

An enlightening journey

FAZALUR Rahman (pic) is a business management director for Talentpepz Career Solutions in India. A strong believer in lifelong learning, he found Asia e University (AeU) to be the most ideal institution for him upon thorough research.

He enrolled as a fully online PhD student in 2013 and hopes to graduate soon following his viva voce at the AeU main campus in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Fazalur shares his learning experience at AeU:

"Learning is a continuous and ever-evolving process that defines the aim of an individual.

"The training I pursued from University of Edinburgh through Coursera on a course titled Critical Thinking in Global Challenges helped me excel as a developing leader in a competitive environment and make quick decisions to manage uncertain circumstances.

"It also helped reveal the gaps in my learning process that I needed to address as my hunger for knowledge grew. Hence, I decided to embark on the highest academic level through AeU's PhD programme in business administration.

"Before I joined the PhD programme, I had the mistaken belief that knowledge can only be gathered through experience and practical activities, and did not give much thought to the importance of more theoretical aspects of learning.

"After going through the rigorous research and learning processes of a PhD, my viewpoint has changed vastly. I realised that I improved my skills by gaining more knowledge.

"I am now able to understand that theoretical knowledge lays the foundation for improving one's self. I am pleased with how this programme has contributed to my self-development as well as my professional career.

"An important change I experienced during this programme was to learn to accept criticisms and ideas from others, and use them for academic and professional improvement.

"When I wrote my thesis – *Determinants of the Leadership Development Program Effectiveness* – I underestimated the amount of effort required to complete this research.

"This misunderstanding did not last long as my supervisor, Assoc Prof Dr Mohamad Yazam Sharif, was able to impress the vastness and challenges of the topic upon me.

"From the writing format to the presentation of

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the research, every aspect was a challenge and a valuable learning experience for me.

"A major benefit I had as a fully online student was being able to study at my own pace and in my own time from afar while still remaining well connected online with AeU academic facilitators, my supervisor and staff.

"The primary research knowledge and skills that I have gained will help me develop a competitive advantage that can add value to my business.

"Lastly, I must say I am glad that my leadership, communication and time management skills have improved somewhat, which has let me overcome my toughest challenge in trying to achieve a work-life balance.

"I hope to allocate more time for my family who have been patient and supportive of me in my pursuit to complete my PhD studies. It is my objective to keep evolving and improving myself to reach my optimum self in all my future endeavours."

About AeU

A collaborative multimodal university, AeU was established with guidance from 34 Asia Cooperation Dialogue countries.

A key feature in the university's strategic plan is to embrace the digital frontier and provide students with an immersive personalised and borderless education experience to bring them flexibility, quality and relevance anytime, anywhere and on any device.

A highly accessible, visually rich and interactive digital presence lets students achieve their goals at their own pace, no matter where they are geographically, academically and in their careers or lives.

Today AeU has 15,000 graduates and more than 29,000 students. This is a testimony to AeU's capability to produce high-calibre graduates.

Besides that, AeU has over 3,000 students enrolled in its programmes from its collaborative learning centres abroad, including those in Asia, Europe and Africa.

AeU intakes are in January, May and September, with intakes for postgraduate programmes (by research) open throughout the year.

■ For more information, call 1300 300 238 or 03-5022 3400, or register online at www.aeu.edu.my

