

**LRC LABORATORY ORGANIZES
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON**

21st Century Skills in Higher Education

OCTOBER 25-26, 2023

**FACULTY OF ARABIC LANGUAGE,
CADI AYYAD UNIVERSITY, MARRAKECH**

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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International Conference on:

21st Century Skills in Higher Education

October 25-26, 2023

Faculty of Arabic Language

Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh

Background

The 21st century has witnessed significant changes in various aspects of people's lives, spanning communication, learning, and the economy. In today's fast-paced and competitive environment, English language learners are encouraged to embrace the four essential pillars known as the "4 Cs": communication, cooperation, critical thinking, and creativity. These skills, in addition to the traditional "3 Rs," are pivotal for success in the modern world. The 21st Century Skills movement plays a crucial role in redefining educational objectives to align with the demands of this era.

Consequently, students must acquire new skills and adapt to the characteristics of the twenty-first century, commonly referred to as "21st century skills." These skills are indispensable for students to meet the requirements and challenges of the contemporary environment. As a result, educators need to shift their focus from a content-centric approach to developing these essential skills in their learners.

It is worth highlighting that students require a fresh set of skills to navigate a complex and ever-changing future, considering the unique attributes of this new era (Craig, 2012). The literature on 21st century skills emphasizes the need for individuals to possess a diverse range of abilities to thrive in all aspects of life (Ananiadou & Claro, 2009). Kennedy, Latham, and Jacinto (2016) categorize these skills into four main domains: ways of thinking (including creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and learning), ways of working (focusing on effective communication and collaboration), tools for working (such as information and communications technology [ICT] and information literacy), and skills for living in the world (encompassing citizenship, life and career, as well as personal and social responsibility).

Incorporating 21st century skills into the classroom requires a comprehensive approach. The development of these skills within the school context presents pedagogical and evaluative challenges (Soland, Hamilton & Stecher, 2013). Therefore, careful planning is necessary to ensure successful implementation. Harmonizing the curriculum alone is insufficient; instead, a holistic strategy must encompass curriculum development, professional development opportunities, and robust assessment methods.

The primary goal of this conference is to bring together academics, researchers, students, and professionals in the field of English language education. This conference aims to facilitate the sharing and discussion of research findings, personal experiences, and theoretical and practical concerns related to teaching English to students with diverse backgrounds, skill levels, interests, and motivations.

Additionally, the conference seeks to address fundamental questions about 21st century skills: their nature, significance, and effective integration strategies.

Conference Themes and Topics

The conference is seeking submissions related to the following conference topics:

1. 21st century skills and their implementation in the English language classroom
2. Innovative trends and practices in ELT in the 21st century
3. New Pedagogies for Deep Learning initiative
4. 6 C's of Deep Learning
5. 21st Century Competencies
6. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) skills
7. Curriculum development vs. 21st-century skills
8. Virtual learning and 21st-century skills post Covid 19
9. Higher Education and 21st-century skills challenges
10. The teaching and learning of 21st century skills
11. Assessment of 21st century skills

Instructions to authors:

- The reference format of the abstract and the full paper has to conform with the APA's (American Psychological Association) Style Guide (7th Edition).

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- Language of the conference: **English**

Important deadlines:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **30 July, 2023**
- Notification of Acceptance: **15 August, 2023**
- Registration Deadline: **30 August, 2023**
- Conference Dates: **25-26 October, 2023**
- Full paper submission deadline: **15 November, 2023**
- The Conference is free of charge.

Committee Chair:

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Coordinating Committee:

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