

CoETaL & EdOSS NEWSLETTER

October 2024–May 2025



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



Mission

The mission of the University of Guyana is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the advancement of communities, the nation, and mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, transparent accountability, pragmatic innovation and universal respect

What We Do

- Human Relations Course
- Workshops
- Host Conferences, Seminars & Orientations
- Collaboration with international, regional and tertiary institutions



Message from the Director

October 2024– April 2025



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



Dr. Charmaine Bissessar

The University of Guyana's Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) plays a vital role in enhancing academic quality across the university. Through targeted training in pedagogy and andragogy for faculty, skill-building workshops for students, and professional development sessions for support staff, CoETaL supports excellence at every level of the institution.

In addition to its local efforts, the Centre actively collaborates with national, regional, and international partners to expand its research capabilities and foster meaningful academic connections.



The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents

How to Create a Rubric

12:00 hrs - 13:30 hrs

Thursday
3 October, 2024



Presenter: Dr. Troy Brown
Assistant Dean, Faculty of Education and Humanities (FEH)

JOIN VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID
990 7062 9928

Passcode
844980

CoETaL & EdOSS Inaugural Virtual Symposium

October 11th, 2024

The Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning in collaboration with the Educational Onlining Support Services hosted its first Virtual Symposium under the theme "Unleashing the Techie within: Paradigms, Perspectives and Opportunities." This symposium featured several key themes and speakers. Theme 1: Dr. Jeanette Lafleur, Mark Salina, and Tricia Richardson discussed technology integration in education across Caribbean. Theme 2: Lauristan Choy explored the impact of AI tools and remote teaching on learning. Sharon Gilzene explored the issue of student engagement during COVID-19. Theme 3: Gentian Miller, Sasha Goodridge, Paula Marcelle, and Tara Smith focused on faculty engagement and fostering digital skills. Theme 4: Ephraim Muesee, Dr. Lukas Matati Josua, Kashinauua Fuasina Neshila, Paula Marcelle, and Sasha Goodridge discussed inclusive teaching and active learning with technology.

How to Create a Rubric

October 3rd, 2024

Dr. Brown highlighted the importance of clear, consistent feedback aligned with student expectations. He shares his experience using a marking rubric that ensures fairness and transparency. Dr. Brown advocates for skill-based grading over task-based, emphasizing consistency and flexibility in assessment, particularly in subjects like Mathematics.



The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching & Learning (CoETaL) in collaboration with the Educational Onlining Support Services Unit (EdOSS) presents its

INAUGURAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Unleashing the Techie within: Paradigms, Perspectives and Opportunities



Friday, October 11th, 2024 | 9:00 am to 2:30 pm | Via Zoom

Professional Development Training Sessions

Cybersecurity Awareness

October 14, 2024

This session raised cybersecurity awareness by highlighting threats like social engineering, weak passwords, and malicious USBs, while offering practical tips to protect personal data and devices.



The poster for the Cybersecurity Awareness session features a blue background with a digital, circuit-like pattern. At the top left are the University of Guyana and CoETaL logos. The text reads: "In celebration of Cybersecurity Awareness Month", "The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching & Learning (CoETaL) in collaboration with Educational Online Support Services (EdOSS) presents", "Cybersecurity Awareness: Staying Safe Online". A calendar icon indicates the date "Monday October 14, 2024", and a clock icon indicates the time "Starts at 12 pm - 1:30 pm". A photo of the presenter, Mr. Avinash Odal, is shown in a smartphone frame. Below the photo, his title is listed: "Presenter: Mr. Avinash Odal, Cybersecurity Analyst, IT Governance, Research, Innovation, and Security, Tactical Online Services (TOS) Unit". At the bottom left, a "VIA ZOOM" box is followed by the "Meeting ID: 949 9738 6369" and "Passcode: 005920".

University of Guyana
CoETaL

In celebration of Cybersecurity Awareness Month
The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching & Learning (CoETaL) in collaboration with Educational Online Support Services (EdOSS) presents

