



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



**December 2022 | Issue: 7 | Year of Impact and Outreach!**



## **An end of year message from Professor Tashmin Khamis, Vice Provost Quality, Teaching and Learning (2 min)**

2022 has allowed us to consolidate lessons learned to move from a period of 'rapid transition' to supporting faculty to promoting good practice online. The open source "[Essentials of Online Course Design and Facilitation: Self Learning Manual](#)" has been developed by QTL\_net (Naseem and Pitts) in response to the accelerated use of online teaching and learning modalities at AKU and worldwide. It is supplemented by the [Online Teaching in Higher Education \(OTHE\)](#) modules that support good online teaching and course design delivered by QTL\_net staff with peer-faculty.

The work of QTL\_net has also been recognised as example of good practice internationally. In 2022 AKU received reaccreditation by Advance HE (UK) for its TEACH CPD scheme until 2026. AKU remains the FIRST and ONLY University in South Asia and East Africa to gain such an accolade.

Our thanks to all faculty who supported the campaign: "Giving in Gratitude" that raised over 10,000 USD. We were proud of the Chancellor's announcement to rename the AKU Teachers' Academy as the [Haile T. Debas Teachers' Academy](#) in recognition of Dr. Debas for his contributions to the University, and particularly for promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning.

QTL\_net has an exciting year planned for 2023 as we will celebrate our 10th Anniversary. We look forward to your participation in our celebrations as well as in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference.

My committed team and I wish you a joyous holiday season and a peaceful New Year with your family and loved ones. We acknowledge the commitment of faculty to Teaching and Learning with over 300 faculty members engaging with us in 2022, and are thankful for the support you received from your Chairs, Associate Deans and Deans to do so.



[Read the full message from Professor Tashmin Khamis that details QTL achievements for 2022 here..](#)



## Wish QTL\_net a Happy Birthday as we turn **10** in 2023!

QTL\_net will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2023 and we would love to hear from YOU how QTL\_net has impacted you in this journey of 10 years! Tell us:

[1 word that comes to your mind when you think about your experience with QTL\\_net.](#)

[How QTL\\_net helped you in your teaching and learning journey.](#)

We promise it will take you less than a minute!

## QTL\_net makes an Impact



## AKU Reaccreditation By Advance HE UK (1 min)

AKU remains the FIRST and ONLY University in South Asia and East Africa to gain re-accreditation by Advance HE in the UK of the TEACH scheme, that supports AKU faculty to gain an internationally recognized higher education teaching qualification, acknowledges our teaching excellence.

*“Leading universities in the world have very well-developed mechanisms for achieving and recognizing research excellence. Achieving excellence in teaching is much more difficult, but equally important. AKU takes teaching quality very seriously, and we are determined to achieve teaching excellence.*

*This re-accreditation by Advance HE in the UK of the TEACH scheme, that supports AKU faculty to gain an internationally recognized higher education teaching qualification, acknowledges our teaching excellence. I would like to congratulate our Network of Quality, Teaching and Learning who run the TEACH scheme and thank them for extending this service to include others in the AKDN notably the Institute of Ismaili Studies.” - Provost Carl Amrhein*

## AKU wins Global Excellence Award (1 min)



AKU has won the inaugural edition of the [Award of Excellence for Disruptive Education](#), Zairi International Award in Higher Education 2022 supported by UNESCO. The award was received based on the work of QTL\_net, selected from amongst applications received from 31 countries with winners announced at a ceremony at the MENA Higher Education Leadership Forum in Dubai, UAE. Advance HE was delighted to sponsor the award. The Award of Excellence for Disruptive Education considers innovative higher education institutions that stand out in their approach to shaping and re-imagining the future of higher education to meet the challenges of the future. Announced by Dr. Peter J. Wells, Chief, Higher Education at UNESCO, the award was received by AKU's Professor Tashmin Khamis and Ms. Azra Naseem. [Read more..](#)

## QTL\_net faculty wins the Emerald Literati Outstanding Paper Award (10 min with paper)



An international peer-reviewed journal article by QTL\_net faculty has won the Emerald Literati Outstanding Paper Award (2022). The article '*The COVID-19 Pandemic: a catalyst for creativity and collaboration for online learning and work-based higher education systems and processes*' (See PDF attached: Attachment 3) was published in the Journal of Work-Applied Management. The paper has been downloaded more than 2000 times.

*"It all began as a 'fly-on-the-wall' project initiated by Provost Dr Carl Amrhein. We diligently documented the mechanisms and management processes that we were involved in as we supported the academy to transition online."*

- **Professor Tashmin Khamis**

A case study was built to respond to the increasing challenges from the health emergency that morphed into a learning emergency, lack of infrastructure to support online and distance learning, and institutional systems and policies.

