



Scalabrini
Centre of Cape Town

UPEARN (FORMALLY BASP)

IMPACT REPORT 2019





UPLEARN HAS GONE FROM 20% TO 58% OF ITS STUDENTS ON TRACK TO GRADUATE IN TIME



The UpLearn Programme (formally BASP), launched in 2018, works in partnership with the non-profit Southern New Hampshire University to support 150 migrants and refugees to obtain fully accredited competency-based Associates and Bachelor's degrees at no cost to the students. The degrees offered include; Communications, Management, and Healthcare Management.

UpLearn is a part of the Global Education Movement (GEM) launched by SNHU in 2018 – 2019 in four different countries; South Africa, Malawi, Kenya, and Lebanon. The project is grounded in SNHU's pioneering work with vulnerable learners and refugees in Rwanda. Based on this model the University has partnered with Scalabrini to facilitate the delivery of a blended learning programme. Together we address the reality that worldwide there are more than 65 million refugees and others displaced peoples and only 1% have access to higher education. The objective of the initiative is to give those who may be prohibited from accessing higher education by financial or legal barriers an opportunity to live lives of choice by empowering themselves through education.

OVERVIEW

UpLearn facilitates and supports the successful online learning of its students through a comprehensive support system which includes: a pre-degree programme that offers Academic English and Digital Literacy training, a lab space for students to work in, printed resources, in lab academic assistance, case by case welfare support, interactive teaching seminars, one on one coaching, internship placement support, and professional development workshops.

In 2019 the UpLearn team has focused on ensuring that each of its students are on track to graduate within the bursary period. To this end, UpLearn has developed a comprehensive predominantly peer to peer coaching model that seeks to support students to become self-regulated learners able to navigate academic challenges as well the everyday challenges associated with living as a refugee or migrant in South Africa. UpLearn has also developed an interactive skills focused teaching methodology used in the design of full day workshops that teach the content and core skills of the full Associate degree. This curriculum is delivered through a monthly teaching cycle that aligns with individualised student targets.

In order to provide Healthcare Management students with learning opportunities outside of the classroom, UpLearn also launched an internal, project management-based internship in 2019. Lasting six months, this internship allowed eight students in teams of two to practice a variety of skills that mirror those necessary for an external internship or entry-level position. The internship focused on efforts around health promotion using the University of CapeTown's (UCT) body mapping curriculum. The interns were responsible for identifying populations who would greatly benefit from receiving the body mapping training, modifying the UCT body mapping curriculum, coordinating and scheduling the body mapping training location and times as well as delivering the training..

HIGHLIGHTS

- Through creating new policies that align teaching and coaching to monthly individualised student targets, UpLearn has gone from 20% to 58% of its students on track to graduate in time. Each month this percentage increases so we predict that the remaining 42% will become on track over the next two years and before the bursary period expires.
- 51 UpLearn students have completed internships in various sectors. Another 28 students are currently completing internships or have been placed in internships taking place in 2020.
- 49 UpLearn students graduated with an Associate's Degree in General Studies and 1 student graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Management.
- In May UpLearn ran a beautiful graduation ceremony for its first 25 graduates followed by an event that showcased student artists' talent. These events were attended by the GEM team as well as the SNHU president and members of the University board.
- In February UpLearn hosted a very successful GEM partner retreat that focused on future expansion.
- In October the UpLearn team attended an extremely informative and motivating GEM partner retreat in Lebanon where the team were able to connect with two Lebanese partners that are doing incredible work in refugee education.
- UpLearn was able to secure significant funding from SNHU to provide laptops for every qualifying UpLearn student. 83% of UpLearn students applied for and received a laptop in 2019.