Cybersecurity Awareness: Staying Safe Online

Monday
October 14, 2024

Starts at
12 pm - 1:30 pm

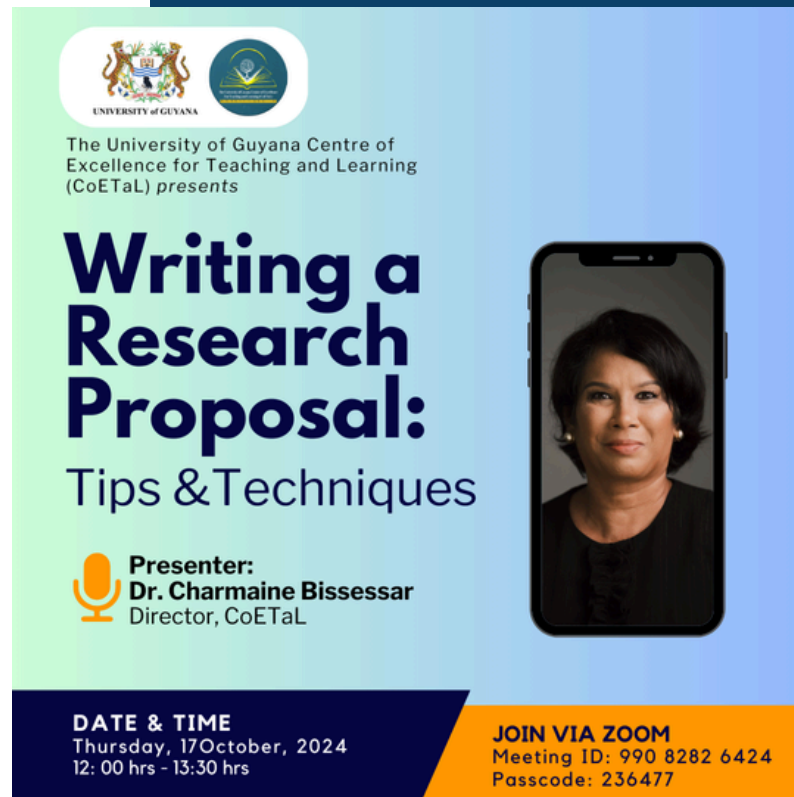
Presenter: Mr. Avinash Odal
Cybersecurity Analyst, IT Governance, Research, Innovation, and Security, Tactical Online Services (TOS) Unit

VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID: 949 9738 6369
Passcode: 005920

Writing a Research Proposal (Tips & Tricks)

October 17th, 2024

Dr. Bissessar led a valuable session on research methodology, focusing on the differences between qualitative and quantitative approaches. She clarified that surveys are typically used in quantitative research, while interviews are key in qualitative studies but emphasized that the choice depends on the research question, not just the topic. She also highlighted that a well-crafted title helps shape the research question and purpose, and she advised qualitative researchers to convert their research questions into interview questions to collect relevant data.



The poster for the Writing a Research Proposal session has a light blue background. It features the University of Guyana and CoETaL logos at the top. The text includes: "The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents", "Writing a Research Proposal: Tips & Techniques". A photo of the presenter, Dr. Charmaine Bissessar, is shown in a smartphone frame. Below the photo, her title is listed: "Presenter: Dr. Charmaine Bissessar, Director, CoETaL". At the bottom left, a "DATE & TIME" box specifies "Thursday, 17 October, 2024" and "12: 00 hrs - 13:30 hrs". At the bottom right, a "JOIN VIA ZOOM" box provides the "Meeting ID: 990 8282 6424" and "Passcode: 236477".

University of Guyana
CoETaL

The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents

Writing a Research Proposal: Tips & Techniques

Presenter:
Dr. Charmaine Bissessar
Director, CoETaL

DATE & TIME
Thursday, 17 October, 2024
12: 00 hrs - 13:30 hrs

JOIN VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID: 990 8282 6424
Passcode: 236477

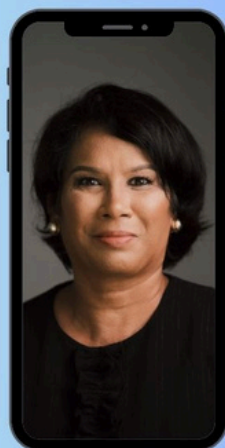


The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents

INTRODUCTION TO MOODLE:



Presenter:
Dr. Charmaine Bissessar
Director, CoETaL



DATE & TIME

Monday 20th January, 2025
12: 00 hrs - 13:30 hrs

JOIN VIA ZOOM

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/93154909727](https://zoom.us/j/93154909727)
PWD=E09NW3BKVRMB08QXYUULIUITBKAHZ.1
Meeting ID: 931 5490 9727
Passcode: 358682

Introduction to Moodle

January 20th, 2025

Dr. Bissessar led a practical session on effectively using Moodle at UG. She covered course setup, organizing weekly content, adding assignments with Turnitin for AI and plagiarism checks, and best practices for uploading materials. Emphasis was placed on user-friendly design and academic integrity. Faculty were encouraged to use tools like forums and rubrics to enhance engagement. Training materials are available for all participants.

