

StarSpecial

EDUCATION GUIDE

Thrive in the business scene

IT goes without saying that Industrial Revolution 4.0 is playing a key role in reshaping the way business and finance work.

First City University College through its Faculty of Business, Hospitality and Communication (FBHC) has offered industry-relevant study programmes for over 30 years, producing graduates capable of contributing fresh and innovative ideas to the workplace.

Besides being taught by a team of qualified lecturers, all FBHC students will undergo an Industrial Training module to acclimatise to the real-life challenges of the workplace.

BA (Hons) Marketing

This three-year programme aims to train students to formulate marketing plans, craft marketing strategies and manage customer relations in a challenging and socially networked environment.

During their studies, students are encouraged to apply for a student-level membership with the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) – membership is offered at a discounted rate, and they will gain access to a host of insightful marketing-related resources.

Graduates are expected to be capable of using communication and information technology effectively for business as well as

to devise innovative marketing strategies.

BA (Hons) Business Management

This three-year programme exposes students to a broad spectrum of knowledge touching on business management, marketing, accounting and finance. Overall, students will become familiar with contemporary business issues such as globalisation and sustainability.

Similar to the Marketing bachelor's degree programme, students may apply for a student membership with CIM.

BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance

This three year-long programme aims to inculcate students' personal attributes, professional, interpersonal skills and ethical standards to meet the needs of the business and public sectors.

Students will be exposed to a wide range of programme modules. In their third year, they will be offered a number of elective modules that will provide deeper insights into Malaysia's finance sector.

Graduates will easily gain recognition from professional bodies such as CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants).



First City UC's Business and Finance graduates are not only familiar with the theoretical aspect of their respective fields, but are also able to demonstrate the necessary soft skills to thrive in their workplaces. (Graduation class of 2019)

Meanwhile, those who wish to obtain the Association of Chartered Accountants (ACCA) qualification will be eligible to receive up to nine paper exemptions.

Student testimonials

Marketing alumnus and first class honours recipient Lee Tuck Cheng praises the programme for successfully striking a balance between the theoretical and practical aspects of the curriculum.

Lee is grateful for the ample opportunities to implement various marketing strategies during his Industrial Training module, which has proven valuable in his career.

Meanwhile, Accounting and Finance alumnus Phang Mun Hong credits the programme for a strong foundation in understanding finan-

cial principles. Learning about real-life case studies further develop his critical thinking skills, which in turn prepared him for a career in banking.

"My studies prepared me for the challenges of being a relationship manager, which entails providing a variety of banking solutions to high-profile companies," he said.

Campus learning facilities and financial assistance

First City UC's eco-friendly campus is equipped with state-of-the-art learning and recreational facilities along with on-campus accommodation with attached bathrooms.

Students may take a 360° virtual tour via <http://virtualx.my/360projects/firstcity-edu/>

Prospective bachelor's degree students should enrol quickly in the February 2021 intake to ensure that they will be among the first 100 students entitled for attractive financial assistance and scholarships.

Graduates are encouraged to continue with postgraduate studies with an attractive alumni rate.

Students can apply for a wide range of scholarships and financial assistance such as the First City Merit Scholarship, UEC Scholarship, Sports Scholarship, Sibling and Alumni Incentive as well as the School Teacher's Children Incentive.

■ For more details, contact the marketing hotline at 017-660 6680 or chat with marketing staff during First City UC's Virtual Open Days.

Financial assistance for bright young minds

THE unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has unleashed an adverse financial impact on many Malaysians. Scores of school-leavers now face uncertainty over their higher education plans given their parents' financial constraints.

Realising the gravity of this situation, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) offers various kinds of financial aid for students.

First off is TAR UC's Prihatin Flexi Payment Plan, which was recently introduced. It aims to bring financial relief to students by providing greater flexibility with the first semester fees payment, where students only make an initial payment of RM263 in order to begin their tertiary education at TAR UC.

The balance of the fees will be paid by instalment up to week five or nine of study, depending on the intake.

