Shaping future beauty experts

THE global cosmetic and personal care industry continues to expand rapidly, driven by innovation, sustainability and increasing consumer demand for safe, effective and ethically produced products.

In response to these developments, IMU University has introduced the Bachelor of Cosmetic Science (Honours), a future-focused undergraduate programme designed to prepare graduates for meaningful careers in the beauty and personal care sector. This programme provides a strong scientific foundation by integrating chemistry, biology, dermatological science, cosmetic formulation, product safety and regulatory affairs.

Unlike conventional beauty-related programmes, this degree emphasises evidence-based scientific principles, innovation and industry best practices, ensuring graduates are well equipped to meet professional and regulatory expectations.

To suit different career interests, students can explore three specialised tracks:

> **Business and Marketing:** branding, consumer trends and beauty entrepreneurship;

> **Industrial Innovation:** advanced formulation, scale-up and regulatory standards;

IMU University students enhance their expertise through research and modern facilities, fostering critical thinking, innovation and lifelong learning.

> **Beauty and Wellness:** blends science-based beauty concepts with wellness practices, helping students understand how lifestyle, products and self-care contribute to healthy skin, hair and overall confidence.

A distinctive feature of the programme is its strong emphasis on experiential and industry-aligned learning. Students gain hands-on experience through formulation laboratories, sensory evaluation, consumer testing and product stability studies, allowing them to understand the complete product development process – from concept to commercialisation.

The curriculum is further strengthened by a 20-week industrial attachment, providing students with real-world exposure, professional confidence and valuable industry networks.

To broaden students' global perspective, the programme also offers international study tours and industry immersion opportunities, enabling students to gain first-hand exposure to global cosmetic markets and practices. Through collaborations with partner universities and international cosmetic companies, students are exposed to diverse regulatory frameworks, innovation trends and professional cultures beyond Malaysia, enhancing their global employability.

Graduates from this degree programme can pursue a wide range of career pathways within the cosmetic and personal care industry. These include roles such as cosmetic formulator, product development executive, quality assurance analyst, regulatory affairs officer, sensory scientist, research and development scientist, as well as positions in technical sales, marketing, brand development and entrepreneurship.

The programme also provides a solid foundation for graduates aspiring to establish their own cosmetic or beauty-related ventures.

Graduates may also progress to postgraduate studies in cosmetic science, pharmaceutical sciences, or related research disciplines.

This programme is open to students from both science and non-science backgrounds, with intakes in April, July and September each year.

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit their online application today. Students enrolling in the Cosmetic Science programme at IMU for the 2026 intakes are eligible for a Global Leadership Scholarship worth RM30,000. The scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the university and all decisions are final.

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

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management and science university

Management and Science University (MSU) is a globally recognised institution, ranked by both Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE). Committed to developing well-rounded human capital, MSU envisions a more sustainable and inclusive future. Through transformative learning experiences, the university promotes equality and strives to create a level playing field for all, enriching lives and shaping tomorrow's leaders.

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Yayasan msu

Shape your creative future with the Diploma in Graphic Design at MSU College's School of Science and Technology.

Graphic designing for creative minds

GRAPHIC design is more than just creating images – it's the powerful art of communicating ideas, emotions and stories through visual and textual elements. From stunning advertisements and impactful branding to sleek web designs and captivating magazine layouts, graphic design shapes how the world sees and experiences ideas.

At MSU College, the School of Science and Technology (SST) offers a dynamic Diploma in Graphic Design programme designed to unleash your creativity and prepare you for the fast-evolving creative industry.

This comprehensive two-and-a-half-year programme blends artistic vision with practical industry skills, empowering you to become a confident, innovative and industry-ready designer.

Among the programme highlights is students will explore a wide spectrum of subjects thoughtfully selected to strengthen both your creative and technical capabilities, including in visual communication, typography, communication skills, advertising design and interactive multimedia.

Through hands-on projects, real-world assignments and industry-relevant coursework, you'll learn how to craft designs that inspire, inform and influence – across print, digital and interactive platforms.

Graduates of this programme are prepared to step confidently into diverse roles such as graphic designer, layout artist, technical illustrator, art director and creative director.

You'll find opportunities in fields such as advertising, branding, corporate identity, packaging design, digital media, app design, signage and website development – anywhere creativity meets communication.

Entry requirements for the programme is a pass in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or its equivalent with three credits in any subject, or an MSU College certificate in a related field with passes in all subjects.

Upon completing your diploma, you may advance directly into the second year of the bachelor's programme at Management and Science University (MSU) through the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE) – giving you a seamless path towards higher qualifications and career growth.

At MSU College, your ideas don't just stay on paper – they come to life. So, let's step into the world of design innovation and start your creative journey today.

MSU College is also MSU APEL Centre for potential candidates to take the APEL Aptitude Test as the non-conventional pre-qualification for entry into higher studies, in which MSU currently offers APEL A and APEL C at T-3 (certificate), T-4 (diploma), T-6 (bachelor's degree), and T-7 (master's degree) levels.