Building Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations

January 27th, 2025

In this session, presenters shared their journey of building an interdisciplinary research team through their work on the book *Post-Secondary Chemistry Education in Developing Countries*. They began by identifying a central problem and defining clear research goals, then brought together members with diverse skills from both within and outside their disciplines. Effective collaboration was maintained through regular meetings, flexible scheduling, and shared accountability. Their experiences underscored the value of emotional intelligence, adaptability, and critical feedback in successful interdisciplinary teamwork.



The University of Guyana
Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL)
presents

BUILDING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Featuring:



Dr Jacqueline Murray



Dr Dawn Fox



Ms Medeba Uzzi



Date: Monday, 27 January, 2025.



Time: 12:00hrs



Zoom ID: 933 2362 9545
Passcode: 543461



University of Guyana's Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents

USING CHAT GPT TO CREATE CASE STUDIES



TIME: 12:00 HRS – 13:30 HRS

DATE: FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025

MEETING ID: 988 8675 4740
PASSCODE: 070178

PRESENTER: MR. BRUCE LOVELL

**LECTURER II
SEBI & IHRSSF**

Using Chat GPT to create Case Studies

February 3rd, 2025

Mr. Lovell shared his experiences using ChatGPT to create case studies for teaching strategic leadership. He emphasized the importance of crafting precise prompts and adapting AI-generated content for local contexts. Mr. Lovell also addressed concerns about students over-relying on AI, stressing the need for critical thinking and proper citation. The session highlighted the role of AI in academia, with a focus on creating clear policies for AI-generated content.

Intermediate/ Advanced Excel Manipulations

February 10th, 2025

Mr. Baksh's session covered MS Excel's Goal Seek, data analysis, and macros. He demonstrated how to adjust loan terms using Goal Seek to achieve a desired monthly payment by modifying the loan term. Mr. Baksh explained the use of statistical tests like ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis for comparing groups, and the importance of normality tests when sample sizes are small. He also covered how to automate tasks in MS. Excel using macros, such as sorting data and removing duplicates. Finally, Mr. Baksh provided guidelines for installing R software and using R Studio for advanced data analysis.



INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED MANIPULATIONS IN EXCEL

**PRESENTER:
MR. AARIF BAKSH**

Lecturer 1
Division of Natural Science,
Berbice Campus



 **Monday
February 10th, 2025**

 **12:00 hrs – 13:30 hrs**

VIA ZOOM 

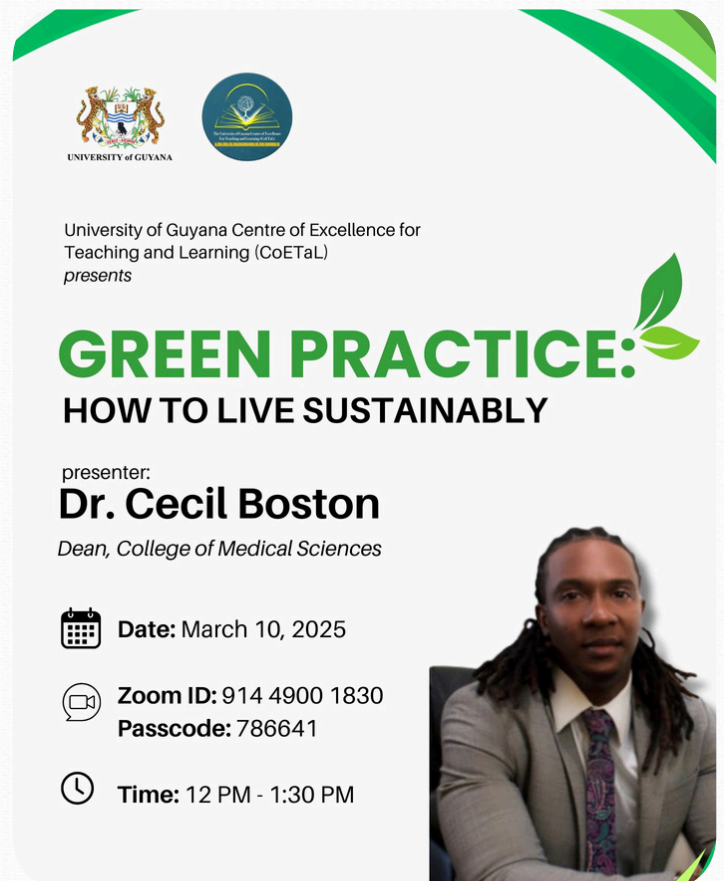
MEETING ID: 956 2009 9610
PASSCODE: 812247



Mindfulness and Meditation

February 17th, 2025

Ms. Mc Clure, led an engaging workshop on mindfulness. She explained how mindfulness goes beyond meditation. It is about being present, aware, and non-judgmental in daily life. She introduced simple techniques like grounding exercises, the RAIN method, and body awareness meditation to help manage stress and emotions. The session also tackled common myths, emphasized self-compassion, and offered resources for further mental health support.



