



Sunway University

RANKED 176–200

FOR EDUCATION STUDIES



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# A Remarkable Milestone: SOE Ranked Top 200 Globally

The School of Education, Sunway University has been ranked among the Top 200 globally for Education Studies in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026, an impressive achievement for a School in just its second year.

This milestone reflects our rapid progress, strong academic foundation, and commitment to innovation and impactful research. It stands as a testament to the collective efforts of our faculty, students, and partners in building a forward-thinking education ecosystem.

More importantly, this recognition positions the School as an emerging leader in education, enhancing our global credibility, strengthening academic and industry partnerships, and expanding opportunities for our students and graduates to thrive in an increasingly complex educational landscape.

As we continue to grow, this global recognition strengthens our mission to shape future-ready educators and drive meaningful impact in education, both locally and beyond.

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## Message from the Dean



*It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I share this edition of our newsletter, which captures a series of exciting milestones and forward-looking initiatives at the School of Education, Sunway University. From our recent recognition among the Top 200 globally for Education Studies in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026, to our steady progress towards full accreditation of our Master of Education programmes, these achievements reflect the collective dedication, resilience, and vision of our academic community. For a young School, this is a significant affirmation that we are on the right trajectory, one that is anchored in quality, innovation, and impact.*

*This issue also brings to life the vibrancy of our academic environment. From research workshops and colloquia that strengthen our scholarly culture, to inspiring engagements led by passionate educators such as Cikgu Ainul, we continue to create meaningful spaces for learning, reflection, and professional growth. Our engagements with schools, international institutions, and industry partners further demonstrate our commitment to staying connected to practice while contributing to the broader education ecosystem. These efforts are complemented by enriching global experiences, such as hosting international students, which deepen intercultural understanding and broaden perspectives for both our students and staff.*

*Looking ahead, we are particularly excited about the launch of our new undergraduate programmes in Early Childhood Education and Special Education Needs, designed with the future in mind. Grounded in the emerging Children Experience Economy, these programmes go beyond preparing classroom teachers, they aim to nurture professionals who can design impactful, holistic experiences for children across diverse settings. This reflects our belief that education today must be dynamic, inclusive, and responsive to the changing needs of society.*

*As we welcome new cohorts of students into our community and celebrate occasions such as Teachers' Day, we are reminded of the purpose that drives us, to inspire, to empower, and to make a difference. I invite you to explore the stories in this newsletter and join us in celebrating the journey of growth, collaboration, and innovation at the School of Education.*

## Welcoming SOE's New Staff

The School of Education at Sunway University is thrilled to welcome another outstanding academic to our growing community of educators and researchers!

Ms Azura is an early childhood education academician with over 15 years of experience in higher education, programme leadership, and teacher training.



She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education, a Master of Early Childhood Education, and is currently a PhD candidate in Education (Pedagogy). Her work focuses on early childhood pedagogy, curriculum design, teacher competency development, and quality assurance, with a strong commitment to inclusive and research-informed practice.

## Driving Research Excellence at SOE



The School of Education hosted an engaging research workshop led by Prof Mahendhiran Nair Sanggaran, who is the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & Sustainability), bringing together academics for an interactive dialogue on navigating the research landscape.

Centred on four pillars of academia, research and development, teaching and learning, internal engagement, and external engagement, the session provided practical insights into building impactful and sustainable research careers. Through active discussion and reflection, academics refined their research direction, strengthened strategic thinking, and identified opportunities for collaboration, resulting in clearer research focus and stronger alignment of their work with real-world educational impact.

This initiative reflects the School's continued commitment to fostering a vibrant and high-impact research culture.

## A Step Closer to Full Accreditation for Our MEd Programmes

This year marked a key milestone for the School of Education as we successfully underwent two Internal Quality Assurance for Programme Accreditation (IQAPA) exercises, reaffirming our commitment to academic excellence and continuous quality enhancement.

The evaluations strengthened our curriculum design, delivery approaches, and student learning experience, while reinforcing the robustness and credibility of our Master of Education programmes.

Through strong collaboration across academic and administrative teams, the process also enhanced programme alignment with national and global standards, positioning our graduates for greater impact.

As we move forward, we are optimistic about achieving Full Accreditation for both Master of Education (Conventional) and Master of Education (ODL), further strengthening programme recognition, stakeholder confidence, and opportunities for our students and graduates.



## Welcoming Our New SOE Students: January & March 2026 Intakes

The School of Education is delighted to welcome our new students from the January and March 2026 intakes across our postgraduate programmes. As you begin this exciting new chapter, we are truly honoured to be part of your academic and professional journey.

