Quality Assurance at Every Level: Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) at SEGi

Challenges
- Working adults in need of academic programs that provide professional growth in a flexible learning environment.

Solution
- Blackboard Learn™ has provided a stable eLearning portal that allows instructors to create dynamic courses that working adults can successfully engage with and complete anytime, anywhere.

Academic programs accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education and Malaysian Qualifications Agency

In Malaysia, the Ministry of Higher Education via the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) must accredit all academic programs. For SEGi University Online, an early leader in the adult learning space with programs developed through the Professional and Continuing Education (PACE), accreditation became a key priority due to the early demand from students. Conceived in 2014, PACE offers diplomas as well as undergraduate and graduate degrees, emphasizing the specific needs of working adults. PACE has used Blackboard Learn to organise and deploy its programs since 2014.

When the MQA performed an audit of PACE’s programming, this included thorough examination of the scope of curriculum, coordinating workflows through Blackboard Learn, and the measured effectiveness of learning outcomes through various digital assessments. After designating PACE with provisional accreditation, the customary first step, both subject matter and eLearning experts continued to review and scrutinise PACE’s programs. Ultimately, the agency awarded all of its programs with Full Accreditation (FA) for the standard five-year validation. Achieving this FA status means the programs are recognised by the government. This has allowed many blended learning students to fully invest in their studies and graduate in a timely manner.

› Over 500 adult learners
› All PACE programs have been given Full Accreditation by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency
› MBAs include: General Management, Global Business
› Bachelor Degrees with Honors include: Business Management, Mass Communication
› Diplomas include: Business Administration, Early Childhood Education
Quality programs developed with flexibility

At SEGi University Online, learning designers recognise the demands of adult learners, who often work full time in addition to caring for their families. Therefore, PACE has implemented a blended learning environment that provides all content materials through Blackboard Learn, accompanied by strategically designed activities and assessments that assure application.

The results?

Adult students learn from engaging curriculum on their own timetable. Once a month, PACE students attend lectures to network with peers and benefit from face-to-face guidance.

Jennifer Choo Sue Chin, Senior Manager at PACE says “Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing. It is providing access and inclusiveness to a larger pool of learners. Innovative methods are changing the way we teach and learn. Blackboard allows us to be creative and engage the students effectively despite our adult learners’ busy schedules.”

“I find that PACE’s learning method best suits my needs. Thanks to PACE, I did not have to put my career on hold for the sake of education. The guidance received from lecturers via the blended teaching approach was also an added bonus which contributed greatly to my success”

Yap Kok Keong, Bachelor of Business Management

“It is a very flexible and convenient study plan for a busy “working mom” like me, especially having to juggle my time between my big family of 5 children, managing the kindergarten and study. SEGi PACE has allowed me to study and prepare my assignments according to my time and pace coupled with the less stressful open book exams”

Kaethie Tan, Diploma in Early Childhood Education

“The use of Blackboard for learning and submitting assignments gave me freedom in how I managed my time – in the end it was not too difficult to balance work, family and study. The course workshops and exam schedules fit easily into my normal routine”

Mildred Jennifer Sham, Masters in Business Administration (General Management)