Green Practice: How to Live Sustainably

March 10th, 2025

Dr. Boston highlighted the importance of sustainability as a balance between current needs and the well-being of future generations. He explored key concepts like renewable energy, waste reduction, eco-tourism, and sustainable transportation, especially within the Caribbean, where climate change poses major challenges. Case studies illustrated innovative solutions like recycling programs, green architecture, and electric transport. The message was clear: sustainability requires both individual action and collective responsibility.




University of Guyana
Educational Online Support Services (EdOSS)
in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence
for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL)
presents

HOW TO USE "R"

PRESENTER:
Mr. Aarif Baksh
*Lecturer I, Division of Natural Sciences,
University of Guyana, Berbice Campus*

 **Monday, April 7th, 2025**
 **12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 999 1201 3838
Passcode: 900587
[Zoom Link](#)



How to use "R"



April 7th, 2025

Mr. Baksh delivered an engaging session on using R for data analysis. He walked participants through installing R and RStudio, creating variables, analyzing datasets, and generating charts using packages like ggplot2. Topics included descriptive statistics, data frames, tables, and statistical tests such as t-tests and ANOVA. He also highlighted R Markdown for combining code and reports, and shared practical examples for hands-on learning. Follow-up sessions are planned to explore more advanced techniques.

Developing a Customer Centric Mindset

April 23rd, 2025




Ms. Hunter led a session on adopting a customer-centric approach in higher education, emphasizing the importance of meeting the needs of both internal (staff, faculty) and external (students, stakeholders) customers. She highlighted how empathy, clear communication, and service excellence can enhance loyalty, reputation, and institutional growth. The discussion also addressed the challenges of maintaining fairness and quality within the university setting.





University of Guyana Centre of Excellence
for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL)
presents

DEVELOPING A CUSTOMER-CENTRIC MINDSET

PRESENTER
Ms. Bonita Hunter
*Deputy Dean, Faculty of Education
and Humanities,
University of Guyana*


 **Date:** April 23rd, 2025
 **Meeting ID:** 956 2978 0321
Passcode: 133358
 **Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION TO HERMENEUTICS




May 12th, 2025





The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents

Introduction to Hermeneutics

Presenter:
Dr. Galicia Blackman
Educational Developer, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Mac Ewan University, Canada




 **Monday, May 12th, 2025**
 **Zoom ID: 965 7662 8929**
Password: 380862
 **Time: 12:00 hrs - 13:30hrs**




University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) presents

LEADING CURRICULUM REFORMS

PRESENTER:
Prof. Carmel Rooft
*Professor, Curriculum Studies
University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica*

 **Date: May 27th, 2025**
 **Meeting ID: 982 8395 0995**
Password: 975763
 **Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**



LEADING CURRICULUM REFORMS

May 27th, 2025



CALL FOR ABSSTRACTS

4TH BIENNIAL TEACHING CONFERENCE



The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching & Learning (CoETaL)

4TH BIENNIAL TEACHING CONFERENCE 2025: VIRTUAL

Navigating the Future of Education in a Rapidly
Changing World

Call for Abstracts

Submissions can focus on:

- ✓ Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies.
- ✓ Inclusive and Equitable Education for All;
- ✓ Mental Health and Wellbeing in Educational Settings;
- ✓ Evolving Models of Teaching and Learning;
- ✓ Evolving Leadership in Educational Settings;
- ✓ Educational Policy and Funding;
- ✓ Upskilling, deskilling, and reskilling human capital in educational settings;
- ✓ Gender Transformative Education; and
- ✓ Migration, mobility, and belonging among students and teachers.

Criteria for evaluating the abstract:

- ✓ Relevance, significance, and currency of the presentation to the theme and sub-themes;
- ✓ Theoretical and practical application of the presentation; and
- ✓ Coherence, clarity, and focus of the presentation.

Guidelines:

1. Abstract length: 200 to 300 words;
2. APA format (7th edition): Times New Roman with font size 12; and
3. The abstract should contain the title of the proposed paper, the motivation/ problem statement, the purpose of the study, the conceptual/theoretical framework used, the methodology and methods used, sampling technique used, the findings/results, conclusions/ implications/5 keywords.