Each of you brings with you a unique set of experiences, aspirations, and passions for education. Whether you are here to deepen your knowledge, advance your career, or make a meaningful impact in the field, you are now part of a vibrant learning community committed to growth, innovation, and purpose.

We look forward to walking alongside you - supporting, challenging, and celebrating your achievements every step of the way. Here's to a transformative journey ahead at the School of Education!

## Advancing Scholarship Through Collaborative Dialogue

The School of Education, Sunway University, hosted a dynamic colloquium bringing together academics, researchers, and postgraduate students for meaningful knowledge exchange.

The session featured presentations on ongoing research and emerging ideas, enabling participants to receive constructive feedback, refine their work, and expand their research perspectives. This collaborative platform strengthened scholarly dialogue, fostered a more supportive research culture, and encouraged new research directions, enhancing both the quality and impact of research within the School. The colloquium reflects the School's ongoing commitment to nurturing a vibrant research community and advancing impactful scholarship in education.



## Postgraduate Research Workshop



The School of Education recently hosted a research workshop to strengthen the capabilities of its academic community, led by Associate Professor Dr Majid Ghasemy, Dr Ditto Prihadi, and Dr Brendan Ch'ng.

The sessions focused on refining research ideas, strengthening methodologies, and enhancing academic writing and publication

strategies. Participants engaged in practical discussions and received targeted guidance to improve the quality and relevance of their work.

The impact was clear. Participants gained actionable strategies, strengthened research confidence, and identified pathways to produce more publishable and high-impact research.

The workshop also fostered stronger collaboration and mentorship within the School, contributing to a more vibrant and sustainable research culture. This initiative reinforces the School's commitment to advancing research excellence and driving meaningful contributions to education locally and globally.

# INSPIRING CHANGE IN A TRANSFORMATIVE WORKSH



Participants are fully engaged with Cikgu Ainul's workshop.



Cikgu Ainul shared some interactive activities that she used to engage with her special needs students.



This issue's centrepiece feature spotlights an impactful workshop led by Cikgu Ainul, winner of the **2025 Malaysia Teacher Prize**, whose session brought the concept of meaningful, student-centred learning to life. Drawing from her extensive experience working closely with children and communities, she introduced practical approaches grounded in empathy, engagement, and purpose-driven teaching, key elements aligned with today's evolving children experience economy.

The workshop went beyond theory, equipping educators with hands-on strategies they could immediately apply. Participants explored how to design learning experiences that are not only educational, but also memorable and transformative, resulting in stronger learner engagement, deeper curiosity, and greater student agency in the classroom.

What made the session especially powerful was her ability to connect deeply with the audience. Through storytelling, real-life examples, and reflective activities, she inspired educators to rethink their practices and reaffirm their purpose, leaving many energised to create more meaningful and impactful learning environments.

# THE CLASSROOM OP WITH CIKGU AINUL

This workshop reflects the School of Education's commitment to developing educators who are not only skilled, but driven to shape holistic and impactful learning experiences in an ever-changing world.



An inspiring afternoon with Cikgu Ainul

## Engaging Educators: SOE at Sunway International School

The School of Education, Sunway University, recently conducted an engagement session with educators from Sunway International School, creating a valuable platform for professional exchange and knowledge sharing.

Led by programme leaders, the session explored current educational practices, emerging trends, and innovative teaching approaches, while also highlighting pathways for further study and professional growth. Through active discussions and strong participation, the session enhanced educators' awareness of new pedagogical strategies, strengthened collaboration between institutions, and supported teachers in advancing their professional development.

This initiative reflects the School's ongoing commitment to engaging with the education community and contributing to meaningful, real-world impact in teaching and learning.



The SOE team at Sunway International School



Dr Brendan counselling SIS staff



Dr Ng gave a demo of the engaging Learning Portal



Dr Conie's presentation



Dr Fadzilah's sharing session



## Driving Innovation in Higher Education: SOE at the Coursera Leadership Forum

Sunway University School of Education was proud to be represented at the Coursera Higher Ed Leadership Forum Malaysia, where key voices in higher education came together to explore the future of learning and academic innovation.

The Sunway University School of Education was represented at the Coursera Higher Ed Leadership Forum Malaysia, where leaders explored the future of learning and academic innovation.

Representing the School, Prof Malissa Maria Mahmud contributed to discussions on building future-ready campuses, emphasising innovation, curriculum agility, and sustained academic quality. Her participation strengthened the School's visibility in regional higher education dialogues, reinforced its thought leadership, and opened pathways for collaboration and innovation aligned with global trends.

