

Chandigarh University launches five AI-driven multidisciplinary pathways with Coursera



Industry
Higher Education



Location
India



Size
15,000–50,000
learners



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Coursera has become a strategic bridge connecting our learners and faculty to the world's best universities, industry leaders, and emerging knowledge ecosystems.



Raghuveer VR
Pro Vice-Chancellor

Overview

As artificial intelligence and digital technologies rapidly reshaped industry expectations, traditional curriculum revision alone could not keep pace. Chandigarh University recognized the need to close this gap and meet emerging workforce demands. Students needed practical, industry-relevant skills that complemented academic learning, while faculty required new capabilities to deliver AI-enabled, future-focused education.

To address these challenges, Chandigarh University partnered with Coursera to build a university-wide learning ecosystem centered on employability, interdisciplinary education, faculty development, and lifelong learning. Rather than positioning Coursera as a supplemental platform, the university embedded it across academic pathways, project frameworks, and open electives. This integration extended to faculty development as well, creating a scalable model for continuous skills transformation.

The challenge

The university sought to bridge the gap between academic curricula and rapidly changing industry expectations. This gap touched every level of the university, from individual classrooms to campus-wide planning.

Students increasingly needed competencies in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, data science, product development, digital transformation, and emerging technologies that evolved faster than formal curriculum updates. Faculty also required structured opportunities to strengthen AI literacy, instructional innovation, research capability, and industry awareness. Meeting these needs required more than occasional training and called for an ongoing, adaptable approach to learning.

Chandigarh University needed a flexible learning model that could personalize development, accelerate curriculum innovation, and connect learning directly to projects, research, employability, and entrepreneurship.

Snapshot

700+

students completed Project Gap Learning pathways that strengthened project execution and workforce-ready skills

500+

faculty members completed personalized development pathways in AI, digital transformation, leadership, and innovative pedagogy

5

multidisciplinary minors and specialization pathways introduced to prepare students for emerging AI-enabled careers

The solution

Chandigarh University embedded Coursera throughout its academic ecosystem. This meant weaving Coursera into daily academic life rather than treating it as an add-on resource. From day one, the goal was to make learning part of everyday academic routines, not a separate task.

For students, this took many forms. Students accessed curated learning pathways aligned with employability, research, entrepreneurship, project work, multidisciplinary minors, and emerging career roles. Coursera Course Builder, Professional Certificates, Skills Dashboards, AI Coach, Role Play, Hands-on Labs, and customized learning pathways supported personalized learning. These tools also allowed faculty to integrate global content into flipped classrooms, project-based learning, and purpose-driven electives. This approach gave students flexibility in how and when they built new skills.

Faculty received similar support, tailored to their own roles on campus. They participated in the Personalized Faculty Development Program (PFDP), pursuing tailored learning aligned with teaching, research, leadership, curriculum innovation, and AI adoption. This gave each faculty member a say in shaping their own growth. The Coursera Ambassadors Network, Project Gap Learning model, and student learning communities reinforced engagement while connecting learning directly to academic and career outcomes. Together, these efforts connected classroom teaching, faculty growth, and student outcomes into one continuous process.

The results

Chandigarh University transformed Coursera into a strategic capability-building platform that strengthened student employability, faculty innovation, and curriculum modernization.

One of the university's most significant innovations was **Project Gap Learning**. This model enabled students to rapidly acquire the skills needed to complete Entry-Level, Mid-Level, Capstone, Research, and Innovation Projects. Over the past two academic years, **700+ students** completed targeted learning pathways in artificial intelligence, data science, cloud computing, product development, and domain technologies. They then applied those skills directly to project outcomes. Faculty evaluations, project assessments, learner portfolios, and Coursera analytics demonstrated stronger project quality, innovation, and practical problem-solving.

Faculty transformation was equally significant. More than **500 faculty members** completed personalized development pathways through PFDP, strengthening capabilities in AI, digital transformation, innovative pedagogy, sustainability, and leadership. Rather than relying on standardized professional development, faculty selected learning aligned with their academic responsibilities and future curriculum needs. This flexibility enabled faster adoption of AI-enabled teaching practices and new specialization pathways.

The initiative also accelerated curriculum innovation. Using insights from Coursera's skills intelligence, Chandigarh University introduced **five multidisciplinary minors and specialization pathways**. These included AI for Core Engineering Disciplines, AI in Business, Autonomous Mobility, Electric Vehicles, and Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence. These new pathways expanded opportunities for students to combine disciplinary expertise with emerging technologies while preparing for future workforce demands.

Perhaps the most important outcome has been a cultural shift. Students increasingly view learning not as a requirement for earning a degree, but as a continuous process of building competencies and strengthening portfolios. This process also includes solving real-world problems and preparing for careers that will continue to evolve throughout their professional lives.

As Chandigarh University continues expanding AI-enabled education, project-based learning, and multidisciplinary pathways, Coursera remains a strategic partner. Together, they are helping the institution prepare graduates and faculty for the rapidly changing future of work.

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The result is a graduate who possesses not only academic knowledge but also the demonstrated competencies, practical experience, and professional credibility increasingly sought by employers in the age of AI and digital transformation.



Raghuvveer VR
Pro Vice-Chancellor



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Build AI-ready graduates

Connect global learning with degree pathways.

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