Teaching Statement

Dr. Dinh Duc Nha Nguyen (Tony)

Throughout my academic career, teaching has been a deeply fulfilling aspect of my work. I have had the privilege of teaching several cybersecurity courses at Deakin University, where I have demonstrated a commitment to delivering an engaging, dynamic, and student-centred learning experience. My teaching philosophy is shaped by the need to empower students with not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills that they can directly apply in real-world settings. I firmly believe that effective teaching stems from a holistic understanding of the subject matter, an appreciation of diverse learning styles, and a commitment to fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and professional development.

Teaching Philosophy and Approach

My teaching philosophy is centred around creating an inclusive and supportive environment where all students feel empowered to explore, question, and understand complex cybersecurity concepts. I believe in promoting active learning through discussions, hands-on exercises, and real-life case studies that help students apply theoretical knowledge to practical problems.

In the courses I have taught—Cyber Security Management, Cyber Security Analytics, and Advanced Network Security—I place a strong emphasis on bridging the gap between theory and practice. Cybersecurity is a rapidly evolving field, and students must be equipped not only with foundational knowledge but also with the agility to adapt to new challenges. For example, in Advanced Network Security, I incorporated discussions on emerging technologies like Software Defined Networks (SDN), Internet of Things (IoT), and AI-driven networks. This ensures that students are prepared for the current and future demands of the industry.

Similarly, my role as a tutor in Cyber Security Analytics focused heavily on equipping students with practical data analysis skills. By guiding students through complex data sets and using real-world cybersecurity problems, I helped them build proficiency in analytical methodologies that are crucial in today's data-driven cybersecurity landscape. I always strive to integrate technical skill-building with problem-solving exercises, which reinforces a deep understanding of the subject matter while providing students with tools they will use in their careers.

Commitment to Student Success and Feedback

A key aspect of my teaching practice is my focus on student-centred learning, where students' feedback plays a vital role in shaping the course delivery. I have consistently received outstanding feedback from my students, achieving 100% satisfaction rates in Cyber Security Management and Cyber Security Analytics. These results reflect my dedication to creating a positive learning environment where students are encouraged to actively participate and engage with the material.

To foster student success, I maintain open lines of communication both inside and outside the classroom. I make myself available for one-on-one consultations to address any academic or personal challenges that students may face. By creating an environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and seeking guidance, I am able to address individual learning needs more effectively.

In addition, I incorporate real-time feedback into my teaching process, using student suggestions to improve course content and delivery. For instance, during Cyber Security Management, I adapted my teaching style to offer more practical examples and interactive case studies, responding to students' requests for more applied learning. This not only increased engagement but also allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the cybersecurity management strategies relevant to contemporary business environments.

Diverse Teaching Settings and Methods

Over the course of my teaching experience, I have honed my ability to adapt to various teaching settings, including traditional classrooms, online platforms, and practical labs. The transition between these different formats has allowed me to refine my teaching strategies to meet the needs of diverse student groups. In my experience with online teaching, I have employed a variety of multimedia tools to engage students, from video lectures and interactive quizzes to group discussions in virtual breakout rooms. This flexibility ensures that students, regardless of their learning style, can engage with the course material effectively.

For instance, in Cyber Security Analytics, I combined traditional lectures with coding workshops where students used Python to develop data analysis scripts. This hands-on experience was critical in helping students develop the practical skills necessary to analyse security issues in a professional context. My ability to navigate various teaching platforms ensures that students can thrive whether they are learning in person or remotely.

Mentorship

Mentoring and supervising higher-degree research students has been an integral and rewarding aspect of my academic career. I have had the opportunity to guide students through various stages of their academic journeys, helping them navigate research challenges and develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. My mentorship approach focuses on creating a supportive environment where students feel encouraged to explore new ideas and contribute meaningfully to their fields.

One of my notable achievements in mentorship includes guiding a master's student in successfully publishing a book chapter, which was accepted by Elsevier. I have also collaborated with PhD students on research projects that have led to joint publications. By offering guidance on research methodologies, refining research questions, and providing constructive feedback, I aim to help students achieve their academic and professional goals. These mentoring experiences have strengthened my ability to supervise and inspire the next generation of researchers.

Continuous Development and Future Aspirations

As a teacher, I am committed to continuous improvement in both my subject knowledge and teaching techniques. I regularly update my course materials to reflect the latest developments in cybersecurity, ensuring that students are exposed to cutting-edge technologies like 5G networks, Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), and AI-driven solutions.

Looking forward, I aim to continue refining my teaching methods to support students in developing interdisciplinary skills that go beyond the traditional boundaries of cybersecurity. I am particularly interested in incorporating more project-based learning opportunities where students work in teams to solve real-world security problems, giving them a collaborative experience that mirrors professional practice.

In summary, my teaching philosophy is grounded in a commitment to student success, practical skill development, and continuous learning. I strive to create an engaging, supportive, and inclusive environment where students can thrive academically and professionally, and I look forward to further contributing to the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.