



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



AWB|USF

Academics Without Borders
Universitaires sans frontières

Online Teaching in Higher Education Programme

2025

Online Teaching in Higher Education (OTHE)

What is it?

Online Teaching in Higher Education (OTHE) programme supports educators in designing, developing, and facilitating blended online learning based on proven practices such as Inclusive Teaching, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), authentic assessment and active learning/facilitation techniques. OTHE aligns with various dimensions of the UK Professional Standards Framework (i.e., A1, A2, A3, A4, A5; K1, K2, K3, K4, K6 and V1, V2, V3, V4).

OTHE was first offered in 2021 to enhance AKU faculty's online course design and teaching skills during the global pandemic. After offering the program successfully for three years, in January 2023, AKU and Academics Without Borders (AWB) signed a letter of understanding to offer the OTHE courses collaboratively. Through this collaboration, AKU and AWB will adapt the OTHE Programme and extend its offerings to interested institutions in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) using AWB's valuable network of experienced volunteers. This collaboration recognises the significance of AKU's online and blended learning strategy and content for various learning communities in developing nations.

Expected outcomes

By the end of the programme, participants will be able to:

- Describe the principles of online teaching within a higher education context;
- Develop an online course plan to meet the needs of students and the programme;
- Apply Inclusive Teaching and Universal Design for Learning principles in online courses;
- Design assessments in online environments following the constructive alignment framework;
- Facilitate online learning using a blend of asynchronous and synchronous pedagogies.



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How does OTHE work?



Select and register for a course. Each course is for 4 weeks with a focus on a particular pedagogical element essential for online course design and teaching. Participants can select and enrol in any course based on their individual needs.



Commit 25 hours of time per course to read articles, watch videos, reflect on practice, engage in discussions, and submit assignments. The courses are offered in a bichronous format: 80% asynchronous (approx.) and 20% synchronous (online sessions once a week - 1.5 hours).



Receive a digital badge at the end of each course. The badges can be downloaded and exported and added to faculty portfolios and micro-credential backpacks. After completing one course and earning a badge, participants can enrol in another course at a time that is convenient to them.



Complete all four courses to earn an online teaching and learning practitioner badge. The programme helps educators improve their online teaching practices and develop the necessary competencies to incorporate an appropriate blend of asynchronous and synchronous pedagogies that adhere to quality standards.



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Who is it for?

The programme is for educators, learning designers, educational technologists, faculty developers, and administrators from various disciplines who are interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills of online learning.

Participation



The programme encourages multi-disciplinary conversations. The courses are aligned to various dimensions of the UK [Professional Standards Framework](#).



Each course has limited enrolment to maximise the learning experience. The programme is taught by experienced facilitators.



Because of the reflective and dialogic nature of the programme, participants are expected to have prior experience in teaching or supporting online courses and have a working proficiency with educational technology tools.

Pre-requisites

- Experience of teaching in higher education
- Experience with online or blended teaching or supporting online or blended learning
- Reliable access to internet
- Proficiency with digital communication and teaching tools (e.g., VLE, Zoom)



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Online Teaching in Higher Education (OTHE) programme Courses



Reconceptualising Online Teaching and Learning



Inclusive Online Teaching



Assessment in Online Courses



Facilitating Online Courses



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Reconceptualising Online Teaching and Learning



Schedule

Week 1: Online Learning Models and Practices

Week 2: Online Teaching Competencies & Learner Profiles

Weeks 3 and 4: Work Weeks

Dates

17th February to 14th March, 2025

Synchronous sessions

Tuesdays from 4 pm to 5:30 pm PKT; 2 pm to 3:30 pm EAT

Dates: Feb 18, Feb 25, Mar 4, Mar 14

Course Outcomes

- ★ Examine the various models of online learning within a higher education context;
 - ★ Differentiate between asynchronous, synchronous, and independent learning;
 - ★ Discuss the role of teachers and students in online courses;
 - ★ Identify the components of quality online learning courses within a higher education context.
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Inclusive Online Teaching



Schedule

Week 1: Inclusive Teaching

Week 2: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Weeks 3 and 4: Work Weeks

Dates

21st April to 16th May, 2025

Synchronous sessions

Tuesdays from 4 pm to 5:30 pm PKT; 2 pm to 3:30 pm EAT

Dates: April 22, April 29, May 6, May 16

Course Outcomes

- ★ Describe the principles of inclusive teaching and universal design for learning (UDL);
 - ★ Apply inclusive teaching and UDL principles to online courses;
 - ★ Develop an online learning environment that is safe, inclusive, motivating and mutually respectful;
 - ★ Design a communication plan for online courses.
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Assessment in Online Courses



Schedule

Week 1: Assessment: Purpose, Place, and Principles

Week 2: Alignment, Tools and Strategies

Weeks 3 and 4: Work Weeks

Dates

23rd June to 18th July 2025

Synchronous sessions

Tuesdays from 4 pm to 5:30 pm PKT; 2 pm to 3:30 pm EAT

Dates: June 24, July 1, July 8, July 18

Course Outcomes

- ★ Describe the principles of authentic assessment in online contexts;
 - ★ Identify online assessment methods according to the course learning outcomes and students' context;
 - ★ Write clear instructions and grading criteria for online assessment tasks;
 - ★ Use online tools to provide feedback to learners.
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Facilitating Online Courses



Schedule

Week 1: Asynchronous Online Facilitation

Week 2: Synchronous Online Facilitation

Weeks 3 and 4: Microteaching and peer-feedback

Dates

22nd September to 17th October, 2025

Synchronous sessions

Tuesdays from 4 pm to 5:30 pm PKT; 2 pm to 3:30 pm EAT

Dates: Sept 23, Sept 30, Oct 7, Oct 17

Course Outcomes

- ★ Respond to the unique challenges of online learning where learners are separated by time and geographic proximity and interactions are primarily asynchronous in nature;
 - ★ Design an online teaching strategy for a given unit of instruction using the learning flow framework.
 - ★ Facilitate an online synchronous session based on an interactive learning model;
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What our past participants have to say about OTHE



Dr Rafay Iqbal
Medical College Pakistan

"The OTHE course was engaging and exciting, conducted by experienced facilitators who were accessible and available."

"I was introduced to newer online learning tools and different ways of utilizing the ones I had used. The concepts learnt in the course have stuck in my mind. The course practised what it preached, following principles of online course design! Highly recommended."

"The Online Teaching in Higher Education program provided an opportunity to rethink and redesign inclusive accessible courses to help improve the learning experience."



Shamim Namukasa
SONAM Uganda

What our past participants have to say about OTHE



Dr Hasan Salman Siddiqi
Medical College Pakistan

"These courses helped me to reflect upon my competencies for online teaching, to identify my weak areas and provided an insight for improvement.

I would recommend these courses to anyone who wants to polish their online teaching skills."

"Really enjoyed this learning journey of 'IOT: Inclusive Online Teaching'. The online format allows a dynamic interaction between the instructor and students and among the students themselves. Resources and ideas are shared, and continuous synergy is generated through the learning process."



Shehla Khan
SONAM Pakistan

- For more information contact: bdlnet@aku.edu
- Or visit our programme website:
<https://www.aku.edu/qtl/programmes/Pages/othe.aspx>
- This booklet has been designed using resources from Flaticon.com