Registration Fees

Early Bird	US \$100
Regular	US \$150

Important Dates

31 July, 2025

Abstract submission
deadline

15 August,
2025

Acceptance
notification

10 September,
2025

Early bird registration
fee deadline

18 & 19
September,
2025

Conference
dates

more information and submission contact us via email at coetal@uog.edu.gy

2ND VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM



The University of Guyana Centre of Excellence for Teaching & Learning (CoETaL) in
collaboration with the Educational Onlining Support Services Unit (EdOSS)

2nd Virtual Symposium

Navigating the Emerging Educational Technology Landscape

Submissions can focus on:

- ✓ AI in Education: Digital Equity and Inclusion
- ✓ Personalized Learning and Adaptive Technologies for Special Education and Differentiated Instruction
- ✓ Gamification, Virtual Reality (VR), and Augmented Reality (AR) in Education
- ✓ Cybersecurity and Data Privacy in Online Learning
- ✓ Open Educational Resources (OER) and Digital Content Creation
- ✓ The Emerging Role of Social Media in Education
- ✓ Remote and Hybrid Learning Best Practices
- ✓ Addressing Digital Burnout Among Educators and Students
- ✓ Preparing Students for the Digital Workforce

Guidelines:

- ✓ Abstract length: 200 to 300 words;
- ✓ APA format (7th edition): Times New Roman with font size 12; and
- ✓ The abstract should contain the title of the proposed paper, the motivation/ problem statement, the purpose of the study, the conceptual/theoretical framework used, the methodology and methods used, sampling technique used, the findings/results, conclusions/ implications.

Criteria for evaluating the abstract:

- ✓ Relevance, significance, and currency of the presentation to the theme and sub-themes;
- ✓ Theoretical and practical application of the presentation; and
- ✓ Coherence, clarity, and focus of the presentation.

Registration:
FREE

Important Dates

15 September,
2025

Abstract submission
deadline

20 September,
2025

Acceptance
notification

17 October,
2025

Symposium
date

For more information contact us via email at tos-edoss@uog.edu.gy



JOURNAL OUTLINE

Journal of Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning

LAUNCH OF JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Journal of Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning was developed from the presentations delivered at the Biennial Teaching Conference 2023.

It includes a selection of those presentations, and highlights the varied academic perspectives of the presenters. The journal will be launched at a date to be announced. And will be published by UG Press.



JOURNAL OUTLINE

Journal of Multidisciplinary Teaching and Learning

The Effects of COVID-19: Students and Lecturers' Perspectives

Students' Perspectives

Is Learning Really Student-Centred? The Experience of University Students studying online during the COVID-19 pandemic in Jamaica

Stephen R. Wallder & Nardia J. Brown

University of Technology, Kingston, Jamaica

stephen.wallder@utech.edu.jm and NJBrown@utech.edu.jm

COVID-19 and Assessment

Literature Review: The Impact of COVID-19 on Classroom Assessment Practices

Gerson Hakutumbulwa, Faustina Kashinaua Neshila & Tomas Shivolo

Ministry of Education, ndeutala@gmail.com

University of Namibia, Namibia, fneshila@unam.na

International University of Management, t.shivolo@ium.edu.na

Language and Literature

Translanguaging practices for effective instruction across the curriculum in Anglophone Caribbean multilingual classrooms

Hewitt-Bradshaw, Iris1, Tyson-Noel, Lynette2

1 Centre for Education Programmes, University of Trinidad and Tobago

2 Centre for Education Programmes, University of Trinidad and Tobago

1 ihewbrad@gmail.com

2 lynette.t.noel@gmail.com

Shakespeare: Social Media, Authentic Assessments, and CAPE Literatures in English

Scott Ting-A-Kee

The Bishops' High School / Caribbean Examinations Council

wutheringh1801@gmail.com

Student Learning and Teaching

The Impact of Cooperative Learning on Students' Performance in Pharmaceutical Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Guyana

Raymond Jagessar

University of Guyana

raymond.jagessar@uog.edu.gy

Impact of Social-Emotional Learning on Adolescents' Conflict Resolution Skills

Paula Smith

Independent

saltus9@yahoo.com

Student teachers' challenges in setting reinforcement assessment tasks while on SBS

Renate Olga Shikwaya and Faustina Kashinaua Neshila

University of Namibia

frshikwaya@unam.na, neshila@unam.na

Student Learning and Teaching

Addressing the Challenges of Academic Integrity in Online Assessments in higher education

Amuthenu Silohenda Hileni, Lucia Nghitotelwa and Tomas Shivolo

The International University of Management, Dorado Campus

h.amuthenu@ium.edu.na