and scholarship.





**MORE ABOUT US**



## **We are a global community of evidence-based storytellers**

### **Take a Northwestern Direction**

One of the world's top universities. Ranked 9th in the U.S. and 24th globally. Producing original knowledge and media on the Global South.

Northwestern Qatar is a globally embedded institution. One of three campuses of Northwestern University and an active member of Qatar Foundation's Education City in Doha, we educate students to become creative, ethical, and impactful communicators across cultural and national

boundaries. As a diverse community of evidence-based storytellers, we are committed to academic excellence and interdisciplinary faculty-student research and media-making grounded in the liberal arts tradition. With almost 500 students from 60 countries, we are a distinctive institution located at the confluence of continents and focused on the experiences, challenges, and futures of the Global South. Every day, we define the meaning of global education.

**Northwestern | QATAR**

# The Role of LIBERAL ARTS

Amid changing academic landscapes, the enduring significance of the liberal arts remains steadfast. They provide a vital foundation for critical thinking, creativity, and cultural understanding, essential in our complex and interconnected world.

In the dynamic landscape of higher education, the liberal arts have long been heralded as the cornerstone of a well-rounded education. Rooted in the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, the liberal arts encompass a broad array of disciplines spanning the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and fine arts. Despite evolving trends and shifting priorities in academia, the enduring relevance of the liberal arts persists, offering a foundation for critical thinking, creativity, and cultural understanding in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

## Historical Roots

The roots of the liberal arts can be traced back to ancient Greece, where the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual inquiry was revered as essential to the development of a virtuous citizenry. The concept was further refined during the medieval period, with the emergence of the trivium (grammar, logic, and rhetoric) and the quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy) forming the basis of a classical education. This tradition of liberal education was later revitalized

during the Renaissance and Enlightenment periods, emphasizing the cultivation of humanistic values and intellectual curiosity.

## Foundational Principles

At its core, the liberal arts tradition is grounded in a set of foundational principles that transcend disciplinary boundaries. These principles include critical thinking, communication skills, cultural literacy, and ethical reasoning. By engaging with diverse perspectives, grappling with complex ideas, and honing analytical skills, students develop the intellectual agility and adaptability needed to navigate an increasingly uncertain and interconnected world. Moreover, the liberal arts foster a deep appreciation for the richness and diversity of human experience, nurturing empathy, tolerance, and global citizenship.

## Integration Across Disciplines

One of the defining features of the liberal arts is its interdisciplinary approach to education. Rather than siloing knowledge into distinct academic

domains, the liberal arts encourage cross-pollination of ideas and insights across disciplines. For example, the study of literature may intersect with psychology, sociology, and history, offering a multidimensional understanding of human behavior and societal dynamics. This integrative approach not only fosters creativity and innovation but also prepares students to tackle complex real-world problems that defy easy categorization.

## Preparation for Career and Citizenship

Contrary to misconceptions, a liberal arts education is not antithetical to career preparation; rather, it serves as a springboard for professional success and personal fulfillment across diverse fields. The skills cultivated through the liberal arts—such as critical thinking, communication, and adaptability—are highly valued by employers in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing job market. Moreover, the liberal arts instill a sense of civic responsibility and engagement, empowering graduates to contribute meaningfully to their communities and address pressing social, political, and environmental challenges.

## Challenges and Opportunities

Despite its enduring value, the liberal arts face challenges in an era marked by increasing specialization and vocational emphasis in higher education. Funding pressures, declining enrollments, and shifting public perceptions pose significant obstacles to the continued vitality of liberal arts programs. However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation and renewal, as institutions seek to reaffirm the relevance of the liberal arts in addressing the pressing needs of the 21st century.

In conclusion, the liberal arts occupy a central role in higher education, serving as a beacon of intellectual inquiry, cultural enrichment, and personal growth. By fostering critical thinking, creativity, and empathy, the liberal arts prepare students not only for successful careers but also for lives of purpose, meaning, and contribution to society. As we confront the complex challenges of the modern world, the enduring value of the liberal arts shines ever brighter, illuminating the path toward a more enlightened and humane future.