This plan targets students who have received an offer of admission for Foundation, Diploma and bachelor's degree programmes for the May/June/September/November 2021 intakes.

For Foundation students for the May/September 2021 intakes, they have the flexibility to pay all the semester fees in instalments as they are not eligible for PTPTN.

In addition, underprivileged students can obtain financial assistance via the TAR UC Student Loan Fund.

To date, there are 42 interest-free revolving student loan funds which qualified students can apply for, with the loan



Lee, who is active in some of TAR UC's activities, has benefited from the financial assistance provided by TAR UC to pursue his studies.

covering the entirety of the recipient's tuition fees.

Since its inception in 1979, a total of 13,293 loan awards amounting to RM43mil have been disbursed. There are also various scholarships/bursaries available, including

“

When the TAR UC-Jinbodhi Bursary came along, I felt that I had been given a second chance in life.

Lee Rong Cherng

”

The Star Education Fund, Sin Chew Daily Education Fund, Nanyang Tertiary Education Fund, TAR UC – TAA Scholarship, TAR UC – TAA Scholarship (Top Glove), TAR UC-Jinbodhi Bursary, TAR UC Sports Scholarship and Bursary for State/National Players.

There are also many other external scholarships and grants provided by corporations and philanthropic organisations to help deserving TAR UC students such as the Kuok Foundation Study Grants, OSK Foundation Scholarship, CIMB Asean Scholarship and Lion-Parkson Foundation Scholarship.

High-achieving students can benefit from the TAR UC Merit Scholarship, which automatically awards a partial to full waiver of tuition fees based on academic merit.

Since 1997, 26,366 students have had been awarded the merit scholarship amounting to approximately RM138mil.

TAR UC also offers a variety of financial incentives such as the sibling discount as additional support for parents who have two or more children studying at TAR UC.

Under the sibling discount, students registering for the first time and with sibling(s) who are full fee-paying student(s) in the same semester may be eligible for a discount of RM1,000 off their first semester tuition fee.

Among the many recipients of TAR UC's financial assistance is Lee Rong Cherng, a Bachelor of Quantity Surveying (Hons) student who comes from a single-parent family.

"My mum was the only breadwinner and earned a salary of RM2,000 per month. Besides me, there were two other siblings to look after.

"Seeing how difficult it was for my mum, I took up a part-time job while studying but then my mum passed away.

"When the TAR UC-Jinbodhi Bursary came along, I felt that I had been given a second chance in life," he shared.

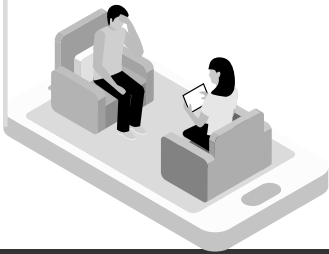
Applications for the May/June/September/November 2021 intakes are now open.

■ For more information about TAR UC's financial aid and programmes offered, visit www.tarc.edu.my

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply online at www.tarc.edu.my. Applicants who submit their applications online by April 30 will receive a RM60 waiver on the processing fee.



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Top-notch studies

CURTIN University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) – the largest international campus of Australia's Curtin University situated in Miri, Sarawak – is a good choice for an affordable, world-class education close to home. The courses offered are identical to those at Curtin University's main campus in Perth and all degrees are conferred by Curtin University.

Curtin University is currently ranked in the top one per cent of universities worldwide in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020 and rose to 217th position in the QS World University Ranking 2021.

Curtin Malaysia offers many courses in subject areas in which it has achieved world rankings under the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020. These include second in the world for Mineral and Mining Engineering and 40th for Earth and Marine Sciences, top 100 for Civil and Structural Engineering and top 150 for Communication and Media Studies and Chemical Engineering.

To meet market demand, new courses have been introduced since 2018 such as the Bachelor of Commerce in Management and Human Resources Management, Bachelor of Science in Health, Safety and Environment and Bachelor of Science in Psychological Science, Bachelor of Computing in Cyber Security and Software Engineering, Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management and Bachelor of Communications.