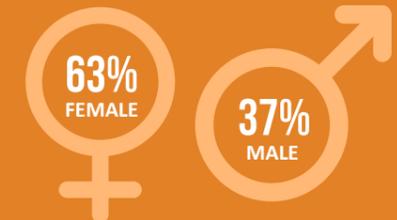
FUTURE PLANS

In 2020 UpLearn will continue to deliver high quality, skills-based academic seminars in the first week of every month in order to equip students to be able to meet monthly academic goals. We also plan to build-out the Bachelor's degree seminars to include both skills related to the degree content as well as professional development skills that can serve students in the workplace. In order to supplement the academic arm of our programme, UpLearn will launch a variety of initiatives such as the professional development workshop series, enrichment workshops and activities, a structured in-person tutoring service, peer facilitated support groups, BA qualifying panel reviews, English club and advanced digital literacy trainings.

STATISTICS

150 Total number of students in UpLearn

GENDER



STUDENT ORIGINS



- ANGOLA
- BOTSWANA
- BURUNDI
- KENYA
- MALAWI
- RWANDA
- SOMALIA
- UGANDA
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE
- SOUTH AFRICA
- CONGO BRAZZAVILLE
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

INTERNSHIPS

51 STUDENTS COMPLETED INTERNSHIPS IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

Another 28 students are currently completing internships or have been placed in internships taking place in 2020.

GRADUATES

49 graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies and Healthcare Management.

1 student graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management with a concentration in Logistics and Operations.

SUCCESS STORIES

AN EDUCATION FINALLY WITHIN REACH WITH UPLEARN

Donatha's dream is to give back to her community. To do this, she wants to hold specific qualifications – qualifications that were cut short by a long migration across Africa to Cape Town. Upon arriving, Donatha was determined to continue her university education, and finally found a lucky spot at UpLearn, through the help of a stranger. She dreams of using her Healthcare Management degree to help give back to the community in any way that she can.

University woes

For Donatha, the biggest challenge upon arriving in South Africa was not being able to continue her university studies. "I applied for three years to do my postgraduate. I even applied to start my undergraduate all over again, but I couldn't get the chance."

Through a friend, Donatha heard about UpLearn and immediately made her way to Scalabrini. Like an army of old ants crawling into familiar holes, her elation quickly turned to heartbreak when she was told that UpLearn was full and were no longer accepting new students. But, thanks to a woman at the train station, it didn't last. "As I was going back to the train station, I met a wonderful woman who became my friend, she told me about Women's Platform. I turned straight around, went back to Scalabrini and registered with Asha to start Personal Development."

Pursuing Passions

"After getting into Women's Platform they really helped me all the way through to the UpLearn programme." Back in Rwanda, Donatha was a midwife and worked in community outreach. "I worked closely with my community and I loved it." She chose to do a Healthcare degree through UpLearn as it would enable her to carry on the work that she loved.

After completing the PD course with Women's Platform, Donatha became a facilitator herself while continuing her studies. "Being able to help fellow women was a dream come true, I am all about women's empowerment." Donatha had finally found the space to build her life; personally, professionally and emotionally. "I developed myself in a way that I didn't know I could."

Finding Purpose Again

"When I got accepted to the UpLearn programme, it saved my life and gave me hope again. It had been a long time that I had been trying to go back to school and I couldn't do it, but Scalabrini made me whole again."

Finding her safe haven has allowed Donatha's journey to come full circle. "Now I am working at Scalabrini as the Facilities Assistant. I couldn't have imagined it in a million years." As the Facilities Assistant, Donatha helps keep the office running smoothly. She sees her position as another opportunity to contribute to hope and change.

Even though she is working, she has no plans to stop with her education. "I plan to continue my studies and continue to grow and give back to my community, to be able to help change someone's life like mine has been changed. When I first came to Cape Town I started feeling like an outsider, like I didn't matter as a human being. Now I feel hopeful, I've found my purpose again after such a long time."



WHEN I GOT ACCEPTED TO THE UPLEARN PROGRAMME, IT SAVED MY LIFE AND GAVE ME HOPE AGAIN.



The centre is registered with the South African Department of Social Development as a non-profit organisation (021-079 NPO), as a youth and child care centre (C7569) and as a Public Benefit Organisation with the South African Revenue Services (930012808) and governed by a Trust (IT2746/2006).
Auditors: CAP Chartered Accountants.

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