

# SEBAH AL-ALI

Email: [sebahalali@gmail.com](mailto:sebahalali@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.sebahalali.com](http://www.sebahalali.com)  
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/sebahalali](https://linkedin.com/in/sebahalali)

**PhD. Researcher. Learning Designer. Teacher Trainer. Academic Writing Teacher.**

## SUMMARY

My superpowers include: designing/delivering training courses and programs, collaborating with educators and policymakers on groundbreaking projects, and nurturing students' academic writing and research skills. I'm always eager to collaborate on research projects, especially in higher education, artificial intelligence for education, technology-enhanced learning, training and development, and research literacy.

**Areas of expertise:** educational research, teacher training, learning and development, learner engagement, technology-enhanced learning, academic writing, research design, research methods, learning design, curriculum development

## EDUCATION

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>PhD</b> in E-Research and Technology Enhanced Learning<br><i>Lancaster University</i><br><b>Thesis:</b> "Teaching during a pandemic: A cultural-historical activity theory analysis"  | <b>2017 – 2022</b><br>UK  |
| <b>MA</b> in Teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL)<br><i>American University of Sharjah</i><br><b>Thesis:</b> "Understanding teachers' and students' use and attitudes of Web 2.0 in ESL classrooms at the American University of Sharjah" | <b>2008 – 2010</b><br>UAE |
| <b>BA</b> in English language<br><i>American University of Sharjah</i>   | <b>2004 – 2008</b><br>UAE |

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE —most recent

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Associate Editor</b><br><i>Studies in Technology Enhanced Learning</i> (ISSN 2753-2380)<br><b>Link:</b> <a href="http://stel.pubpub.org/about">stel.pubpub.org/about</a>   | <b>2022 – Present</b> |
| <b>Special Issue Editor</b><br>Issue 1.2: Technology enhanced learning in the MENA region<br><i>Studies in Technology Enhanced Learning</i> (ISSN 2753-2380)<br><b>Link:</b> <a href="http://stel.pubpub.org/vol-01-issue-02">stel.pubpub.org/vol-01-issue-02</a> | <b>2020 – 2021</b>    |

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Instructor** — General studies

*Higher Colleges of Technology*

**2014 - Present**

Sharjah, UAE

**Courses taught:** “Basic research methods”, “Professional communication”, and “English communication”

**Tasks include:**

- Served as the Course Team Leader for a new course
- Served on committees for curriculum development
- Developed and delivered in-house workshops and presentations to faculty and management, system-wide about theory, research and edtech
- Moderated and wrote test items for system-wide assessments
- Created teaching and learning materials for different courses
- Utilized the latest technology in creative ways to further engage students
- Designed and managed a department (system-wide) blog —[link](#)

**Awards:**

- Director’s Award (for faculty)
- Certificate for excellence in inspiring creativity

**Adjunct Faculty** — Foundations

*Higher Colleges of Technology*

**2013 - 2014**

Sharjah, UAE

**ESL Instructor** — English Language Institute

*American University in the Emirates*

**2012 - 2013**

Dubai, UAE

**Courses taught:** “Writing research”, “IELTS preparation” and “TOEFL preparation”.

**ESL Lecturer** — College Preparation Program

*Dar Al-Hekma University*

**2010 - 2012**

Jeddah, KSA

**Courses taught:** “Writing”, “Study skills”, and “Listening and speaking”.

---

## PROJECTS —most recent

### • How do I pass IELTS

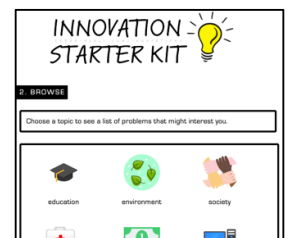
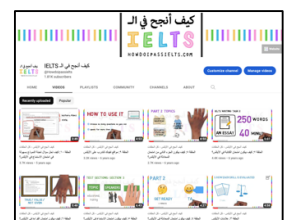
a project on how to pass IELTS, targeting Arabic-speakers. I took care of planning and creating the content. I designed the videos and the YouTube Channel.

