Upskilling to Succeed in the Digital Economy: An SIM-RMIT Perspective

Published on 09/06/2021

Here's a brain teaser: what do former Ford CEO Jacques Nasser, celebrity singer Gillian Chung, and Saw movie franchise co-creater James Wan have in common? You may not have guessed it, but these individuals, from very different walks of life, have all graduated from the same university, back when they were still hitting the books. Today, the illustrious name of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) resonates globally, ranking among the Top 300 universities according to the QS World University Rankings[1]. With a reputation for study and research in technology, design and enterprise, it's little wonder then that its graduates go on to navigate life in very diverse ways.

If that has already planted the thought of being among RMIT notable alumni, it would be heartening to know that the university's innovative approach to education has underscored its expansion towards having both a domestic and international presence – this now includes the very convenient option of online learning courses through its digital learning arm, RMIT Online.

Benefit from Online Learning

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools all over the world barred their doors, displacing 1.2 billion children from the classroom and consequently accelerating the rise of e-learning[2]. All of a sudden, traditional classroom teaching gave way to remote teaching and digital learning via online platforms, with the usage of webcams and home internet access. This quick and spontaneous transition to online learning has since led to increased recognition of the significant benefits it brings, one of which is convenient and flexible learning.

Imagine waking up in your pyjamas and attending online learning courses at your own pace and schedule, instead of having to change into more formal clothing, squeezing through the crowd during peak hours, before arriving at the classroom for face-to-face lessons. Doesn't that sound really appealing? And here's the cherry on top: research shows that e-learning can increase retention rates by 25-60%, as compared to 8-10% for face-to-face training[3].

Moreover, in a world that is digitally connected like never before, with 59.5% of all people having access to the internet[4], online collaboration makes international learning and working on projects extremely student-friendly. For instance, online forums provide a round-the-clock avenue for students to interact with their peers, enabling knowledge sharing of specialised topics at great speed and scale. It goes without saying that this also allows for enhanced support and guidance by school faculty for both classroom and

administrative matters, since help is almost always just a few clicks away.

Diverse Courses, Distinctive Recognition

In the new knowledge economy, it has become increasingly important to acquire skills that bridge the digital divide. This can be clearly seen from approximately 40% of employers struggling to fill their job vacancies, largely due to candidates lacking the necessary skills in the workplace where emerging technology has already taken hold[5]. Lending more weight to this statistic is Ong Tze-Ch'in, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore, who remarked at a SkillsFuture Forum 2020 panel that "Beyond looking at young and fresh hires, it is also important to think about how you can up-skill and equip the current workforce with digital skills."[6]

To that end, consider how RMIT Online offers a wide range of future-ready short courses across areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), CX & UX, Data Analytics, Management, Marketing, plus Technology & Security – all designed in conjunction with industry heavyweights including Accenture and Adobe. These courses typically run from 6-8 weeks, catering to those with professional development aspirations.

From digital marketing and cyber security, to agile project management and customer experience, almost everything you could want to learn in relation to job-ready skills is at your digital fingertips. Remember, these RMIT Online digital credentials are also the real deal, since they are recognised by leading employers.

Keen to start your own digital up-skilling journey? Simply head over to SIM-RMIT Online and enter the future of learning with SkillsFuture credit-friendly short courses online. Even better, you can also download the RMIT course brochure today!

---

[1] QS Top Universities, Mar 2021: RMIT University (https://www.topuniversities.com/universities/rmit-university)

[2] World Economic Forum, 29 Apr 2020: The COVID-19 pandemic has changed education forever. This is how. (https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-education-global-covid19-online-digital-learning/)

[3] SHIFT eLearning, 7 Apr 2016: Facts and Stats that Reveal the Power of eLearning (https://www.shiftelearning.com/blog/bid/301248/15-facts-and-stats-that-reveal-the-power-of-elearning)

[4] Data Reportal, 27 Jan 2021: DIGITAL 2021: GLOBAL OVERVIEW REPORT (https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-global-overview-report)

[5] Deloitte Consulting: Expected Skills Needs for the Future of Work (https://www2.deloitte.com/be/en/pages/public-sector/articles/upskilling-the-workforce-in-european-union-for-the-future-of-work.html)

[6] The Business Times, 20 Jul 2020: Equipping workers with digital skills for a new future: SkillsFuture Forum 2020 panel (https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/companies-markets/skillsfuture-forum-2020/equipping-workers-with-digital-skills-for-a-new-future)