

## Course Description

### MEDD8918 Contemporary Issues in Higher Education

Course description	
This course provides knowledge of contemporary issues in higher education. It will include massification, access and equity, privatisation and financing, higher vocational education, quality assurance, affirmative action, knowledge innovation, university ranking, internationalization, and automation and artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical basis for critical issues facing higher education in a changing society and economy.	
Course objectives	
This course aims to gain the theoretical perspectives to understand the current critical issues in higher education, analyze the current issues and different practices across higher education systems.	
Course learning outcomes	Aligned programme learning outcomes (PLOs)
1. Identify current critical issues in higher education in macro-, meso-, and micro levels	PLOs 1, 2, 3
2. Understand theoretical lens in explaining the current issues in higher education	PLOs 1, 2, 3
3. Analyze the current issues and different practices across higher education systems	PLOs 1, 2, 3
Course assessment methods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual weekly tasks</li> <li>Collaborative discussion in class</li> <li>Peer feedback</li> <li>Individual final essay</li> </ul>	
Course content and topics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New challenges for higher education</li> <li>Privatisation and financing in higher education</li> <li>Affirmative action in higher education</li> <li>Global ranking and world-class universities in higher education</li> <li>Quality assurance and accountability</li> <li>AI and higher education</li> <li>Higher education management, governance, and leadership</li> <li>Low birthrate and university closures;</li> <li>Alternative model of higher education</li> </ul>	
Required / recommended readings and online materials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clark, B. R. (1986). <i>The higher education system: Academic organization in cross-national perspective</i>. University of California Press.</li> <li>Teichler, U. (2007). <i>Higher Education Systems</i>. Brill.</li> <li>Aarvevaara, T., Finkelstein, M., Jones, G., &amp; Jung, J. (2021) (eds.). <i>Universities in the knowledge society: The Nexus of National Systems of Innovation and Higher Education</i>. Springer.</li> </ul>	
Other additional course information	
Nil	