



**MICROSOFT  
INNOVATIVE  
EDUCATOR EXPERT  
2024**



**Digital  
Excellence  
Impact  
Case Studies**

**2023/2024**

Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

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## Introduction and Background

I am Vishak Dudhee, a Tutor in Project Management at TU Online, Teesside University. Our online learning platform, known for its flexibility, is a hub for diverse courses catering to individuals with varying commitments. My role primarily involves delivering online modules for the MSc International Project Management (Online) program, a task that demands adaptability and innovation. I also collaborate closely with the distinguished School of Computing, Engineering & Digital Technologies (SCEDT) on an innovative online module centred on renewable energy. In this case study, I share my journey towards achieving the prestigious Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE) accreditation and its profound impact on my role and the educational landscape at TU Online.

With an MSc in Civil and Structural Engineering, earned with Distinction, and a First-Class BEng (Hons) in Civil Engineering, both obtained at Teesside University and currently in the final stages of completing a PhD in Energy, a testament to my unwavering commitment to continuous learning and expertise development. These academic achievements are complemented by a wealth of professional experience spanning various organisations, including local government, a government research agency, and consultancy firms. Over the years, I have actively contributed to a multitude of projects, both at the national and international levels, further honing my expertise and understanding.

## My MIEE Journey

The initiation of my journey towards MIEE accreditation occurred in 2020, a time of immense challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The sudden transition to online education prompted a rapid adoption of digital tools

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for effective remote learning. I was driven by personal research into Microsoft Teams and its features, recognising the potential to enhance the online teaching experience. It was during this exploration that I stumbled upon the MIEE program, a beacon of innovation and a platform to enhance my proficiency in leveraging this powerful tool for educational enrichment.

## Project Overview and Impact

The primary goal of my initiative was to master the advanced features of Microsoft tools, including Teams, OneDrive, and OneNote, for online teaching. These tools had already become an integral part of my daily workflow, and my aim was to unlock their full potential. Beyond mere mastery, my aspiration was to incorporate innovative educational technologies, creating a more interactive and engaging online learning environment that surpassed traditional classroom settings. The objective was to provide students with a holistic learning experience that facilitated active engagement, collaboration, and an in-depth understanding of the subject matter.

The integration of Microsoft tools and their advanced features significantly enhanced teaching and learning at TU Online. By leveraging the capabilities of Microsoft Teams, Stream, Forms, OneDrive, and OneNote, I crafted interactive and captivating online sessions. These tools facilitated seamless communication, encouraged collaboration, and streamlined the sharing of educational resources. The result was a highly immersive learning experience that empowered students to actively participate, ask questions, and receive timely, constructive feedback. Importantly, this virtual setting successfully replicated the dynamics of a traditional classroom.

Beyond the immediate impact on my students, this initiative had a ripple effect. It served as a platform for me to share my experiences and expertise with my colleagues, amplifying the project's influence. This knowledge-sharing

catalysed positive change and significantly enhanced the teaching and learning experiences not just for our students but for educators across the university. It fostered a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, contributing to the evolution of education as a whole.

### Using the Benefits of the MIEE

Being an MIEE member has opened doors to a wealth of opportunities and resources. I actively participate in MIEE connection calls, which provide a unique opportunity to engage with guest speakers showcasing upcoming features before their official release. This early exposure allows me to adapt and plan for the integration of these features into my teaching methods, ensuring a seamless and enhanced learning experience for my students. Moreover, these calls enable fruitful discussions and knowledge sharing, allowing community members to exchange best practices, trainer tips, and tricks.

The MIEE membership also grants me access to a wealth of exclusive online teaching and learning resources, enriching my pedagogical toolkit. These resources are invaluable in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of my teaching methods and keeping them aligned with the latest developments in educational technology.

As an MIEE, I benefit from invitations to various events and conferences, expanding my professional network and fostering collaborations with like-minded educators passionate about leveraging technology for educational advancement. These connections have broadened my horizons and enriched my teaching methods, ensuring that my students benefit from the latest and most effective educational practices.

Through my MIEE journey, I've gained a profound understanding of the transformative potential of digital technologies in education. These insights

are not only relevant to my personal growth but also have the potential to benefit my peers at Teesside University. By inspiring them to embrace innovation and technology, I aim to empower them to improve their students' learning experience.

### Lessons Learned and Future Plans:

Through my MIEE journey, I've gained a profound understanding of the transformative potential of digital technologies in education. These insights are not only relevant to my personal growth but also have the potential to benefit my peers at Teesside University. By inspiring them to embrace innovation and technology, I aim to empower them to improve their students' learning experience.

Looking ahead, my journey as an educator at TU Online is one of continuous exploration and innovation. I plan to remain at the forefront of educational technology by integrating emerging Microsoft technologies into my teaching methods. This ongoing commitment ensures that my students continue to experience cutting-edge, engaging, and effective learning experiences.

My MIEE journey has transformed my role and enriched the educational landscape at Teesside University. The power of staff engagement in driving innovative teaching and learning practices cannot be overstated. Institutions can inspire and empower educators to embrace technological advancements through programs like MIEE, fostering a culture of continuous improvement, adaptability, and creativity. Recognising and celebrating the efforts of engaged educators creates a positive feedback loop, motivating further engagement and innovation and ultimately enhancing the overall educational ecosystem. This case study serves as a testament to the value of investing in staff engagement to drive innovative teaching and learning practices, ultimately preparing students for a technology-driven future.

### Additional Resources & Useful Information

- [Digital Transformation CPD.](#)
- [Teesside University's Knowledgebase-Guides.](#)
- For help & support with Digital Pedagogy or MIEE related queries contact [elarning@tees.ac.uk](mailto:elarning@tees.ac.uk).