It has also expanded its postgraduate offerings to include a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master of Public Health, and Master of Science in Sustainable Aquaculture. A new Master of International



Curtin Malaysia offers a truly international and cross-cultural learning environment.

Business will launch in the second half of this year.

With 4,000 students from over 50 countries, Curtin Malaysia offers a truly international and cross-cultural learning environment.

Scholarships offered include the Curtin Malaysia Merit Scholarships, Pro Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships and other university and industry-sponsored scholarships.

There are two intakes each year for degree programmes in February and July, and four for foundation programmes in January, April, July and September.

Postgraduate programmes commence in February and July, while those by semester commence in January, May and September.

Find out more at www.curtin.edu.my or enquire at futurestudents.curtin.edu.my/enquiry/.

You can also engage with Curtin Malaysia via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn (Curtin Malaysia).

Looking for the perfect MEDICAL EDUCATION to further your studies?



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Medicine Malaysia

DULN005(J)

Programmes offered at our Malaysia campus:

» Foundation in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
KPT/JPT(R/010/3/0361)08/2025

» Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0046)02/2026

» BSc (Honours) Biomedical Sciences
KPT/JPT(R/720/6/0035)01/2023

» The MBBS programme is recognised by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) & General Medical Council (GMC), UK.

» 2 + 1 Honours programme for BSc Biomedical Sciences

» 2 intakes in a year

- May and September (Foundation)
- September (Undergraduate)



Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia DULN005 (J)

No.1, Jalan Sarjana 1, Kota Ilmu, EduCity@Iskandar, 79200 Iskandar Puteri, Johor



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admissions@newcastle.edu.my



www.newcastle.edu.my

NUMED MALAYSIA SDN. BHD.

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“AS students, you need to polish your communication skills and get to know more people who can aid you in business networking. You need to build your self-confidence and have good knowledge of your products and/or services to close any sales or deals. Do not be scared to make important decisions.” This is Wan Mohd Azim Datuk Wan Mohd Ali's advice for aspiring entrepreneurs.

A veteran in the built-in furniture industry and among Management and Science University's (MSU) earliest alumni, Azim's prosperous career proves that experience will always trump qualification.

Azim graduated with a Diploma in Business Management in 2001 and recently rejoined his company, JS Corporate Industry Sdn Bhd, as a director in October 2020.

Business management had always been an area of interest for Azim from an early age.

“My biggest inspiration was my late eldest brother who was chief executive officer of KJcraft, the first company I ever worked at. I was motivated by his sales, negotiations and leadership skills.

“I was exposed to KJcraft since secondary school. Ever since then, I knew that I would pursue a career in business and I hope to be as successful as my brother one day,” he said.

Azim is grateful to have had the opportunity to work at KJcraft at the age of 24 after graduating as a general manager. He was included in sales, projects and production planning work.

This allowed Azim to effectively know the ins-and-outs of the industry.

He says, “Currently, I have 20 years' experience in the

Journey into the business world



Azim gives back to his alma mater, MSU, through active involvement in alumni activities.



Azim (centre) with the team at JS Corporate Industry.

manufacturing industry of solid surfaces and built-in furniture.

“I have acquired excellent sales skills on top of the extensive networking and contacts built over the years.”

Azim's current company, JS Corporate Industry, is no stranger to garnering achievements and impressive project involvements in various states across Malaysia, from Kelantan to Johor.

Having set his mind on pursuing his early childhood aspirations, Azim entered MSU during its early stages in 2000.

He says, “MSU's learning process is constantly moving forward and provides ease of use for its facilities and technologies, which are at the optimum level.

“MSU's efficiently proactive

management combined with its excellent administrative structure clearly provides an advantage in producing excellent graduates.

“The knowledge I gained at MSU gave me the confidence to apply myself in other organisations and allowed me to strengthen the market economy and my company's management,” he added.

With such a fruitful learning experience, it is no surprise that Azim has managed to thrive and create an impact on his career pathway.

“In the future, I aim to become an expert in managing an organisation involved in specific industries such as the manufacturing industry of built-in furniture products for the hospital market

and health buildings,” he said.

