

# LEADING EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING



A rapidly changing world demands innovative approaches to education. To ensure that all students thrive, educators need to inform their professional practice with global expertise. For the students of today to become skilled and wise leaders of tomorrow, educators need to know how to nurture excellence in learning.

In this elite and exclusive program, educators will have the unique opportunity to gain access to world-leading thinkers on education. Exposed to cutting-edge ideas and dynamic methods, educators will be inspired to practice new approaches in leading learner-centred, equitable and future-focused educational institutions and classrooms. Participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skills required to nurture the creative potential of each student, empowering young people to embark on a lifetime of learning.



## Overview



### Entry Requirements

- **Teaching:** Extensive teaching experience
- **Academic:** Previous teaching degree
- **English:** Advanced English skills



### Participants

- Just 250 participants will be selected for each program cohort
- Fully Virtual with optional 2-day face-to-face masterclasses in Delhi
- School-group or state-wide cohorts will be able to negotiate reduced fees
- Multiple cohorts will be delivered depending on demand

## The Program

The Leading Excellence in Learning Program has been designed for outstanding educators in India by the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne, ranking among the top universities globally. Known for its strong research output and high standard of teaching and learning, the University of Melbourne's international reputation attracts students and faculty from around the world. Its alumni include Nobel laureates and prime ministers.

In India, The University of Melbourne has partnerships with IISc Bangalore, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and is establishing dual and joint degrees with India's top universities. The University of Melbourne's Delhi Centre facilitates research, industry and government partnerships and enables the delivery of bespoke training programs and Masterclasses from the University's world-renowned scholars.

The Leading Excellence in Learning Program is a unique opportunity to supercharge education practice, equipping participants to be change-leaders in making and shaping the future of education. Modules focus on six fundamental topics:

- Understanding student learning
- Fostering inclusive teaching and learning
- Strengthening 21st century skills
- Wellbeing
- Assessing student learning
- Leading learning innovation

## Program Experts

All modules will be taught by globally renowned researchers in their distinct areas of expertise. They are each at the forefront of driving innovations in approaches to teaching and learning that are transforming the ways in which educational institutions around the world address the learning needs of their students.

All facilitators combine their theoretical expertise with extensive practical experience, enabling them to draw on first-hand examples to illustrate the application of the ideas they share. Facilitators will utilise both international and Indian case studies to showcase institutions that are at the cutting edge in leading learning.

The teaching style used will be engaging and encourage collaboration, providing participants with the opportunity to engage in critical reflection, share ideas with other participants, unpack assumptions and test innovative approaches in their classrooms.

## Who is the Program For?

- ✓ This program will benefit **Learning Leaders** (school principals, deputy school principals, university subject coordinators, school subject heads, year-level heads and senior teachers or lecturers) who are responsible for leading change in learning in educational institutions across India.
- ✓ The program is specifically designed to support **senior educators** across the education sector (early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary) to enhance their skills, distinguish themselves from their peers and advance their careers.
- ✓ The program has been designed with reference to the Indian National Education Policy 2020, NCERT's Guidelines for Continuous Professional Development of Teachers and the Guiding Document for the National Professional Standards for Teachers.

## About the Modules

### Understanding Student Learning

Understanding student learning is crucial for educators to enable them to develop personalized learning strategies that help students to store knowledge in long-term memory, manage cognitive load, and apply strategies for retaining and consolidating learning. The ***Understanding Student Learning*** module enables educators to draw on global best practice to deepen their skills in building effective learning environments that enable mastery. This module emphasizes creating safe, supportive environments that boost student engagement and well-being, and introduces practical applications of The Science of Learning, focusing on Educational Neuroscience.

Participants will explore key theoretical frameworks and evidence-based practices from around the world. These will help guide participants in innovative approaches to developing learning plans that foster effective learning. Participants will use scientific methodologies to design, implement, and evaluate teaching practices, ensuring that plans are informed by the latest research and tailored to diverse student needs, ultimately enhancing educational outcomes.

### Learning Outcomes

- 1 Use knowledge of human development to enhance effectiveness of teaching strategies that promote deep understanding and mastery.
- 2 Identify and implement key characteristics of learning environments that enable enhanced student engagement and more effective learning.
- 3 Apply principles from The Science of Learning to more effectively design and assess teaching practices that improve student outcomes and inclusion.