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/c/HowDoIPassIELTS](https://youtube.com/c/HowDoIPassIELTS)

### • Innovation Starter Kit

A project I created to introduce students to the concept of innovation, and then provide them with problems in different fields or areas that they might want to address with an innovative solution

**Website:** [sebah-alali.com/innovation](https://sebah-alali.com/innovation)



...and others listed here: [sebah-alali.com/i-create](https://sebah-alali.com/i-create)

---

## PUBLICATIONS —most recent

Miles, R., **Al-Ali, S.**, Charles, T., Hill, C., & Bligh, B. (2021). Technology enhanced learning in the MENA region: Introduction to the Special Issue. *Studies in Technology Enhanced Learning*, 1(2).

**Al-Ali, S.** (2020). Can Social Media Use Predict Intercultural Knowledge, Attitude, and Skills Among Generation Z? A snapshot from a pre-COVID19 era. *The Journal of Social Media for Learning*, 1(1).

**Al-Ali, S.** (2020). Activity systems analysis: A maze worth exploring. *Studies in Technology Enhanced Learning*, 1(1).

**Al-Ali, S.**, & Ahmed, A. (2015). E-textbooks in ESL classrooms: are learners on board?. *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education: Gulf Perspectives*, 12(1).

**Al-Ali, S.** (2014). Embracing the selfie craze: Exploring the possible use of Instagram as a language mLearning tool. *Issues and Trends in Educational Technology*, 2(2).

---

## WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS I DESIGNED & DELIVERED —most recent

- **Using ChatGPT in Higher Education**, a course I co-offered with Dr. Miles to HCT faculty **April 2023**
- **Interacting with ChatGPT effectively**, a workshop I offered to HCT faculty **March 2023**
- **ChatGPT for HCT teachers**, co-presented with Basel Badran to HCT faculty **February 2023**
- **5 things I wish I knew about research**, presented to HCT faculty **April 2022**
- **Online learning strategies**, presented to HCT faculty **April 2021**
- **Activity systems model for instructional environments**, presented at IAFOR, London **July 2019**
- **Avoiding cognitive load**, presented at TESOL Arabia, Dubai **March 2019**
- **Using Self-Directed Professional Learning to Cope with Technology-Driven Changes in Academia**, presented at University of Worcester PG Conference, Worcester **October 2018**
- **Using videos as instructional tools: Exploring current practices at an HE institute in the UAE**, presented at the 2nd General Education Conference, Abu Dhabi **October 2017**
- **Empowering low achievers with videos**, presented at JESS Digital Innovation Summit 2017, Dubai **October 2017**
- **Using Cell Phones as Learning Assistants in Foreign Language Classrooms**, presented at The European Conference on Language Learning 2017, Brighton **July 2017**

.... and many more here: [sebah-alali.com/i-share](https://sebah-alali.com/i-share). I've been presenting at least once a year since 2010.

---

## CERTIFICATIONS

- Apple Distinguished Educator 2015—present
- Microsoft Fellow Faculty 2015—present

---

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT —most recent

- **Fundamentals of Digital Teaching and Learning** from BlackBoard Academy 2023
- **Digital marketing: Foundations & framework** from Harvard University 2021
- **Learning and memory in the brain** from University of Cambridge 2020

.... and many more conferences, workshops and online courses.

---

## MEMBERSHIPS

- The British Educational Research Association (BERA) 2019—present

---

## TECHNICAL SKILLS —most relevant

- **Learning design expertise include:** Nearpod, BookWidgets, Microsoft Teams, BlackBoard, SoftChalk, Kahoot, Quizziz, Quizlet, EdPuzzle, Quizalize, and many other tools
- **Coding expertise include:** PHP, CSS, HTML, Wordpress, JavaScript, Python, MySQL, and Swift
- **Digital marketing expertise include:** SEO, paid search, social media campaigns, email campaigns, display banners, and web design optimization
- **Media and publishing expertise include:** Final Cut Pro, iMovie, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Audition, Camtasia, Windows Movie Maker, and many others
- **Teaching skills:** course and program development, curriculum planning, materials/curriculum development, assessment writing and moderation, differentiated instruction, self-guided/independent learning, and many others