■ For more information on programmes offered, call the college's team at 03-5521 6787 or email enquiry@msucollege.my or visit *www.msucollege.edu.my.*

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Kampar Campus | Sungai Long Campus

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(R3/0011/3/0104)05/29(A10335). (R3/210/3/0010)(11/27)(A8661)
> Management and Accountancy
> Arts and Social Science
(Art and Design, Chinese Studies, Social Science)

Foundation in Science
(R3/0011/3/0095)(05/29)(A10336). (R3/010/3/0082)(11/27) (A8660)
> Biological Science
> Physical Science
(Engineering Science, Technological Science)

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Building character and confidence

FOR many students finishing secondary school, important questions begin to swirl: Which path should I take? Where do I begin?

The first step after leaving school is often the most important one, for it shapes the direction of everything that follows.

At Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), the Centre for Pre-University Studies (CPUS) understands this pivotal phase well.

According to Jeswynna Roy, division head of quality assurance and senior lecturer at CPUS, the pre-university phase is more than just a bridge to higher studies; it's a transformative period of self-discovery.

"At this stage, students are discovering not just what they want to study, but who they are. That's why our focus at CPUS is to guide them through this self-discovery, not just academically, but personally," she shared.

Guidance through the panic

That sense of personal growth and guidance is echoed by Lu Jia Qi, who completed his Foundation in Computing and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons).

"During the second semester, my groupmates and I were working on a web development assignment, building a full website.

"Everything seemed fine until two days before the deadline, when we realised several parts weren't working. Panicking, we reached out to our lecturer for help.

"Even though she had already finished her classes for the day, she stayed back to guide us through every problem patiently. I genuinely appreciated that moment as I learnt that my lecturer's goals weren't just about the assignment, it was also about showing care for her students' growth."

For Lu, the support from lecturers transformed a moment of panic into a valuable learning experience.

A safety net for students

Adding on to Lu's sharing, Jeswynna said, "We encourage students to learn independently, but we never leave them to figure things out alone.

"Each student is paired with an academic advisor who checks in regularly, offering guidance not only on studies but also on the emotional ups and downs that come with this phase.

"When students first enter CPUS, many struggle with time management or self-doubt. Some feel anxious about making the right academic or career choices.

"As lecturers, we recognise these early struggles, and we make it a point to provide clear guidance and regular feedback. We want them to know they're never alone in this journey, as at times, just knowing that someone cares can make a lot of difference. When students are happy and feel supported, they naturally do better."

Growth beyond the classroom

Another important aspect of studying at TAR UMT is that students are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones through events, clubs, and social activities.

Lu fondly remembers one such event.

"One of the most memorable activities I joined was the rock-climbing session organised by the CPUS head, Teddy Nelson. It was such a refreshing break from studying, and Mr Teddy made sure everyone was safe and even helped us take photos, which have become precious memories for me.

"The best part was meeting new friends, including juniors from my course, and we've stayed close ever since. That event reminded me that some of the best memories in university come from moments outside the classroom."

On the whole, his first-hand experience completing Foundation studies at TAR UMT has helped him with his confidence and perspective.

"If I could choose again, Foundation studies at TAR UMT will still be my choice because I was challenged, supported, and inspired every step of the way."

Jeswynna concluded, "My advice to every new student is simple: stay open, stay curious, and embrace every opportunity. This is your time to grow, to make mistakes, and to discover who you're meant to be."

■ To find out more about the programmes at CPUS, join the Open Day on March 14-15 and March 28-29, from 10am to 5pm or visit *www.tarc.edu.my.*

Alternatively, contact CPUS at 011-1075 8537 or email them at cpus@tarc.edu.my.

Prospective students are encouraged to apply online at *www.tarc.edu.my*. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are available for qualified students.

Sharing the spirit of Ramadan

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) welcomed the return of Ihya Ramadan, the university's annual flagship initiative that fosters compassion, community engagement and holistic well-being throughout the holy month.

Organised by the Students and Career Development (SCD) Department and Yayasan MSU, this year's programme runs from Feb 23 to March 19, engaging over 5,000 students, staff and volunteers across MSU and the MSU Group of Colleges nationwide.

More than 2,000 MSU representatives gathered at the MSU Chancellor Hall for the launch ceremony, joined virtually by participants from MSU colleges nationwide. Present were MSU president and founder Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid, vice-chancellor Prof Puan Sri Datuk Dr Junainah Abd Hamid and MSU's senior management team.

In his officiating speech, Prof Mohd Shukri reminded that Ihya Ramadan is a call to excellence and compassion.

"As we embark on the blessed month of Ramadan, let us strive to derive the most value from this sacred period. Beyond fulfilling our religious duties, let us nurture and cultivate cultural competence, integrity, respect and sensitivity, attributes that are essential for our graduates to excel and make a meaningful impact," he said.

