

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING FOR GOOD

While passion and dedication is what often drives professionals and volunteers in the helping sector, it is equally as crucial to have the necessary knowledge and skills to make a meaningful impact.

In the specialised field of corrections, supporting individuals with offending histories and experiences of incarceration can sometimes present a set of unique challenges.

Recognising these obstacles and understanding how to effectively address them as individuals in the helping field is of great significance. This is where SACA plays a part.

Beyond direct work with clients, SACA also supports the aftercare sector by providing training opportunities for volunteers, professionals and community partners; with one of its more recent being a collection of e-learning courses created in collaboration with Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

From understanding the correctional landscape to counselling techniques, befriending skills, substance issues and more, the courses offered cover a

wide range of topics that are of relevance to those presently engaging with clients & families in the sector, as well as those who have future plans to.

There are a lot of factors to consider when designing a course for learners.



When asked what were some of the challenges faced, William Soh, Head of Organisational Development at SACA, shared:

“THE EASY PART IN CONTENT CREATION IS LAYING DOWN THE FACTS AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO THE TOPICS.

THE DIFFICULT PART IS BEING ABLE TO DESIGN THE CONTENT IN A WAY THAT IS SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND, SUCH THAT LEARNERS ARE ABLE TO APPLY IT IN THEIR OWN CONTEXT.

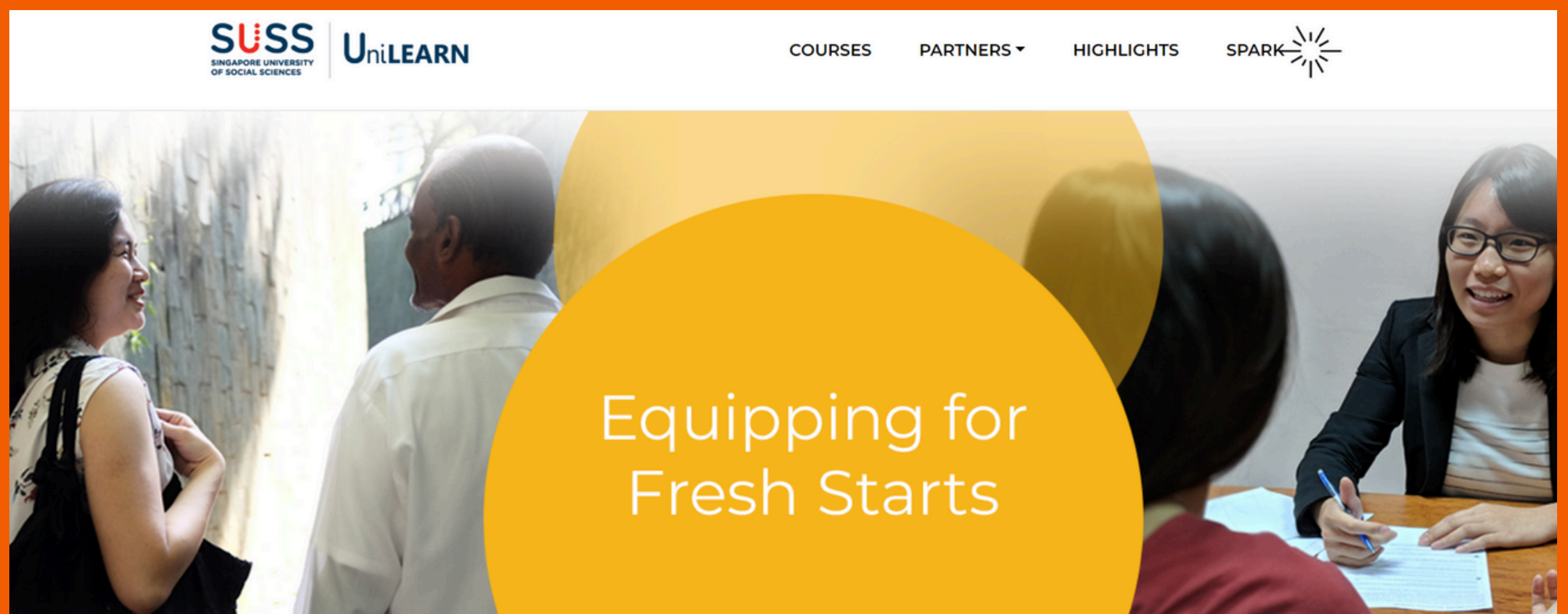
THIS IS CHALLENGING BECAUSE, UNLIKE A CLASSROOM TRAINING, LEARNERS CANNOT IMMEDIATELY CLARIFY WHEN IN DOUBT. HENCE, MUCH THOUGHT IS PUT INTO THE DESIGN TO FACILITATE LEARNING.”