As a top university in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability.

With 98.7% of its graduates successfully securing employment within six months of graduation, MSU is ranked by the Ministry of Higher Education as Malaysia's No.1 for graduate employability.

Blending technical vocational education and training with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internships, community and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure – empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness highly desired and sought by employers. Various skills enhancement

programmes aimed at improving students' competitiveness are also offered.

For example, the Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme serve to improve the students' soft skills.

As an applied, enterprise, holistic and international university, MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates admission of students from all walks of life aimed at “Transforming Lives and Enriching Future”.

■ For the full range of programmes offered at MSU, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or log on to www.msu.edu.my



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PISA offers the Victorian Curriculum for preschool, primary and secondary education from preschool to Year 12.

*ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) which is Internationally recognised as a Pre-University entrance qualification.

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Dental student wins coveted award



Ng won the coveted SEAAD-Lion Innovation Award for Best Oral Presentation in Curriculum Design.

INTERNATIONAL Medical University (IMU) final-year dental student Jacklyn Ng Zhi Ling participated in an oral presentation competition and presented her paper on clinical audit at the 31st South East Asian Association of Dental Education (SEAAD) Scientific Meeting 2020.

Ng won the coveted SEAAD-Lion Innovation Award for Best Oral Presentation in Curriculum Design, which was the highest award conferred at the SEAAD conference, beating 34 other participants comprising clinicians, lecturers and dental students.

The 2020 SEAAD conference was held virtually for the first time as a joint virtual conference with IADR-SEA, organised by Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference's theme was "Dental Education and Research During

the Covid-19 Pandemic".

The conference provided a platform for dental educators, practitioners and researchers to share and exchange the latest academic insights and innovations in dental education, with the aim of advancing dental education towards the new normal in light of the pandemic.

Ng shares more about her experience:

"It was a truly eye-opening experience for me, gaining insight and exchanging knowledge on different teaching and learning methods in dental education. I was honoured to be given the opportunity to present my paper on clinical audit and addressed questions from the esteemed panel of judges, who were experienced dental educators and deans of dental schools from South-East Asian countries. "I am truly humbled to have

gained such recognition from the judges as the recipient of the coveted award.

"I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Dr Abhishek Parolia for his guidance and support throughout the process of conducting our clinical audit.

"This experience has given me insight into the methods of carrying out a proper clinical audit based on evidence-based guidelines and the importance of clinical audit in improving our clinical work.

"I also appreciate his constructive feedback and guidance, which helped me greatly when I was preparing for my presentation. This achievement was definitely not a one-man effort; I attribute it to the audit team with whom I had the opportunity to work for this clinical audit.

"IMU has provided many avenues for students to hone their presentation skills and develop their confidence in presenting through the various student-led presentations in our curriculum.

"I had attended other conferences and listened to presentations and feedback from judges, which I found to be helpful during my preparation.

"It was also important to conduct a thorough literature review and read articles pertaining to clinical audit in order to equip myself with in-depth knowledge on the topic so that I could be well prepared when addressing questions from the judges.

"The current trend of dental education is inclined towards student-centred learning, with plenty of student-driven learning activities.

"I am fortunate that we are exposed to clinical audit during our undergraduate course in IMU, which is an effective tool in identifying gaps in our treatment and making improvements to provide consistent high quality of care for our patients which can be applied in our future practice.

"I hope that my humble experience and sharing will encourage other students to challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zone and share their knowledge from their research in future conferences."

At IMU, students who are studying dentistry have the option to complete the entire degree in IMU or study the first two and a half years of the degree in IMU and transfer to one of its five partner universities in Australia, New Zealand, the UK or Canada for completion of the dentistry programme.

These international partnerships mean that the IMU curriculum has been developed to meet these universities' high international standards.

The intake for this programme is in February of each year. If you are interested in this dentistry programme, make an online application today.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science, the direct route for entry into any of the university's degree programmes.

■ For more details, visit www.imu.edu.my or email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.



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Expand your vocabulary by learning synonyms.