[Read More..](#)

## QTL\_net case study published in Advance HE (10 min read with papers)



AKU was selected as one of 8 case studies out of 131 accredited CPD programmes by Advance HE (UK) as an example of 'good practice' of how the Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning is impacting upon strategic transformation. Prof. Tashmin Khamis, PFHEA, contributed towards this case study, which has just been published on the [Advance HE's website](#) (see attached: Attachment 1 - refer to the case study one; pgs. 15-17), with a testament from Prof. Jane Rarieya, Interim Dean IED EA. **We are the ONLY non UK university showcased in this publication** - the others being *University of Brighton, Bournemouth University, Cardiff University, Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Roehampton, University of Warwick and University of Wolverhampton.*

Another noteworthy news is that the AKU case study, 'A lifecycle approach to sustainable educational development' (see attached: Attachment 2 - refer to pgs. 16-20), has been published on the [Advance HE's website](#) in the Global Impact Grants – Issue One: Academic Development. It is one of the 17 case studies published from the scheme, featuring exciting and innovative work from Advance HE's members across the globe that has directly impacted students or staff.

## Rollout of AKU Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) Dashboard in East Africa

(1 mint read)

In collaboration with the Office of Institutional Data, Analytics and Reporting (IDAR) the SET dashboard training took place on 3rd Nov 2022. This tool has been created to assist Deans and Programmes Directors with analyzing the Student Evaluations of Teaching so that they can effectively support their faculty members in enhancing relevant courses and teaching based on student feedback.

[You can access QTL net's collection of Teaching tips here.](#)



## Rewards and Recognition

### Welcoming our third batch of Haile T. Debas Teachers' Academy (1 min read)



We are delighted to welcome a fresh batch of seven members joining 19 existing Haile T. Debas Teachers' Academy members. The Haile T. Debas Teachers' Academy, 'of and for faculty', is the first interdisciplinary academy, which consists of a prestigious group of outstanding teachers at the University. Recently, our partnership with the first-ever established academy, [Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators \(AME\)](#) at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), will further explore potential collaborations and synergies between the two academies- both named after Haile T. Debas.

[Learn more about the Haile T. Debas Teachers Academy](#)

## Congratulations to new HEA fellows at AKU (1 min read)

### HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY (UK) FELLOWS AT AKU



We extend our sincere congratulations to the five new fellows on achieving international recognition of teaching effectiveness in Higher Education through the HEA (UK) fellowship.

1. Dr Abdulrahman Ahmed Mohiddin, Medical College, Kenya, East Africa.
2. Dr Kevin Onyinkwa, Medical College, Medical College, Kenya, East Africa.
3. Ms. Mehtab Jaffer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Pakistan.
4. Mr. Waseem Farooq, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, UK.
5. Ms. Zulekha Saleem, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Pakistan.

*'I am proud to gain international recognition of professional practice for supporting teaching and learning in Higher Education- Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, UK. It is a moment of celebrating teaching for me. The support from the TEACH team was really helpful, so I am pleased!'. -Dr Abdulrahman Ahmed Mohiddin*

Learn more about [AKU TEACH CPD Scheme](#)

## Capacity Building at AKU through the Facilitator Development Workshop (FDW) and Teaching and Learning Enhancement Workshop (TLEW) (1 min read)



This October, eight faculty members and staff from Medical College, School of Nursing and Midwifery, QTL\_net, and the University of Central Asia (UCA), came together to participate in the Facilitator Development Workshop (FDW). FDW is an intensive 40-hour workshop held over 5 days that is designed to help participants develop and refine facilitation skills through peer feedback in a supportive environment and prepares them to deliver the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) to others. The ISW Program a very successful professional development initiative for educators, that was created in British Columbia, Canada in 1979. Since then, hundreds of educators have served as ISW Facilitators around the world. Our FDWs too join these ranks now and will act as peer champions globally and at AKU, supporting QTL\_net in enhancing the teaching and learning culture. The FDWs joined with experienced facilitators in

October to deliver the 14<sup>th</sup> ISW at AKU which is called the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Workshop (TLEW). TLEW aims to support participants to increase their competence and confidence as facilitators of learning as well as provide them with resources to be more reflective about their teaching. The workshop was oversubscribed, where 30 faculty members and academic support staff from 15 different disciplines across AKU and UCA participated in three invigorating and engaging full-day sessions of the workshop.

## Professional Development Training at the Institute of Education and Development, East Africa (IED EA) (2 min read)



A workshop on VLE was conducted from the 3rd to 7th of October 2022 for IED EA faculty. The workshop aimed at providing IED faculty with entity-specific hands-on training on using revised Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) template for effective teaching and learning. The faculty were treated to several hands-on activities along with discussions on the rationale of using certain activities and resources on the VLE. Some of the tools for delivery used in the sessions included: Google Presentation, Google Docs, Padlet, Mentimeter, Google Forms, and Moodle (AKU's Virtual Learning Environment).

By the end of the workshop the Programme Coordinator had the following to say *"I am very much happy with the work that has been done for the last five days, and I urge faculty to do more asynchronous sessions with their students as opposed to the too much synchronous sessions seen in the past"*.