## How to showcase your art to a worldwide audience?

By implementing effective strategies, students can successfully showcase their art worldwide and gain valuable exposure and recognition

For student artists, the desire to showcase their work to a global audience is often accompanied by questions of where to start and how to navigate the vast landscape of the art world. Fortunately, with the right strategies and resources, student artists can effectively exhibit their art to a worldwide audience, gaining exposure, recognition, and valuable opportunities for growth. In this article, we outline actionable steps to help student artists showcase their work on an international scale.

### Create an online portfolio

Begin by creating a professional online portfolio to showcase your artwork. Include high-quality images of your pieces, along with detailed descriptions and artist statements. Platforms like Behance, Dribbble, and ArtStation offer free and easy-to-use tools for building digital portfolios. Ensure that your portfolio is visually appealing, easy to navigate, and showcases the breadth and depth of your artistic talent.

### Utilize social media

Leverage social media platforms to share your artwork with a global audience. Create accounts on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok to showcase your work and engage with followers. Use relevant hashtags, participate in art challenges and trends, and interact with other artists and art enthusiasts to increase visibility and attract attention to your work. Consistent and authentic engagement on social media can help you connect with a diverse audience and build a supportive community around your art.

### Participate in online art communities

Join online art communities and forums where you can share your work, receive feedback, and connect with fellow artists from around the world. Platforms like DeviantArt, Reddit's r/Art community, and ArtStation's forums offer opportunities to showcase

your art, participate in discussions, and learn from others in the art community. Engaging with online art communities can provide valuable exposure and networking opportunities for student artists seeking to reach a global audience.

### Submit to online galleries and publications

Submit your artwork to online galleries, magazines, and publications that feature emerging artists and student artwork. Platforms like New American Paintings, Juxtapoz, and Hi-Fructose showcase the work of emerging artists and provide exposure to a wide audience of art enthusiasts, collectors, and industry professionals. Research submission guidelines and deadlines, and tailor your submissions to align with the aesthetic and focus of each publication.

### Participate in virtual exhibitions and art shows

Explore opportunities to participate in virtual exhibitions and art shows that cater to a global audience. Platforms like Vango Art, Artsteps, and Art Fair Insiders host virtual exhibitions and art fairs where artists can showcase their work to buyers and collectors from around the world. Participating in virtual exhibitions allows student artists to gain exposure, connect with potential buyers, and expand their reach beyond traditional gallery settings.

### Collaborate and network with peers

Collaborate with fellow student artists and creatives to organize group exhibitions, art projects, or collaborative initiatives. Working together not only allows you to pool resources and expertise but also expands your network and introduces your work to new audiences. Additionally, attend art events, workshops, and conferences to network with industry professionals, fellow artists, and potential collaborators, both locally and internationally.

BEYOND THE BOOKS

# Understanding the importance of physical and mental health in higher education

In the realm of higher education, the focus is often placed on academic excellence, career prospects, and personal development. However, amidst the pursuit of knowledge and success, the significance of physical and mental well-being often takes a back seat. This article aims to shed light on the paramount importance of nurturing both physical and mental health in the context of higher education.

**The link between physical and mental health**

Physical and mental health are intricately linked; one significantly impacts the other. In the demanding environment of higher education, students often neglect their physical health due to academic pressures, irregular schedules, and unhealthy lifestyle choices. This neglect can lead to various health issues such as obesity, cardiovascular problems, and weakened immune systems. Concurrently, poor physical health can exacerbate mental health issues like stress, anxiety, and depression, creating a vicious cycle that hampers overall well-being.

**Importance of Physical Health**

Physical health forms the foundation upon which academic success and personal growth are built. Regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and sufficient sleep not only improve physical health but also enhance cognitive function, memory retention, and overall academic performance. Moreover, engaging in physical activities promotes stress reduction, boosts self-esteem, and fosters a positive outlook, essential attributes for navigating the challenges of higher education.