Boost your English skills

WHEN speaking to a small group of people, we tend to stick to the same subjects, using the same vocabulary. As such, it's quite difficult to improve.

So how do you get out of this rut? With the help of these tips, you should improve by leaps and bounds.

To expand your vocabulary, learn synonyms. One of the joys of English is that there are lots of synonyms – words that appear to mean the same but are slightly different in meaning.

When you have a good grasp of the differences, you can convey subtleties better. That's important for good communication.

To broaden your vocabulary, make a list of three synonyms and understand how they're different. Then use them at least once a day. You may have to be inventive for that, but it's part of the game.

To improve fluency, use common expressions. For example, in English you might say, "He's so tight, he squeaks when he walks", which means someone is a cheapskate or money-grubber.

For this, it helps to get hold of an idioms dictionary. These do exist online, but do be careful because many sites include street slang that isn't really acceptable in normal social situations.

Make a list of three things that go together, like three expressions that comment on someone's character.

For example, a person can be "a go-getter", meaning someone who is goal-driven, and has "the gift of the gab", meaning someone who is a persuasive speaker.

Then look around and apply these phrases in as many conversations as you can until it feels natural.

Future of the medical workforce

THE Global Health Alliance and World Health Organization (WHO) have declared that “there is no health without a workforce”, underlining the vital role of the medical/healthcare workforce as the cornerstone of our health systems.

This workforce refers to all the people who deliver or assist in the delivery of health services or help operate healthcare facilities. They are vital in building the resilience of communities and health systems to respond to disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards.

Our current healthcare system is consistently progressing with better skilled health professionals alongside advancements in medical products and technologies to improve the delivery of health services to the public at large.

This is unfolding before our very eyes with the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, just one year from the time the pandemic began, we are better equipped for the battle, with vaccines and other solutions being rolled out.

But a primary concern regarding the medical field is whether our medical/healthcare workforce is sufficiently effective. Is there a need for us to shape and improve

on the future of this workforce?

Current medical workforce

A report by the Association of American Medical Colleges shows that we are facing a shortage of physicians in primary care and speciality care, including in areas such as pulmonology, critical care, and infectious diseases, which are in high demand now. As such, the number of healthcare workers needs to increase dramatically to meet the demand in the future.

There are various shortcomings in the medical field, one of which is the challenge of recruiting more medical workers.

Firstly, according to Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) chief executive officer and provost Prof Chris Baldwin, there is an ageing population of medical practitioners who will be retiring in the near future.

“It is therefore imperative that we have a ready pool of practitioners who are trained and prepared to meet the high demands of the profession,” he said.

He added that there is a lack of reliable pathways to ensure better career advancements, such as for



NUMed, which is a part of the internationally renowned Newcastle University, UK, offers world-class medical education to students on Malaysian shores.

medical assistants to secure better prospects in moving up the ladder.

What is needed is an ecosystem of programmes designed for better learning and understanding of the medical field, as well as the recruitment of students or trainees aimed at developing medical skills and reshaping career pathways.

A brighter future?

Global health problems create shared responsibilities for health workers, but some care providers have difficulties coping with the rapidly evolving healthcare systems. Doctors, for example, are increasingly challenged to keep up with the vast advancements in science and medicine. Hence, it is imperative for healthcare organisations to proactively plan for the future.

Well-defined roles and responsibilities of the medical workforce will ensure that the relevant services are delivered effectively to communities. There should also be an assessment of skills and specialisations required to fill the respective positions in the healthcare system.



NUMed establishes relationships with various players in the health and other related industries to ensure that its programmes are relevant.

Its globally acclaimed programmes are designed to be responsive to the changing needs of both the Malaysian and global healthcare system.

NUMed establishes relationships with players in the health and other related industries to ensure that its programmes are relevant. Graduates are equipped with the knowledge, skills and competencies required for real-life scenarios.

NUMed's MBBS students, in particular, will be able to obtain a UK medical qualification that can open up wider options for career development and create an effective ecosystem for medical learning. They will have a chance to undertake a period of study in the UK or elsewhere during their eight-week elective at the end of their fourth year.