The content for each course is designed in a way that is intuitive and encourages independent learning. To ensure that the content remains digestible and engaging for learners, interactive exercises, quizzes as well as videos and animations are included.

Participants are also invited to provide feedback upon completion, and offer suggestions that can improve their learning experience.

Coming up with the scope of content and learning format is only half the job. Having the right platform to host the content is an equally important component.

The courses, which were launched progressively over the last two years, are available on the SUSS UniLEARN platform, an e-learning initiative by SUSS that is focused on making a positive impact in community learning.



Associate Professor Gabriel Gervais,
Director of Online Learning at SUSS
commented:

“DRAWING ON SUSS’ EXTENSIVE EXPERTISE IN E-LEARNING, THE UNILEARN PLATFORM AIMS TO COLLABORATE WITH ALIGNED NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIAL ADVOCATES TO OFFER ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN INITIATIVES FOR THE COLLECTIVE BENEFIT.

THIS PLATFORM'S SIGNIFICANCE IN SINGAPORE LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO CENTRALISE DIVERSE DOMAIN EXPERTISE WITHIN THE SOCIAL SECTOR BY FOSTERING COLLABORATION AMONG VARIOUS SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.”

Given the platform's inherent alignment with SACA's core belief in creating positive change for the betterment of society, collaborating with SUSS was a natural decision. The platform is open and easily accessible to all within the community, regardless of experience levels.

SACA is extremely grateful towards its partners at SPS and SUSS for their contribution and support. This partnership underscores the shared commitment to driving positive change and fostering collaboration across the social service landscape, ultimately benefiting the clients and families who need help.

With more than 500 sign-ups in the last year, SACA sees more collaborations and knowledge-sharing opportunities as such in its purview, and hopes to continue playing its part in supporting the aftercare sector and the wider community.

Find out more about the list of available e-learning courses:

E-LEARNING COURSES AVAILABLE

Befriending for Reintegration:
Making Connections for a Fresh
Start

Correctional Case Management

Correctional Landscape
and Rehabilitation Approach

Counselling Practice in Institutional
and Community Corrections

Group Facilitation skills

Substance (Alcohol and
Other Drugs) Addiction

Understanding Offenders
in the Context of Family

Find out more and sign up here:
<https://www.saca.org.sg/courses>

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION



Since 1956, SACA's work has served to:

Empower ex-offenders to take ownership of their own transformation and facilitating their reintegration into society by mobilising them, their families and the public.

Foster a change in the mind-set of both ex-offenders and society to enable ex-offenders achieve their fundamental life goals and needs.

The work includes programmes such as:



CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES (CMS)

Structured mandatory programme for ex-offenders referred by Singapore Prison Service.



EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ESP)

Education and skills upgrading for ex-offenders.



VOLUNTEER AFTER-CARE PROGRAMME (VAP)

Tapping on volunteers to befriend ex-offenders and reach out to their families.



GOOD SAMARITAN REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME (GSRAS)

Hotline and walk-in support for ex-offenders.



TRAINING

Building up the capabilities of volunteers and professionals in the sector.

More on what we do [here](#).

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