**Prioritizing mental health**

The competitive nature of higher education can take a toll on students' mental well-being. Academic pressures, social expectations, and career uncertainties contribute to heightened stress levels and mental health disorders among students. Recognizing and addressing these issues is imperative for creating a supportive and conducive learning environment. Universities and colleges must prioritize mental health by offering counseling services, promoting stress management techniques, and raising awareness about mental health resources available to students.

**Promoting a holistic approach**

To truly thrive in higher education, students must adopt a holistic approach that encompasses both physical and mental well-being. This involves cultivating healthy habits such as regular exercise, nutritious eating, adequate sleep, and mindfulness practices. Additionally, fostering a sense of community, building meaningful relationships, and seeking support when needed are vital components of holistic well-being.

**Creating supportive environments**

Universities and colleges play a pivotal role in promoting the health and well-being of their students. By implementing policies that prioritize student health, providing access to resources such as fitness facilities, mental health services, and wellness programs, institutions can create supportive environments conducive to holistic development. Moreover, integrating health education into the curriculum and destigmatizing discussions surrounding mental health can further encourage students to prioritize their well-being.

**Empowering students**

Ultimately, the responsibility for maintaining physical and mental health lies with the individual student. Empowering students with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to make informed decisions about their health is essential. Encouraging self-care practices, promoting healthy coping mechanisms, and fostering resilience equip students with the tools they need to navigate the challenges of higher education and beyond.

In the pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth, it is imperative not to overlook the importance of physical and mental health. By prioritizing holistic well-being, universities and colleges can cultivate environments where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and physically. By recognizing the interconnection between physical and mental health and implementing strategies to support both, higher education institutions can empower students to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.



## New curricula aim to promote fitness among students in Qatar

A set of programmes, academic and extracurricular activities, in addition to smart applications have been launched in various public schools across Qatar to reduce obesity rates while promoting students' health and fitness, a number of specialists and physical education co-ordinators have indicated.

Speaking to local Arabic daily Arrayah, they stressed that the newly developed educational curricula focus on equipping students with the necessary skills to improve their physical fitness and enhance their health, besides encouraging them to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.

The new approaches will help students acquire healthy habits and practices to maintain the desired body weight, as such programmes go beyond the physical education classes and give them full support through the optimal use of the sports halls at schools. In addition, there is an application specialised in fighting obesity and helping students with the healthy food options to suite their body requirements.

Hassa al-Mohannadi, a physical education co-ordinator, noted a smart application, 'The Biggest Winner', aimed at reducing obesity rates among school students and enhancing physical fitness has been launched. She said the app has seen great success for its significant benefits, whether for students suffering from obesity or for those who want to adopt a healthy lifestyle adhering to a healthy diet.

She stressed that the app determines the best sports, physical practices, and dietary system based on vital measurements, including age, weight, and height of the student, besides providing advice on the best sports, nutrition by nutrition specialists.

**The new approaches will help students acquire healthy habits and practices to maintain the desired body weight, as such programmes go beyond the physical education classes and give them full support through the optimal use of the sports halls at schools. In addition, there is an application specialised in fighting obesity and helping students with the healthy food options to suite their body requirements.**

"It was named 'The Biggest Winner' to motivate students to participate rather than using e-gaming for long periods. The student can use the app to change their unhealthy lifestyle and be aware of practising sports, including athletic exercises at three levels from moderate to intense," she added.

Ali Nadi, also a physical education co-ordinator, said physical education teachers work on spreading sports awareness in schools and provide students with proper sports programmes to help them develop their skills and to maintain physical fitness. He pointed out that there is plenty of space at the school playgrounds and public parks besides at other sports facilities across the country.



# Interview with H.E Eng. Ali Bin Abdullatif Al Misned, Chairman of MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education



In an interview, His Excellency Eng. Ali Bin Abdullatif Al Misned, Chairman of the MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education, sheds light on the institution's founding principles, academic programs, international collaborations, and commitment to student success. Read on and find out how MIE-SPPU blends international standards with local cultural insights to provide quality education while fostering career readiness and community engagement.