Upon successful completion, they will be eligible for provisional registration as a doctor with both the UK General Medical Council and the Malaysian Medical Council.

■ For more details, email admissions@newcastle.edu.my, call 07-555 3800 or WhatsApp 011-1231 5411/012-784 9456.



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PRODUCING top students takes a lot of commitment and hard work. To shape future talents and leaders, the education process needs to nurture today's students' potential to ensure that they become tomorrow's stalwarts of society.

In this vein, Peninsula International School Australia (PISA) in Setia Alam, Shah Alam, offers the Victorian Curriculum for pre-school, primary and secondary education from preschool to Year 12.

PISA is in partnership with Peninsula Grammar, a prestigious 60-year-old boarding and day school in Melbourne, Australia. Peninsula Grammar is integrally involved in PISA's academic leadership.

Teachers for all final-year subjects at PISA work together with the subject departments at Peninsula Grammar – such is the assurance of quality provided by PISA to its students.

All final-year students who have sat for the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) exams have been graded by Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) and have been placed in the top 30% of the students in the world.

ATAR is the Australian public examination equivalent of the A-Levels and is internationally recognised for entrance into all universities worldwide. This means 100% of PISA's final-year students graduated in the top 30% in the world.

PISA does not want its students to be just book smart, which is why



PISA offers the Victorian Curriculum for preschool, primary and secondary education.

activities beyond the classroom are a crucial part of learning. PISA offers a holistic education with expansive co-curricular programmes coupled with personalised learning experiences.

Employing teaching strategies where each student is guided based on individual needs and learning styles, the students are then evaluated through assignments and exams, creating one of the most effective methods in evaluating their progress.

PISA is the only school in the world outside of Melbourne, Australia, to offer the entire 12 years of education based on the Victorian Curriculum.

PISA is audited by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority – a statutory authority of

the government of Victoria which is responsible for the provision of curriculum and assessment programmes for students.

PISA is also monitored by Peninsula Grammar, an independent school in Victoria that is renowned for upholding an excellent track record. As such, PISA adheres to the highest standards of education associated with Peninsula Grammar's long tradition of academic excellence.

Other VCE highlights for Peninsula International School Australia are:

- > Student Kwan Jun Hao was recognised as the top student and placed in the world's top 10%.

- > One student achieved a perfect score of 50.

- > About 50% of PISA's students



'Our staff believes in the value of each individual student and are committed to their growth,' says Cassarchis.

have finished in the top 20% in the world.

- > All PISA students have finished in the top 30% in the world.

"I am proud to be able to call myself one of the first VCE graduates at PISA. I look forward to seeing my juniors succeed in the course," said Kwan.

Rich learning that extends beyond knowledge

"At PISA, we believe in rich learning that extends beyond knowledge to deeper understanding and the development of wisdom," said PISA principal Guy Cassarchis.

"Our staff believes in the value of each individual student and are committed to their growth – from

the youngest years through adolescence to their final examinations, graduation and life beyond school.

"I warmly invite you to visit us, meet our staff and students and experience Peninsula International School Australia for yourself."

Keen parents can contact the Peninsula International admission team at any time at 011-3975 0890 or log on to <https://bit.ly/PeninsulaInternationalSchool> or email admissions@peninsula.edu.my

Fostering understanding and knowledge on international schools

Together with Imperial International School – its other sister school from HCK Capital Group Bhd – PISA has collectively organised a series of webinars aimed at helping parents understand the various types of curriculum in international schools and factors to be taken into account in their decision-making process.

Imperial International Schools are based on the prestigious Cambridge International Curriculum leading to IGCSE examinations.

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MSU College's Diploma in Management programme offers a broad business management education and equips students with the right soft skills.



Route to success

MANAGEMENT is the process of organising, planning, decision-making, leading, motivation and controlling the human resources, financial, physical and information resources of an organisation to reach its goals efficiently and effectively.

Good management is also fundamental in building great teamwork and is the key to a successful organisation.