This year's programme features 657 activities across campuses and institutions, continuing the Five Ramadan Pillars introduced previously, through a refined approach that places stronger emphasis on 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RamadanCare, themed compassion and humanitarian support, mobilises MSU students, staff and partners to provide aid and care to vulnerable communities.

RamadanShare, centred on the 2G culture of "Giving", "Grateful" and volunteerism, seeks to embed these values within student leadership and community engagement.

Meanwhile, RamadanRecharge focuses on spiritual and physical well-being, with activities designed to nurture reflection, resilience and healthy living throughout the month.

RamadanVibes aims to foster a meaningful and uplifting festive atmosphere across the MSU community, while RamadanConnect strengthens engagement beyond campus through collaborations with schools, industries, authorities and alumni.

Through these pillars, MSU will extend outreach to more than 16,000 individuals across diverse communities, including schools, B40 families, orphanages, mosques, Orang Asli groups, industry partners, elderly care homes and persons with disabilities, reinforcing the spirit of compassion and collective responsibility during Ramadan.

In addition, 1,200 sit-down iftar meals will be provided daily throughout the programme period.

A total of RM2.6mil has been allocated for zakat distribution, benefitting 2,000 MSU students and 2,300 secondary school students nationwide.

More than 41 mosque-based initiatives are expected to support 500 families and reach 24,000 communities, while the 2G Corner will distribute essential goods to 7,500 individuals, alongside the Bubur Lambuk project, which is projected to reach 5,000 beneficiaries.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (centre) with Prof Mohd Shukri (right) at the launch of Ihya Ramadan 2026 at the MSU Chancellor Hall in Shah Alam.

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Laying the groundwork for success

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's Foundation programme is designed to equip students with the skills to navigate university life and beyond.

A STRONG building is built upon a strong foundation. The materials used beneath the surface determine whether the building will stand firm over time or weaken under pressure.

Education works the same way. A student's educational success starts with the right foundation.

It is more than choosing the right university; it is about enrolling in a foundation programme that is intentionally designed to develop academic readiness, build confidence, and support transition into university life.

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) understands that many SPM and O-level graduates are still exploring their options.

For some, academic interests and career goals only become clearer after experiencing university-style learning.

This is why UTAR's Foundation Programme is thoughtfully designed to equip students with transferable skills that are relevant across a wide range of disciplines.

This will be especially helpful as students narrow down their options, while they progress into degree programmes.

Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS) Kampar director Tan Lee Siew explained, "Our Foundation programme aims to provide a supportive environment for students to explore and discover, giving them the confidence, clarity, and capability to make informed decisions about their futures.

"Balancing coursework, meeting deadlines and engaging in independent study early on will also help students adapt to lectures, presentations, tutorials and continuous assessments.

"By then, they would have developed strong time management and self-discipline skills that help maintain consistent academic performance when they enter their degree programmes."

CFS Sungai Long director Melissa Stefanie Netto added, "Another important outcome of enrolling in our Foundation programme is that students acquire effective communication skills, enabling them to articulate ideas clearly, whether in written assignments, presentations, or discussions.

"This is a vital skill that not only supports progression to degree studies but also enhances future employability."

UTAR's Foundation Programme nurtures students by helping them identify their strengths, clarify their interests, and develop a strong sense of direction in their university life.

As students step into campus, they embark on a journey where they are exposed to different cultures, collaborative learning, peer engagement, broadening perspectives and encouraging intellectual curiosity.

These experiences are valuable, as they refine students into individuals who approach challenges thoughtfully, adapt to change, and contribute positively to the community around them.

> "A student's educational success starts with the right foundation."

Learning also takes place outside the classroom. Students will have opportunities to join various clubs and societies, participate in volunteer projects, or be involved in organising events, all of which will enrich their university experience.

More importantly, participation in these extracurricular activities will help them establish a reassuring rhythm in a new environment.

That is intentional, as UTAR encourages students to step out of their comfort zones, discover new interests, and gain experiences that contribute to their personal growth, maturity, and readiness for life beyond university.

The Foundation programmes are offered by CFS at both Kampar and Sungai Long campuses.

Students may choose to pursue either Foundation in Arts or Foundation in Science programmes.

The Foundation in Arts programme allows students to choose between the Arts and Social Science stream as well as the Management and Accountancy stream.

Meanwhile, the Foundation in Science programme offers the Physical Science stream and the Biological Science stream. The programmes are designed to equip students with essential fundamental knowledge and skills, while sharpening their presentation skills and English language proficiency.

UTAR offers over 140 programmes from foundation studies to bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in Accounting, Business, Finance and Economics, Actuarial Science, Mathematics and Process Management, Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Chinese Studies, Creative Industries, Digital Animation, Multimedia and Design, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

Visit the UTAR Open Day on April 4-5 and April 25-26 from 9am to 4.30pm at both Kampar and Sungai Long campuses.

■ For more information, go to *www.utar.edu.my* or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).

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