

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

- A HANDS4HOPE INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

1. Project Background and Description

Personal Enrichment Program aims to provide a broad range of online base personal development and enrichment learnings for students of underprivileged backgrounds. The aim of the program is to create opportunities for students to be exposed to real life educational and work pursuits under the tutelage or guidance of those with demonstrated, formal qualification and/or life experience within each competency domain. The program is hands-on, practical with clearly defined development areas and progression for selected students.

2. Project Scope

The Personal Enrichment Program will run initially for 6 months with weekly classes on offer in addition to ad hoc online discussions. A further 12 months advance training will be offered to selected students who have met the set requirements.

This program does not intend to replace formal and/or higher education. Students will not attain any formal qualification but will be provided with certificate of completion. Students who are offered a placement into this program must meet the admission criteria and are required to participate in all specified modules.

The program aims to offer 30 placements in the first 6 months of operation and will increase this number in subsequent years.

Admission criteria include:

- Students need to be originally part of the Hands for Hope Scholarship Program
- Students need to be enrolled in a Tertiary Institution
- Students will need to fill out an Application form for admission into PEP

Learnings are provided in two ways: Face to face real time web-mediated classes and online informal discussions through web based forums.

All students will be provided with an online account which allows them access to the e-learning platform. The e-learning platform acts like a forum where relevant educational materials will be made available. Opportunities for questions and request for advice and support, can be done in a safe learning environment and supported by dedicated educators and fellow students.

English language skills development is structured as below:

1. Speaking
2. Reading (reading comprehension)
3. Writing

It is envisaged that there will be 8 English Educators, who would run the weekly classes and another 5 Moderators to support the forum discussions.

Advance Learning Program:

The Advance Learning Program will be offered to selected students on the completion of the basic course as outlined above. This course runs over a 12 months period. To be offered this learning opportunity students must demonstrate the following:

- High level of engagement
- Initiative with own learning and awareness of own contribution to the learning environment
- Capacity to synthesize and innovate through the learning process

Interested students can also submit an admission application explaining why and how the advance program would benefit them.

In this advance module, students will be coached on core competencies which include:

- Interpersonal skills
- Problem solving skills
- Effective communication skills – communicate with influence
- Managing complexity/conflict in social and work environment
- Time management
- Team work
- Resilience
- Self-awareness/mindfulness
- Self-management
- Social awareness
- Relationship management
- Networking skills/stakeholders management.
- Employability skills

Students will be taught through real-time web base mediated learning such as Skype or similar medium. These sessions will run on a fortnightly basis covering the above topics. Students will participate in forum based discussion with educators and their peers in relation to these learning areas.

As part of their learning experience, students will undertake a major project either as part of their current employment or social engagement within their community. Students will also be given one on one coaching while completing their project. The project will be agreed upon with the coach and should allow students to explore the competencies areas covered in class in real life setting.

Employability skills will also be offered concurrently with leadership skills modules. These skills include but are not limited to:

- Job hunting
- Resume (writing)
- Job application
- Interview preparation
- Mock interviews
- Job application feedback

Similar to the English Language course, the Employability skills learning package will include real-time class mediated via an online medium like Skype or similar program.