

Monthly **employability.life** update



SFC report on International Students

Recently, the Student Futures Commission (SFC) – a commission founded by the University Partnership Programme to provide institutions and government with guidance on how to better support students – released a report outlining how the UK can create a world-class international student experience post-covid. With the UK slipping slowly behind in terms of how many international students they bring into the country, the report outlines what institutions, and the government can do to maintain a steady flow of international students.

One of the report's key findings was that nearly most international students felt as if there wasn't enough employability support from their institutions. 82% of students said that career support was either "very important", or "important" – but only 52%

thought their universities were doing enough in the area.

Employability support is crucial for students throughout their university experiences and is a large driver for students' decisions to study somewhere.

Services like Employability.life are going to become crucial to education institutions worldwide.

The SFC suggested that universities and governments provide more support to international students looking to enter the workforce after they finish their degrees. With the UK launching their Graduate Route visa, institutions establishing more meaningful em-

ployer connections is going to be crucial to help establish their international students in the UK after graduation. Done properly, this has the potential to reinvigorate the UK's allure to international students.

With the UK expecting to grow their intake of international students past 600,000 every year, institutions should expect to expand their employer connections, and their career-readiness services. Services like Employability.life are going to become crucial to universities across the UK. International students make significant contributions to the UK's institutions, workforces, and economy, and that potential has yet to be fully utilised.

Employability Webinar Series

Since the 27th of January, we have held several webinars as a part of our Employability.life sessions. Each Thursday, for five weeks, webinars for learners and professionals alike were held to educate viewers on a variety of subjects to help boost career aspirations.

In our first session, hosted by **Sharmistha Chatterjee**, viewers were taught how to brand themselves to build up themselves as professionals.

In our second session, taking place on February 3rd, **Melvin Tan** showed attendees how to “influence your way to winning” by taking charge, networking, and finding ways to grow career success.

On February 10th, our third session saw **Desta Haile** train attendees about how different cultures understand time, how learners can apply that to

their professional lives and how they can better develop their cultural intelligence.

Ashok Selladurai led the fourth session on February 17th, which taught attendees about how to validate content, how to be safe online, and how to

avoid falling prey to scams and phishing emails.

Our final session, taking place on February 24th, was hosted by **Ana Vreca** and helped attendees develop and understand the power of habits to better grow learners’ professional mindsets.

A huge thank you to Sharmistha Chatterjee, Melvin Tan, Desta Haile, Ashok Selladurai, Ana Vreca, and Marketa Mojzisova for sharing their experiences and support.



Ana Vreca



Ashok Selladurai



Melvin Tan

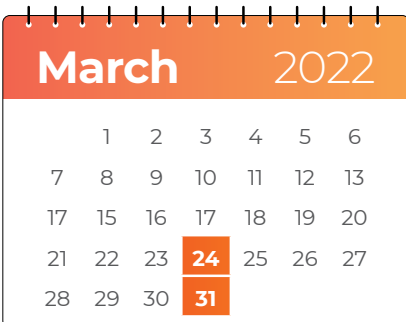


Sharmistha Chatterjee



Desta Haile

Upcoming activities



have worked remotely to help them prepare and shape their dream careers.

As our member network, of learners, employers, coaches and other educational institutions, grows and the borders open again, we intend to keep you updated regularly through this newsletter.

What can you expect from this Newsletter?

We will provide monthly activity updates, information about our engagement with industry, online and onsite event reports as well as member testimonials, blogs and other useful resources.

Please note that we are organising Employability.life Meet & Greet at our campuses in Melbourne and Syd-

ney in March, as the new semester commences. More information will be provided individually and through the campus announcements. Join us in person there to learn more about our Programme: How we are making the career journey of our members purposeful, aspirational and successful. We are happy you are part of this exciting project. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email at hello@employability.life.

Dear Employability.life members!

It has been already a year and with great pleasure that we have been given the opportunity to build our career preparation programme within the ATMC Education Group. Despite the uneasy times of the pandemic, when the international students were not allowed to travel to Australia, we



Marketa Mojzisova
Programme Manager

RMIT Research Paper: A Digital Skills Breakdown

With the closure of Australia's borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the talent shortage in Australia has only been exacerbated – with \$32 billion (or 24.5%) of the \$148 billion GDP losses since the pandemic's start stemming directly from this shortage.

On top of this, 54% of Australian employers stated in a survey that they had a difficult time retaining staff – this 'great resignation' is stemmed somewhat with the slow return of migrants, but it is not nearly enough. A jaw-dropping 56% of Australian employees surveyed reported that they were taking steps to change their employment in the last four weeks.

As a result of all of this, the occupation landscape of Australia is steadily changing: the need for digital skills is skyrocketing with nearly 2/5ths (38%) of businesses surveyed said that they lacked people with digital skills, and 60% of businesses surveyed said that digital and cybersecurity skills would increase in importance over the next 5 years. Candidates who possess these skills were found to be rewarded with a juicy payoff: a 9% wage premium equivalent to an additional \$7,700 per worker every

year. While businesses are willing to pay more for employees with digital skills, the research paper found that traditional soft skills were just as valuable.

With increasing digitisation of jobs, changes to in-demand skills, and how individuals work – employers and employees are rethinking how they address these changes. This makes programmes like Employability.life all the more valuable for young professionals entering the workplace, as our training and certification courses offer a chance to plug these talent shortages and lift our learners into career success.

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Desta Haile
Master Coach

Intercultural Resources of Interest

You can never stop learning when it comes to intercultural communications. Here I'd like to share some of my favourite resources that help me feel like I am traveling the four corners of the globe, even just from my room.

► TED Talks:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ted>

A consistently great resource to learn from a wide range of experts around the world... for free? Fantastic.

► Spirited Pursuit:

<https://www.spiritedpursuit.com/>

Senegal-based Lee Litumbe travels mainly in Africa and takes the most beautiful photos in stunning places around the continent.

► Book of Cinz:

<https://www.instagram.com/bookofcinz/?hl=en>

This Caribbean book worm not only travels, but she reads and recommends brilliant books by Caribbean authors.

► Geography Now:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GeographyNow/videos>

If you are a geography nerd like myself, you will love this channel.