HE Engineer Ali Bin Abdullatif Al Misned, Chairman

**Q:** What inspired the founding of MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education, and what are its core missions?

**A:** MIE-SPPU was established to provide quality education that blends international standards with local cultural insights. Our mission is to develop well-rounded professionals who can contribute positively to the global community.

**Q:** Could you share some insights into the key programs offered at the institute and how they align with industry needs?

**A:** At MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education, our programs are carefully designed to align with industry demands and equip students with relevant skills and knowledge. Our Bachelor of Arts offers majors in Economics and Psychology, providing analytical and behavioral insights essential for careers in market research, counseling, and social services. The Bachelor of Science program, focusing on Computer Science, addresses the tech industry's needs, preparing students for roles in software development, cybersecurity, and data analysis.

Our Bachelor of Business Administration program, with majors in Entrepreneurship and General Management, fosters leadership and strategic management skills vital for entrepreneurial ventures or corporate settings.

The Bachelor of Commerce program, featuring majors in Banking & Finance and International Accounting, prepares students for finance, accounting, and international business roles.

Additionally, our Executive MBA and part-time evening courses offer flexibility for working professionals to advance their careers. Through these offerings, we ensure our graduates are equipped to excel in diverse industries and contribute effectively to the global workforce.



**Q:** What strategies are being implemented at MIE-SPPU to foster international collaborations and partnerships?

**A:** At MIE-SPPU, we prioritize international collaboration and partnership through strategic initiatives including the establishment of MoUs with esteemed institutions worldwide, participation in international conferences, offering dual degree programs, engaging in collaborative research projects, facilitating student and faculty exchange programs, and conducting targeted international outreach and recruitment efforts. These endeavors enrich our academic environment, foster cross-cultural learning, and empower our community to thrive in a globalized world.

**Q:** How does MIE-SPPU support students in their career aspirations and professional development?

**A:** At MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education, we are dedicated to supporting students in their career aspirations and professional development through a comprehensive range of resources and initiatives. Our Career Services Center provides personalized guidance, including resume building, interview preparation, networking opportunities, interpersonal skills, and effective communication skills to help students navigate their career paths effectively.

We facilitate internships, co-op programs, and industry partnerships, allowing students to gain real-world experience and build professional networks. Additionally, our alumni network offers mentorship and career advice, connecting current students with successful graduates in their fields of interest. We organize career fairs, workshops, and seminars, featuring industry experts and recruiters, to expose students to diverse career opportunities and industry trends.

Furthermore, our academic programs incorporate experiential learning, capstone projects, and industry-relevant curriculum, ensuring students develop the skills and knowledge required to excel in their chosen

professions. Through these initiatives, we empower our students to achieve their career goals and thrive in the competitive global marketplace.

**Q:** Looking forward, what are some of the major goals you have for the institute in the next five years?

**A:** In the next five years, MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education aims to expand its academic offerings by launching new postgraduate courses, including MCA, MA Psychology, B.Ed, and more. We also plan to relocate to a larger campus with modern infrastructure to accommodate our growing student body and provide a conducive learning environment. Through these initiatives, we are committed to enhancing our academic excellence and providing students with diverse opportunities for personal and professional growth. We plan to strengthen our research capabilities and innovation ecosystem, positioning the institute as a hub for cutting-edge research and technology development in key sectors.



**Q:** In what ways does the institute engage with the local community and contribute to its development?

**A:** MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education actively engages with the local community and contributes to its development through various initiatives and partnerships. We collaborate with local schools, community centers, and organizations to offer educational outreach programs, workshops, and seminars aimed at enhancing literacy, skills development, and career readiness among community members. Additionally, our students and faculty participate in volunteer activities, community service projects, environmental sustainability, and social impact initiatives to address local challenges and contribute positively to the community.

**Q:** What advice would you give to students considering joining your institution for their higher education?

**A:** For students considering MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education, my advice is to thoroughly research our programs and campus culture, attend our events to get a feel for the environment, consider how our offerings align with your career goals, utilize our support services, connect with alumni, and visit our campus if possible. Choose an institution where you feel you can thrive academically and personally.



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