## QTL\_net engages in Outreach

### Outreach with Karakoram International University (KIU) (1 min read)



Since 2018, QTL\_net has been involved in supporting KIU, the only university in Gilgit-Baltistan. After intensive needs assessment and working with Deans and Heads of Departments (both face-to-face and virtually) for the past three years, QTL\_net took several initiatives for faculty development in the various domains of teaching and learning by taking a holistic approach spread over successive months to build KIU capacity such as: a) empowerment of Teaching Champions who took lead in designing the KIU Graduate Attributes b) offering of training sessions on effective teaching and learning in sub-campuses c) offering a faculty development programme (TLEW) to strengthen 25 faculty members on instructional and pedagogical skills, lesson planning and giving feedback. This workshop was

oversubscribed and there is strong evidence that this hands on, peer-led and practice-based workshop has already resulted in transformative teaching practices. [Read here about the impact of this workshop from Mehfooz Ullah, a faculty member at KIU](#) .

## Snowballing Digital Bootcamps to AKDN: The AKES Story (1 min read)



The Aga Khan Education Services, East Africa (AKES EA) requested QTL\_net to conduct a Digital Bootcamp for the AKES EA schoolteachers. The Digital Bootcamps are short hands-on skills development sessions for faculty members to help them make their online, blended, and face-to-face teaching engaging and improve students' learning experiences by a focused use of digital tools.

For this session designed for AKES, the focus was on incorporating Game-Based teaching approach using Kahoot, a game-based response system. A total of 172 schoolteachers from AKES EA participated in the Hybrid Digital Bootcamp. The teachers appreciated the workshop, and according to the post-session evaluation, 85% of the participants were satisfied with the session's content, pace, skill level and the facilitators' input. In 2023 Digital Bootcamp will be offered every quarter. For more information, contact [bdl\\_net@aku.edu](mailto:bdl_net@aku.edu)

## Extending Teaching Enhancement Accredited Certification (TEACH) Scheme of the Higher Education to the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) (1 min read)



The re-accreditation by the Advance HE allowed the AKU Continuous Professional Development TEACH Scheme to include IIS, UK as a special collaborative partner and offer fellowship opportunities (Associate Fellow/Fellow of the Higher Education Academy) to its faculty and staff supporting teaching and learning.

We see the TEACH scheme as an important milestone in the partnership between AKU and the IIS, where it provides IIS opportunities to access the QTL\_net's support to improve pedagogical approaches, and the 23 fellows at the IIS will engage with the TEACH scheme to grow the pool of potential assessors and critical friends.

Read more, <https://www.iis.ac.uk/news/2022/may/iis-joins-aku-s-award-winning-teaching-and-learning-scheme/>

## **QTL\_net Mentors University of Central Asia (UCA) in Teaching and Learning and Quality Assurance (2 min read)**



UCA is a sister university in AKDN with undergraduate programmes first offered on campuses in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in 2016. When the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology at UCA (CTLT) has been created at UCA in 2021, it began looking for experts in the teaching and learning and quality assurance field. AKU's QTL\_net was the natural choice to consult as it has been operating in a similar environment for a longer time and was known for its remarkable success in the field of teaching and learning that has been recognized by the Advance HE accreditation. After the visits on the executive level, QTL\_net declared its willingness to share its expertise and mentor members of CTLT. This mentor-mentee relationship is built on trust and mutual respect and is now often complimented by onsite visits. CTLT self-assessment and QTL\_net feedback is part of the mentorship as it helps find solutions that otherwise would remain undiscovered.

## In Loving Memory of Dr Amir Shariff



All of us at QTL\_net pay our respect and condolences to the family and friends of the late Dr Amir Shariff, from the Department

of Surgery. Dr Amir was always a friend to QTL, and one of our Teaching Champions, ever ready to learn, reflect and innovate as a teacher. He attended our flagship programs RTT and TLEW in 2019.

“I think as a busy clinical practitioner, we are also expected to be teachers to our students and to our residents. This workshop Re-Thinking Teaching actually gave me a good opportunity to sit back and reflect on my teaching practices and how I can enhance them further. What motivated me to join this workshop was that we're teaching all the time, and I just wanted to get better and I've attended QTL\_net courses in the past as well and I've really benefited through them, which is why when I saw this come up, I jumped on the opportunity to attend it.” – **Dr Amir Shariff**

## Calendar: Upcoming Events for 2023

Teaching Dossier Workshops: January and February  
OTHE | Facilitating Online Courses: February to March  
Digital Bootcamps: every other month starting January  
EdTech Lounge: every other month starting February  
TEACH Webinar (Cycle 10): March  
Rethinking Teaching Workshop (RTT) - East Africa (face-to-face): May  
OTHE | Assessment in Online Courses (AOC): May  
Call for HTD Teachers Academy: June

### Special Events!

**Unveiling of Teaching and Learning Commons: March**

**Academic Day: March**

**Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: November**

[View our full Calendar here](#)

One to One consultations are available for faculty. Please make an appointment with our team [Contact Us](#)

Follow our website for more details...

**Network of Quality, Teaching and Learning**

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