### Fostering inclusive teaching and learning

As emphasised in the Sustainable Development Goals, “inclusive and equitable quality education and [...] lifelong learning opportunities for all” are vital for students around the world, with important implications for educators’ professional practice. The ***Fostering Inclusive Teaching and Learning*** module engages educators in initiatives that enhance approaches to inclusion for diverse learners, facilitating access, participation and progress towards educational goals for all.

The module focuses on differentiation, an inclusive pedagogy that provides access to learning through various levels of instructional support. Participants will enhance their depth of understanding of best practice in learner-centred instruction that blends whole class, group and individualised learning opportunities according to learners’ needs. Case studies are used to illustrate examples of the differentiation of curriculum, teaching instruction, assessment and resources, and participants will be able to apply this learning to their own contexts.

### Learning Outcomes

- 1 Advance understanding of local and global conventions that emphasise inclusive education, and their implications for educator practices.
- 2 Identify and unpack approaches to differentiation and universal design for learning.
- 3 Apply innovative approaches to differentiation in classroom planning, instruction and assessment.

## Strengthening 21st Century Skills

In an era marked by uncertainty and complex change, students must cultivate competencies that enable them to navigate and address global challenges like population growth, climate change, and resource scarcity. Solving these issues requires life skills that enable new ways of thinking and a collective effort to find sustainable solutions.

The **Strengthening 21st Century Skills** module invites educators to rethink the purpose of education and to enhance their leadership abilities to better prepare students for a complex, unpredictable world. Participants will reflect on current educational paradigms, explore the latest international research and innovations in schooling, and deepen their understanding of the art and science of 21st-century teaching and leadership.

This module combines a practical approach to contemporary teaching and learning with concrete case studies of schools around the globe that are successfully pioneering future-ready education for all students.

### Learning Outcomes

- 1 Critically assess the strengths and limitations of current school education models and identify opportunities for reimagining the future of education.
- 2 Gain a deeper understanding of 21st-century skills and how they are fostered in innovative schools worldwide.
- 3 Develop collaborative networks to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in this module to drive real-world transformation in teaching and learning.

## Wellbeing

Educators are increasingly expected to have the skills to create learning environments that prioritise both academic achievement and student wellbeing. Student wellbeing involves feeling happy, being socially connected and engaged in the learning process, performing well in valued areas, and having a sense of purpose and hope. The **Wellbeing** module engages educators in drawing on a range of approaches to cultivating a school-wide culture that nurtures the holistic development of students, preparing them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, while ensuring that they are rooted in local cultural values.

Module facilitators will engage participants in a practical, learner-centred approach that contextualises each educator's learning to their own experience. Participants will extend their awareness of student motivational factors related to social connectedness, agency and accomplishment. They will explore promising examples that highlight alternative approaches to engaging stakeholders such as families and the wider community in wellbeing initiatives, promoting a collaborative effort that extends beyond the classroom.

### Learning Outcomes

- 1 Evaluate the key components of a whole of school approach to student wellbeing.
- 2 Strengthen awareness of strategies for fostering a positive school culture that promotes wellbeing literacy, social connection and agency among students and staff.
- 3 Consider methods for engaging stakeholders such as families and the community, in collaborative wellbeing initiatives to enhance student outcomes and build a supportive network beyond the school.



## Assessing students

Assessment is a highly contested domain, encompassing conflicting assumptions about the purpose of assessment and how it can - and should - interact with teaching and learning. From ranking to diagnosing to informing, a range of assessment practices is utilised by governments, schools and educators around the world, all seeking to achieve a number of different – and often contradictory - objectives. Creating order from the chaos is essential if educators are to implement coherent and effective assessment practices. This includes determining how to utilise the insights that assessment generates.

The **Assessing Students** module provides educators with the opportunity to unpack their assumptions about assessment and to strengthen how they implement a range of assessment practices in their classrooms. Bringing together practical approaches and theoretical insights, participants will learn about cutting-edge approaches to assessment from around the world.

## Learning Outcomes

- 1 Critically evaluate assessment models and identify forward-looking approaches to assessment that can strengthen student learning.
- 2 Gain a deeper understanding of the varied forms of evidence that assessment can gather and how it can be used to inform educator decision making.
- 3 Develop collaborative networks to exchange assessment practices and inform innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

## Leading Learning Innovation

In an era of rapid change, educators must be equipped to lead with creativity and foresight, ensuring their schools and classrooms are adaptive, inclusive, and future-focused. The **Leading Learning Innovation** module is designed to empower educators to become leaders of innovation in their school communities. Through a series of dynamic online sessions, participants will explore cutting-edge research and approaches to fostering learning innovation, preparing students to drive future knowledge economies.