With the aim of preparing students for a successful career in management and administration, MSU College's Diploma in Management programme offers a broad business management education and equips students with the right soft skills.

The programme is specifically designed to provide students with all the tools required for management positions as well as exposure to basic components of organisational management including communication, leadership, marketing and finance.

It also equips students with the latest knowledge and skills, moral values and integrity while carrying out their duties.

A strong foundation in all related areas will provide students with a clear under-

standing of the fields they may want to explore at the bachelor's degree level.

The entry requirement to this two-and-a-half year programme is a minimum of three credits in any subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or its equivalent.

Upon completing the diploma, students can choose to start a career or pursue a second-year bachelor's degree in the same field or related programmes at Management and Science University (MSU) through the Faculty of Business Management Professional Studies with the option of credit transfer.

In line with MSU College's aspiration to produce well-rounded graduates, a comprehensive entrepreneurial ecosystem and industry-embedded programme are also deeply rooted to enhance their soft skills.

There are also other programmes available under MSU's School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies such as Early Childhood Education, Accounting and English Language Teaching.

■ For more details, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.

How to sharpen your focus

EVERYONE goofs off sometimes but when watching YouTube instead of studying becomes a habit, you might waste so much time that you start failing. If you have trouble maintaining a decent attention span, here are some tips to consider.

Get seven to eight hours of sleep every night

Sleep deprivation is a torture. After a day without it, you become clumsy and can't make rational decisions; after two days you'll begin to hallucinate. Get a good night's sleep to keep your brain buzzing along efficiently.

Write a to-do list

Set yourself clear goals so that you can track how you're doing and focus on what must get done. Using an electronic device is okay, but paper and pen can be more satisfying when it comes to crossing items off.

Work in downtimes

When you're waiting for the bus, read a chapter of your book. When you're walking to class, visualise that presentation you'll be graded on. When you make that list, work out what to do when you're busy doing nothing.

Switch off your phone

Unless there is an emergency, you can live without your phone. Switch it off and focus on what you're doing.

Reward yourself

If you plan your time well during the day, you will have ample time to do what you love most. Try for five-minute refreshers here and there in a busy day, and at least one big chunk of time during the week to do something fun like hiking or playing football.

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- Business Administration

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- MPhil and PhD

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- Medicine
KPT/JPT(R/2721/6/0033)09/2026 | MQA/FA6155
FEB | AUG
- Psychology
KPT/JPT(R/2311/6/0013)09/2022 | MQA/AB177
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- Counselling (Master)
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SEP

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FEB
- Endodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0043)05/2024 | MQA/PSA12162
APR
- Implant Dentistry (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R/724/7/0019)06/2026 | MQA/SA6111
INTAKE IN 2021
- Prosthodontics (PG Dip)
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JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Biomedical Science
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MAR | JUL
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JUL | SEP
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JUL | SEP

CENTRE FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

- Acupuncture (MSc)
KPT/JPT(N/721/7/0071)03/2022 | MQA/PA8570
SEP
- Chinese Medicine
KPT/JPT(R/2721/6/0059)01/2027 | MQA/A10260
FEB | SEP
- Chiropractic
KPT/JPT(R/26/6/0054)08/2026 | MQA/A9294
FEB | AUG

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(N-DL/442/7/0022)02/2026 | MQA/FA1191
MAR | SEP
- Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1082)09/2023 | MQA/PSA11354
KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1090)12/2023 | MQA/PSA11355
KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1085)10/2023 | MQA/PSA11353
MAR | SEP
- Health Professions Education (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0066)09/2025 | MQA/SA05162
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0064)09/2025 | MQA/PSA1163
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0070)09/2025 | MQA/SA1164
MAR
- Health Informatics and Analytics NEW
(PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0131)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13973
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0130)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13972
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0129)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13974
SEP
- Molecular Medicine* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/545/7/0078)07/2022 | MQA/FA1299
MAR | SEP
- Pharmacy Practice (Master)
KPT/JPT(R/721/7/0051)03/2024 | MQA/SA02796
MAR | SEP
- Public Health* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/2720/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261
MAR | SEP
- Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD by Research)
KPT/JPT(R/2720/7/0049)06/2026 | A10618
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Changing the face of medical studies



A glimpse of the everyday life of dental students in their clinical years at the on-campus dental clinic.

