



The National Hybrid Conference on :

**CULTIVATING 21ST CENTURY SOFT
SKILLS: NURTURING MINDS AND
EMPOWERING LEARNERS IN
HIGHER EDUCATION ELT**



ON 21/22-04-2025



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Rationale:

The ever-shifting landscape of higher education ELT demands a renewed focus on not just equipping learners with language skills, but also nurturing hearts and minds. This conference, titled “Cultivating 21st Century Soft Skills: Nurturing Minds and Empowering Learners in Higher Education ELT”, addresses this critical need by fostering a dynamic exchange on two crucial, interconnected aspects: equipping students with essential skills to meet the 21st century needs and creating a positive and nurturing learning environment that fosters soft skills including emotional intelligence.

In an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, strong soft skills have become essential for personal and professional success. Job requirements are increasingly demanding, and beyond the knowledge and experience that students or graduates are able to obtain, these special skills are in high demand today. (Albirru and Kartika, 2022)

In this vein, higher education must equip learners with a comprehensive skillset that transcends traditional language instruction. Universities and Higher schools need to ensure their ELT programs cultivate these vital abilities. This includes cultivating critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities – collectively known as "soft skills."

Moreover, the development of emotional intelligence is paramount for individual well-being and career prosperity. Emotional intelligence encompasses self-awareness, empathy, and the ability to manage emotions effectively. These skills are crucial for navigating social and professional situations with confidence and resilience, fostering healthy relationships, and contributing positively to society.

Hence, English Language Teaching in Higher education holds significant importance in equipping learners with the linguistic, cognitive, and socio-emotional skills necessary for success in the 21st century. Recognizing this evolving landscape, therefore, this conference theme is driven by the recognition of the multifaceted role that ELT plays in shaping the educational experiences and outcomes of students in higher education settings.

We will delve into how educators can integrate these crucial skills into English Language Teaching (ELT) programs, creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment that empowers students to not only become proficient communicators but also confident, adaptable, and successful individuals in the 21st century.

The Objectives

This conference aims to bring together educators and researchers passionate about fostering well-rounded individuals equipped to thrive in the dynamic 21st century. Our focus extends beyond fostering technical skills –intellectual curiosity, analytical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration along with the development of soft skills and emotional intelligence, crucial aspects of navigating the complexities of the modern world.

Overall, the conference aims to create a learning environment that:

- Bridges the gap between traditional language learning and essential skills for success in the 21st century.
- Equips both students and educators with the tools and knowledge to navigate the complexities of the modern world.
- Fosters a well-rounded learning experience that emphasizes intellectual growth, emotional intelligence, and effective communication.

Participants are invited to submit abstracts that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Integrating soft skills in ELT
- Emotional intelligence and Professional development.
- Supportive and inclusive classroom environment
- Sustainable practices in ELT.
- Holistic education approaches
- Digital literacy and Technology integration
- Soft skills and Artificial Intelligence
- Acculturation and cultural sensitivity



References:

- Albirru Amsal, A., & Kartika, R. (2022). Case Base Method: A Collaborative Learning to Improve Students' Soft Skills in Business Analytics. 19-23.
- Davies, A., Fidler, D., & Gorbis, M. (2011). Future work skills 2020. Retrieved from https://www.iftf.org/uploads/media/SR-1382A_UPRI_future_work_skills_sm.pdf
- Goleman D. (1995). Emotional Intelligence Why It Can Matter More Than IQ. Bantam Books.
- Goleman, D. (2006). Social Intelligence: The New Science of Human Relationships. Bantam Books.
- Juárez Gatica, J. (2022). Emotional Intelligence and soft skills within the secretarial curriculum. *Revista guatemalteca de educación superior*, 5(1), 35-45.



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Important dates:

- Abstract Submission deadline: 21-03-2025
- Acceptance Notification: 01-04-2025
- Confirmation of participation: 05-04-2025
- Conference date: 21/22-04-2025

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts should be no more than 250 words, including full name, affiliation, rank, phone number and email for all authors.
- Please send your abstract to: softskills.ELT@gmail.com
- Language of the conference: English, French, or Arabic.
- Venue of the conference: Ecole Normale supérieure d'Oran.

Registration fees:

- On site: 4000 DA
- Online: 2000 DA

The conference fee (in-person participation) includes the following services:

- Welcome Reception
- Access to all sessions
- Lunches and Coffee Breaks
- Access to Online Conference Proceedings
- Attendance Certificate

N.B:

- The conference fees do not cover accommodation.