Drawing on insights from world-leading experts at the University of Melbourne, participants will learn how to cultivate a culture of innovation that supports student engagement and enhances educational outcomes. Participants will strengthen the skills and knowledge to lead transformative change, enabling them to inspire their colleagues to embrace new ideas and methods. With a focus on real-world application, the module will challenge participants to rethink traditional approaches to learning and implement futures-focussed strategies.ion, the module will challenge participants to rethink traditional approaches to learning and implement futures-focussed strategies.

## Learning Outcomes

- 1 Critically evaluate current educational practices and identify opportunities for innovative change in the learning environment.
- 2 Develop and implement strategies that foster a culture of creativity and innovation among educators and students.
- 3 Apply evidence-based approaches to leading educational innovation that enhance learner engagement and outcomes.

## Program Logistics

### Program Delivery Schedule

- **Commence:** Week of 3 November 2025
- **Completion:** Week of 27 April 2026
- **3 weeks per module**

#### Week beginning

- Induction: 3 November 2025
- **Module 1:** 10, 17, 24 November 2025
- **Module 2:** 1, 8, 15 December 2025
- **Module 3:** 12, 19, 27 January 2026
- **Assessment:** 2, 9 February 2026
- **Module 4:** 16, 23 February, 2 March 2026
- **Module 5:** 9, 16, 23 March 2026
- **Module 6:** 30 March, 6, 13 April 2026
- **Assessment:** 20, 27 April 2026

### Learning Support

- Learning materials and reading material will be provided on the University of Melbourne's virtual Learning Management System
- Participants will be able to join weekly virtual synchronous tutorials led by experienced educators

### Learning Materials

- Video recordings of keynotes from global experts
- Curated reading materials relevant to each topic
- Activities to implement in your schools and classroom
- Discussion questions and discussion board for sharing ideas and suggestions

### Community of Practice

- A Community of Practice will be accessible via Canvas and will be moderated by program facilitators
- All participants will be expected to actively contribute to the virtual community of practice
- The Community of Practice will have a particular emphasis on Action Research, supporting participants to plan and implement pilot studies in their schools that draw on innovations highlighted during the program.

### Delivery Mode

- **Virtual:** All Modules will be delivered virtually, with asynchronous classes and synchronous tutorials weekly
- **Face-to-Face India:** If participants select the optional face-to-face masterclasses they will be invited to attend two full days in Delhi to engage directly with one or more experts from the University of Melbourne and to participate in learning activities under their guidance.
- **Face-to-Face Australia:** On request, an immersion at the University of Melbourne including visits to Australian schools can be arranged at additional cost.

### Assessment

- The assessment tasks will comprise a reflection on the implementation of one or more school activities related to a module theme.
- Participants will be required to reference pertinent literature and theoretical frameworks explored during one or more modules.

### Participant Showcase

- Program facilitators will provide guidance to participants on how to write for publication.
- Using these insights, participants will be encouraged to contribute articles to a virtual showcase, publishing content that shares their successes and highlights innovations in their schools.
- The virtual showcase will be made publicly available, enabling program participants to demonstrate their achievements with their professional networks and school leaders.

### Certificate

Participants who have actively participated in the Community of Practice and successfully completed the program assessment tasks will receive a University of Melbourne Certificate of Completion.

## The University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is an esteemed research university that is internationally recognised for its expertise. A thriving institution of 54,000 students, the University of Melbourne makes valuable contributions to the world in research, teaching and engagement, with its elite status reflected in its high global ranking. As a leader in cultural, environmental, medical, scientific, legal and social research, the University of Melbourne has a history of service and is recognised as an institution where students and academics gather to undertake high quality research to address the major challenges that face the world.

The University of Melbourne's **Faculty of Education** is renowned for its excellence in Australia and worldwide. Ranked 16th for education institution globally according to the 2024 QS World University Rankings, the Faculty of Education is committed to advancing the field of education through ground-breaking research and innovative practices. One of the Faculty of Education's primary areas of focus is supporting school leaders in fostering whole-school improvement and enhancing student learning outcomes. By leveraging their expertise, Faculty of Education academics assist educators to build their capacity to drive positive change and promote educational excellence.

