Engaging Students in Learning

Teaching Conference 2025

Thursday 5 June

Final Conference Program

Time (AEST)	Session	Learning and Teaching Zoom Link	Student Services Zoom Link
10:00 am	1	Opening and Prayers Professor James McLaren	
10:15 am	2	Plenary: **From Encounter to Engagement: Higher Education with Purpose in the Age of Algorithms** Zoom Link Mulyadi is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) at the Australian Institute of Business, where he leads the teaching and learning function of Australia's largest fully online MBA programs. With prior academic leadership roles at Monash University and Alphacrucis University College, he brings a distinctive cross-disciplinary lens to curriculum design, online learning, and student engagement. His research focuses on servant leadership and student experiences in online education and has been published in outlets like The Leadership Quarterly, Journal of Business Ethics, Personnel Review, and The Conversation among others. **Abstract** In an era shaped by artificial intelligence, rapid digitalisation, and the lingering impact of the pandemic, student engagement has become both more complex and more critical. This plenary explores how higher education, particularly in the context of online and hybrid learning, can move beyond mere content delivery toward meaningful encounters that foster deep learning, connection, and transformation. Drawing on practical insights from large-scale online education and grounded in the values of formation, community, and purpose, this session offers strategies to re-engage learners in ways that are relational, reflective, and resilient. As educators, how might we respond to the age of algorithms not with anxiety, but with clarity of purpose and renewed pedagogical imagination?	

11:15 am		Morning Tea	
11:45 am	3	<u>Workshop</u> **Generative Artificial Intelligence at UD – _Embrace or not to embrace_** Professor Albert P Haddad <u>Zoom Link</u> Abstract This workshop explores a new way of conceptualising Academic Integrity when it comes to the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in the learning and teaching at the University of Divinity. We will explore what it means to the University and member Colleges to embrace GenAI in student assessments. This means thinking of reforming our assessment practices and introducing a new Assessment Framework based on two distinct dorms – a) "secure assessments" where some sort of invigilation occurs, and b) "open assessments" which do not require invigilation. This framework is informed by the "two-lane approach" led by the University of Sydney. For this to occur, we may need to investigate GenAI tools that will be made available to staff and students to ensure parity and fair access to all. It will also mean that new GenAI Policy may need to be created that discussed the UD's position in relation to GenAI. Many implications of such approach will be discussed several perspectives.	<u>Workshop</u> **Students with Inclusion & Disability Awareness** Valeriya Ignateva <u>Zoom Link</u> This workshop provides participants with a **general overview** of: • the concept of disability • the legislative framework which supports the inclusion of people with disability in Australia • the barriers, both environmental and attitudinal, experienced by people with disability and identifies ways in which these barriers may be overcome • the categories of UD disability students with samples of reasonable adjustments (stats from May 2025)

		Further, some questions will be asked and discussed in small groups to gather ideas, concerns, and possibilities for future practices at UD.	
1:00 pm		Lunch	
1:45 pm	4	**Poetry as Doxology in Theological and Spiritual Formation** Dr Xiaoli Yang, UD Zoom Link In an age of Generative Artificial Intelligence, how do we engage in creative and imaginative learning activities in theological education and spiritual formation? This workshop allows us to explore theological perspectives on poetry, practice contemplative reading and writing, and reflect on poetry's potential to shape faith and mission in theological education and spiritual formation. The workshop aims to 1) understand poetry as a form of doxology and theological/spiritual expression; 2) explore biblical, historical and contemporary examples of poetic theology; 3) practise writing and reflecting on poetry as a spiritual discipline and a learning activity in the University setting.	<u>Workshop</u> **Student Journey; Enquiry to Admission** Saranya Tosomran Zoom Link This workshop explores some critical journeys from initial enquiry to successful student admission, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of the steps, stakeholders, and strategies involved. It will begin by outlining the key phases and roles in the enquiry-to-admission process. Participants will examine who our potential prospective students are and investigate understanding their diverse needs, motivations, and expectations.
2:15 pm	5	**Building Arranyinha: The possibility of Artificial Intelligence for Indigenous Bible Translation** Rev Dr Aunty Denise Champion & Altanir da Silva, *Aunty Denise is faculty of the UCLT, UD. Altanir is an IT specialist with the Synod of the*	Strategies to effectively reach and engage prospective students will be discussed, alongside insights into how students typically discover our institution. The session will cover frequently asked questions during the enquiry stage and provide

| | | *Uniting Church in South Australia*
[Zoom Link](#)

According to the Bible Society there exists only one full Bible translation in a language used by Indigenous peoples across these lands now called Australia, and that is Kriol.[1] Meanwhile 89% (109/123) of Indigenous languages still spoken in this country are listed as endangered. Our ability to meet our University's goal to be actively engaged in 'education and research led by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' as stated in our Strategic Plan 2030 is significantly limited therefore not only by this gap in relation to our core Christian text but communities' fragility of language connection to their spiritual heritage. The gift of Generative AI is that now it is possible to build a tool for assisting Elders to preserve their language and, where desired, to translate the Bible without recourse to a years-long process facilitated by, as well as limited by the availability and skill of, an outsider linguist. In this presentation you will be introduced to the creative process and possibilities of Arranyinha ('First Born and Female'), an AI generated language tool being built with Adnyamathanha Elders from Ikara Flinders Ranges in South Australia, accompanied by an AI | actionable tips to build rapport, provide timely information, and guide students with clarity and empathy.

Practical case studies will illustrate successful conversion from enquiry to application, offering examples of challenges overcome and strategies that worked. The workshop will close with guidance on how to transition enquiries into formal applications and maintain student interest through a student-centred approach.

Whether you're part of the admissions team, marketing, student services, or academic departments, this workshop will enhance your ability to support prospective students with confidence, care, and impact. |

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[1] The Bible Society, 'Open the Bible in Indigenous Languages,' https://www.biblesociety.org.au/blog/open-the-bible-in-indigenous-languages/ . Accessed 11 April 2025.

		generated movie for teaching Muda (storied law), and considerations for honouring data sovereignty	
2:45 pm	6	**A student's Perspective on Engaging with Learning at UD** Emma Llewellyn Interviewed by Albert Haddad Zoom Link	
3:15 pm		A Short break	
3:20 pm	7	<u>Plenary</u>: **From Access to Agency: Building Literacies that Empower Learning** Associate Professor Mulyadi Robin Zoom Link Abstract This closing plenary explores how digital and academic literacies can be embedded to empower purposeful student engagement; tracing the journey from framework conception to implementation. Moving from access to agency reflects a shift toward student-centred learning, where learners are not just passive recipients of content but active participants in shaping their educational experience. The session will also showcase practical tools, including a GenAI learning design collaborator bot specifically designed to assist academics and academic leaders with curriculum and assessment development. We will close with reflections on how institutions can embed these literacies to foster a culture of engagement, academic integrity, and lifelong learning for our students.	
3:50 pm	8	<u>Final Remarks and Thanks</u> Professor Albert P Haddad Zoom Link	