Bridging the Academia-Industry Gap

Case Study



Xcelliti-MUET Partnership

An initiative to bridge Academia-Industry Gap

The Academia Challenge:

A vast majority of graduates from Academia goes on to serve the industry. Right from the day of the first interview, many of them are presented with the reality that their four years of undergraduate learning do not help with the prospective job responsibilities. After landing a job, they have to learn the ropes by going through orientation and probation periods while earning meager salaries. Only after this, often humbling experience, are they transformed into a practicing professional and are able to get promotions or avail employment opportunities elsewhere with higher salaries or better job descriptions.

The industry considers that the curriculum being taught at the academic institutes doesn't totally fulfill their criteria, and there and proper career counseling to students is required which would encourage them to have a more stable career path.

The academia blames the professionals for not coming forward to contribute in sharing the knowledge and their experience with the future professionals. They also bring up the scarcity of industry support in providing internships and live projects which could minimize the need of post-graduate training during the employment periods and allow students to be ready to take the real-world challenges from the day of graduation.

Objective

Build the Academia-Industry connection to foster effective collaboration for a promising future

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do" - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Mehran University of Engineering & Technology



"The faculty without practical exposure affects all aspects of academic performance and is the prime contributor to the waning

quality of graduates



There are many reasons for this increasing gap between the academic training and the industrial needs, but most of them can be traced directly due to the faculty that is not equipped with latest industry technologies & best practices

Situational Analysis:

Apart from state-of-the-art academic programs, MUET needed to move forward to groom their faculty with the industry liaison in the areas like:

- ✗ Course and curriculum development and keeping them up-to-date with the fast-changing state of technology,
- 🔀 Evaluating student performance,
- 🔀 Career counseling,
- × Specialized trainings along with practical implementation,
- X Developing a creative and positive learning environment.

MUET felt that there faculty without practical exposure affects all aspects of academic performance and is the prime contributor to the waning quality of graduates

To fulfill this need, Xcelliti comes up with the value proposition for MUET and put forward industry-driven Skilled Enablement Program for their faculty and Students

Xcelliti, as a leading IT company of Pakistan, feels responsible to extend its array of services in the best interest of the educational system of Pakistan

Three Enablement Areas

Trainings – Faculty and Students Skill Development

Hands On Experience – Practical Exposure to Faculty and Students

The Bridging Service – Connecting Academia and Industry

Xcelliti focused on three enablement areas under MUET partnership





Trainings:

Xcelliti formulated training sessions for skill development of the faculty with focus on industry's current needs and future demands. A few of the primary features of training sessions were:

- Industry tools (IBM RequisitPro, Rational Functional Tester, Rational Performance Tester)
- ➢ Industry best practices
- × On demand Training Programs
- 🔀 Job focused Trainings

What is achieved?

Through these specialized trainings and enablement of active interface between industry and academia, MUET achieved a competitive advantage among other reputed Engineering and Technology Universities of Pakistan. These specialized trainings of MUET faculty have enabled them to plan their course outlines effectively, with a thought of practical approach, current trends, and technological advancements. They are now better shaping their student's future by broadening their learning curve towards industry-oriented demands.

Appreciation from Chairman Computer Systems – MUET

The Department aims to enhance university-industry interaction in a manner to expose students & faculty maximally to the industry via Directorate of Industrial Liaison. To keep up pace with the development in technology, both have to share their expertise and knowledge in such a way so that the isolation of both the sectors should come to an end. An active collaboration should usher in an era of mutual cooperation and joint ventures.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtiar Ali Unar Chairman Computer Systems

Avenues for Future:

Xcelliti took a joint initiative with MUET to plug the gap in the years to come. For this reason, Xcelliti is going to sign an MoU with MUET to enrich their partnership for the future growth and prosperity. More training will be conducted with practical exposure in order to train faculty and students and enable them to be aligned with the industry needs.



The Bridging Service:

Xcelliti focused on bridging the gap between Academia & Industry. Activities designed to connect Academia with the Industry comprised of:

- × Assisting Faculty on designing Courses focused on industry requirements
- ✗ Career Counseling Sessions
- [™] Interview Preparations
- Assisting Students Placement on Jobs
- 🔀 Internship Assistance