MEDICINE and dentistry remain hot career choices for young Malaysians leaving high school. While career choices are often easy to make, driven by a student's inner passion and drive, the same cannot be said when choosing the higher education institution where they can pursue their studies.

To start strong, a firm foundation is of utmost importance because this puts students in the right position for growth and development, as well as building a sound future – not only in their studies but also in their future careers.

Proven track record

With over three dozen medical schools in Malaysia to choose from, Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM) which was formerly known as Melaka-

Manipal Medical College, is miles ahead as a top medical school.

Since its inception, it has produced over 6,000 medical and more than 400 dental surgeons who have entered the Malaysian and international health systems, with many alumni progressing successfully into specialist careers of their choosing.

As a university college, MUCM's twinning programmes will evolve into fully home-grown programmes.

Strong pre-clinical knowledge and exposure

With anatomy being a key subject in pre-clinical years, MUCM has an Anatomy Laboratory equipped with fully digitalised laboratory facilities, including 3D online models, applications, and extended reality experience using an Anatomage table which involves learning through augmented reality.

The lab is compartmentalised into a few sectors including a cadaveric storage room, dissection room and specimen display room (plastinated and plastic models).

MUCM's students will be provided with a cadaveric learning experience that will enhance their surgical knowledge of the human body. Engaging with cadavers also teaches the students to show respect to the human body.

Real-world career preparation

In the clinical years of study, MUCM students are placed at the Ministry of Health's hospitals in Melaka, Muar, Jasin and Segamat, as well as government polyclinics which provide the settings for clinical skills training.

With a curriculum structured to be completed by the end of semester nine, students spend their final semester in a role that mirrors their future housemanship experience. This exposure ensures that they will be ready when it is time for their housemanship.

Dentistry students will hone their clinical skills in MUCM's on-campus dental clinic, which offers training in all disciplines of dentistry.

With a student-dental chair ratio of almost 1:1, coupled with a patient pool of over 30,000 per year, students will not be short of opportunities to develop and fine-tune their dental skills under the watchful eyes of highly experienced lecturers and professors from the industry.

This opportunity to work one-

on-one with patients brings about a quiet confidence in students as they prepare to lead their practice in the future.

Clear pathway

For SPM school-leavers, a pathway is provided via the Foundation in Science programme. In this uniquely designed 12-month programme, students will be prepared to excel in an MBBS or BDS as subjects are specifically chosen to deepen a student's existing science knowledge so that they will have a strong head start in their undergraduate studies.

Students in the foundation programme who meet entry requirements are given assured progression into either the MBBS or BDS programmes.

Lifelong learning support

As the oft-wrought cliché goes, learning is a lifelong experience and this is no less true in the medical field. In a future where technology dictates, those skills that are distinctly human will be among the most valuable. It is these skills that are enriched through postgraduate study.

Considering how vital this is, MUCM frequently organises workshops for various international licensing examinations as well as specialisation programmes at its campus in Melaka so that students can prepare for them before graduation with minimal travel involved in their ongoing routine.

Balanced lifestyle

Since its inception, MUCM has successfully integrated the Manipal ethos into its Malaysian curriculum, faculty and students.

The facilities at both the Manipal and Melaka campuses offer a holistic education. Students can join clubs for music and fine arts and enjoy literary pursuits, meditation, yoga, debating, photography and language classes.

The campus also has playgrounds and courts for cricket, hockey, football, tennis, basketball, badminton and volleyball, as well as swimming pools, gyms and an athletics track.

The pursuit of medicine or dentistry is a marathon, not a sprint. As such, parents and students are invited to visit Manipal University College Malaysia and experience life as a future Manipalite for themselves.

■ For more details on MUCM's programmes, call 06-289-6662 / 1700 811 662 or log on to www.manipal.edu.my



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Students learning anatomy through augmented reality in the Augmented Laboratory.