The forum fostered meaningful exchange among institutions navigating evolving learner needs, positioning the School to further enhance its programmes and impact in a rapidly changing education landscape.



Prof Malissa Maria Mahmud delivering her expert opinion on the future of learning and academic innovation.

## A Meaningful Exchange: Hosting Kansai Gaidai Students



Students were gifted colourful batik sarongs and taught the way to wear them.

The School of Education, Sunway University, recently hosted students from Kansai Gaidai University through a vibrant mobility programme that promoted cross-cultural learning and academic exchange.

Through interactive workshops and collaborative activities, students explored diverse educational practices while engaging with peers and academics. These experiences enhanced intercultural understanding, strengthened global perspectives, and fostered meaningful peer connections, enriching learning beyond the classroom.



Students enjoying a game of Batu Seremban



Students were introduced to a variety of delicious Malaysian kuih-muih

A highlight of the programme was a buka puasa gathering during Ramadan, which deepened cultural appreciation and built lasting relationships among participants. The programme underscores the School's commitment to global engagement, preparing students to thrive in diverse and interconnected educational contexts.



Ms Azura - one of the passionate facilitators

## Expanding Horizons: Strengthening Industry and Regional Engagements

The School of Education, Sunway University is poised to expand its reach through a series of upcoming engagements with industry partners and regional organisations. These collaborations reflect our ongoing commitment to bridging academia with practice, while contributing meaningfully to the advancement of education across communities.

Among the organisations we are looking forward to working with are Eduwis, SEAMEO, Kamakura Women's University, Linyi University, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Kiwanis Academy, Beaconhouse, KidoCode, Enuma, Casa Bambini, Pemimpin, and Noodle Factory, among others. Each of these engagements brings unique opportunities for knowledge exchange, innovation, and the co-creation of impactful educational initiatives.

Through these efforts, the School aims to foster stronger connections between educators, industry practitioners, and communities - creating platforms for shared learning, research collaboration, and professional development. By working closely with diverse partners across the region, we are better positioned to respond to evolving educational needs and to shape future-ready learning experiences.

We look forward to these meaningful collaborations as we continue our mission to contribute to the betterment of society - empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and advancing education for a more inclusive and sustainable future.



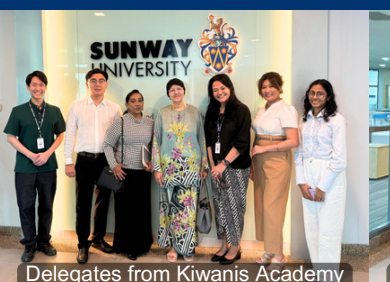
Delegates from Kamakura Women's University Visit joined by the Kansai Gaidai University mobility students



Delegates from Enuma



Delegates from KidoCode



Delegates from Kiwanis Academy



Delegates from Kamakura Women's University



Delegates from Beaconhouse

# Gratitude to teachers who made a difference



As Teachers' Day approaches this May, the School of Education, Sunway University invites everyone to take a moment to honour the educators who have made a difference in our lives. Teachers play a vital role in shaping minds, inspiring growth, and guiding future generations - and this is the perfect time to celebrate their impact.

We encourage our students, alumni, and community to join us in expressing appreciation by visiting our social media pages and sharing your messages of gratitude. Whether it's a simple note, a heartfelt story, or a shoutout to a teacher who has inspired you, your words can make a meaningful difference.

Let's come together to celebrate the dedication and passion of educators everywhere. Head over to our platforms this May and be part of this special tribute - because every teacher deserves to be recognised and appreciated.



## Shaping the Future: New Undergraduate Programmes

The School of Education, Sunway University, will launch three new undergraduate programmes in Early Childhood Education and Special Education Needs, with the first intake in September 2026. These programmes address the growing need for skilled professionals in diverse learning contexts.



What sets these programmes apart is their forward-looking approach, anchored in the concept of the Children Experience Economy. Students will not only be equipped with strong educational foundations, but will also explore how to design meaningful, engaging, and impactful experiences for children across a wide range of settings. This includes opportunities beyond traditional classroom teaching, such as roles in learning design, educational entrepreneurship, child-focused services, and creative industries centred around children's development and well-being.

With a strong emphasis on practical learning, innovation, and real-world application, these programmes aim to nurture graduates who are adaptable, empathetic, and future-ready. As the landscape of education continues to evolve, the School remains committed to preparing professionals who can make a difference, not just as educators, but as creators of enriching experiences that positively shape the lives of children.

We look forward to welcoming our first cohort in September 2026 as they embark on this exciting and meaningful journey.



### Contact Us!

Interested in knowing more about our Programmes?



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