



كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية
FACULTÉ DES LETTRÉS ET DES SCIENCES HUMAINES



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Faculty of Economics and Management in Beni Mellal,
in collaboration with
The Laboratory for Multidisciplinary Research in Economics and Management
The Research Laboratory in Literature, Language, Culture and Communication (RLLLCC),
and Laboratory of Values, Society and Development (LVSD) organizes :

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON:

TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND SOFT SKILLS: INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY AND SERVING THE WORKPLACE

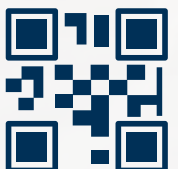


9-10 December
2024

USMS
Beni Mellal



www.usms.ac.ma



Background

In this globalized and digital world, soft skills (i.e. transversal skills), have gained a burgeoning importance on account of their countless blessings and numerous assets. Lately they roused the interest of Moroccan academics since the last reform (Pacte Esri 2030) to improve the system of higher education, which seeks to strenghten language learning, promote digital technology and teach skills required in the local and global job market. Students now undertake modules in foreign languages and soft skills from the first to the sixth semesters so that they can act both efficaciously and productively in their future jobs as the mastery of hard skills seems insufficient.

Cloaked in personal and professional ethics that assist individuals to get along with each other and navigate through difficult situations, soft skills can not only ease but also optimize social interactions in various contexts. Whether they are developed inside the family or formed outside of it, these skills appear to be the gateway to social cohesion and harmony as well as the driving force of success and positive change. Like their counterparts elsewhere, Moroccan university students are expected to put into practice a number of competencies such as resilience, self-confidence, stress/time management, creative and critical thinking, adaptability, problem-solving, etc., so as to be on the one hand successful in their academic career and polished within the wider community on the other.

Keeping in mind the claim, 'hard skills get you hired but soft skills get you promoted' (Johners, 2023), we want to see how soft skills impact upon Moroccan university students' performance by providing adequate answers to these questions: What is meant by Soft Skills? How can students nowadays acquire and apply soft skills? Are soft skills teachable like hard skills? Which assets do soft skills offer to Moroccan graduates aspiring to access the workplace? What roles do soft skills play in the time of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Are there any effecient theories and relevant methodologies that may raise our awareness about soft skills? When do soft skills become a must and not a luxury?

Along with soft skills, foreign languages are also deemed prerequisites for the better enhancement of students' interpersonal communication skills because the latter skills help them establish meaningful relationships with others; so what challenges do students encounter in the learning of foreign languages? To what extent does Rosetta platform engage students and ease the transfer of knowledge about foreign languages? Which AI tools proved more helpful in the promotion of language skills such as reading and writing?

In light of these aforementioned questions and considerations, we are pleased to announce the call for papers for this international conference which aims to bring together researchers, scholars and practitioners to reflect upon and critically engage in academic debates about the teaching/learning of both soft skills and foreign languages in Moroccan higher education. Participants are encouraged to submit papers that address, but are not necessarily limited to, the following issues:

- Trends in Soft Skills and Foreign Language Teaching
- Innovative Methods of Teaching and Learning
- Soft Skills' Development in Higher Education
- Successful Teaching Practices and Experiences
- Technology and the Language Classroom (Rosetta Stone)
- Soft Skills, Foreign Language and Employability
- Modern vs. Traditional Instruction
- New Perspectives in Critical Thinking
- Creative Pedagogies
- Vocational Education and Training
- Artificial Intelligence and 21st Learners
- The Art of Evaluation and Assessment
- Project and Inquiry-based Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Learners' Well-being in Academic Settings
- Effective Performance in the Workplace
- Leadership Mindset
- Enhanced Marketability
- Marketing and Ethics in Global Business

Submission Guidelines:



- Proposals for papers should consist of a title, an abstract (limited to 250 words in length), key words. Individual paper sessions will be 15 minutes.
- Selected papers will be published in an edited book by a prestigious publisher and contributors will be notified in due time.

Conference Coordinators



- Dr. Mohamed Jallal El Adnani
- Dr. Abderrahim Ait Abdeslam
- Dr. Rachid Acim



Organizing Committee

- Dr. Mohamed Jallal El Adnani, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Abderrahim Ait Abdeslam, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Rachid Acim, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir
- Dr. Loubna El-liazidi, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Fatima Touhami, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Toufik Badad, Sultan Moulay Slimane University

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- Dr.Fatima Touhami, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
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- Dr.Radouane Koundi, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr .Rim Marah, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr.Salahddine Salhi, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Soukaina Boutaky, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr.Mustapha Razzouki, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Naima Idouaarabe, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Wissam Bitari, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech
- Dr. Smail Kerouad, Sultan Moulay Smail University, Meknes;
- Dr. Youssef Tamer, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir
- Dr. Limame Barbouchi, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir
- Dr. Mohamed Yachoulti, Sultan Moulay Smail University, Meknes
- Dr. Mohamed El Mesaoudi, Sultan Moulay Smail University, Meknes
- Dr. Youssra Kadi, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal
- Dr. Abdellah El Boubkri Mohamed I university, Oujda

Things to Consider

Conference venue:

- Faculty of Economics and Management, Beni Mellal, Morocco

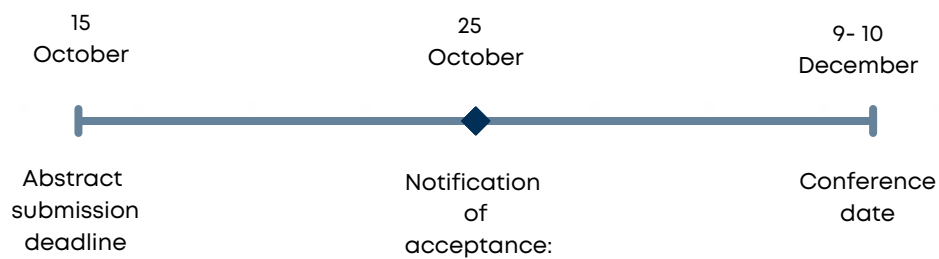


Accommodation:

- Information about hotels will be made available after acceptance notification.



Important Dates:



We remain available at :
softskillslanguages@gmail.com