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Above: UCSI is ranked as one of the world's top 350 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2022.

SUCCESS is attained from perseverance, audacity and a strong devotion to the things you want to see become. Often, a formal qualification is associated in the preliminary steps of building your "dream future".

Therefore, the first step must be comprehensive, specific and driven towards the right pathway in giving you the prerequisite knowledge and skills needed to thrive – precisely what UCSI University's foundation years are for.

At UCSI, foundation courses are divided into arts and science with specific pathways to over 120 academic programmes. Generally, it is a year-long introductory programme over three semesters to allow students to build the knowledge, skills and confidence before embarking on a three-year undergraduate programme.

UCSI's foundation year also shapes students towards adjusting to the academic settings of a degree programme to ensure they are prepared and able to hit the ground running, allowing individuals to achieve maximum potential.

Aside from being an institution that holds truly the concept of providing a wholesome education experience and global career prospect to its students, you may ask, "Why choose UCSI?"

Here's why:

Excellent lecturers

Over 70% of UCSI's foundation courses lecturers are equipped with PhD qualification, giving students the right guidance and mentoring towards achieving a higher level of mindset as they move on to the degree years.

More than 50% are also trained by UCSI in Post Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching (PGDTT) to ensure lessons are delivered effectively and efficiently. Lecturers equipped with PGDTT are able to understand students better and would know ways to keep lessons constantly engaging.

Extensive subject selection

The foundation programmes consist of elective subjects, where choices are often limited at most higher learning institutions. At UCSI, there is a total of 24 and 26 electives respectively for the Arts and Science streams. With more options, students will be able to select their choice of subjects and excel. In other words, your foundation programme can be customised to ensure you get the best education from the beginning.

The foundation of success

In the past, students who have begun their academic journey at UCSI from the foundation level have had the experience to embark on high-impact research programmes during their degree years at some of the world's top universities including Harvard, Imperial College, Tsinghua, British Columbia, Queensland, and Nihon Pharmaceutical, among others.

This proves that UCSI's foundation programmes are of international standards in paving the way for students to excel academically beyond Malaysian borders.

With a good academic footing comes a good career outcome. In a recent research by the Higher Education Ministry, 99.8% of UCSI's degree programmes attained a 100% employment rating. The high acceptance rate speaks volumes about UCSI, and illustrates the quality of education the university provides from the foundation level onwards.

Ranking matters

UCSI is ranked as one of the world's top 350 universities after being ranked 347 in the QS World University Rankings 2022. Earlier this year, in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021, UCSI's Institute of Music emerged as the world's top 50 in the field of performing arts.

Its Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management was ranked as the world's top 100 for hospitality and leisure management, Faculty of Engineering as the world's top 150 for petroleum engineering, and Faculty of Business Management as one of the world's top 300 business school in the world in the same exercise.

The university has been steadily rising over the last four years in the QS World University Ranking exercises – a testament to the university's rising global recognition in giving students reputable academic qualifications that are of exceptional standards.

One hundred per cent scholarships

At UCSI, students may apply to obtain up to 100% scholarship for those who scored 9A+ in the recent SPM examination. In addition, the university would waive all other tuition fees on a case-by-case basis for students whose parents are experiencing financial constraint from the Covid-19 pandemic.

UCSI has set aside RM30mil to provide scholarships and bursaries to excellent students, including those who thrived in sports.

Another notable initiative UCSI has adopted over the years is the Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) session whereby senior students would assist their juniors in their studies. This personalised session, held within the campus, enables junior students to learn from their seniors outside classrooms.

The university also provides the mentor-mentee system. Like PAL, the mentor-mentee system is a special weekly consultation session with a lecturer.

These are just a microcosm of what UCSI has to offer. If you feel you have what it takes to succeed, enrol in the foundation programme to prove yourself right.

■ For more details, log on to <https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/programmes/pre-u-studies> or contact 011-3591 5021 (Local) or 011-3518 2697 (International).

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Marzlysya (far right) during the University Entrepreneurship Masterclass programme, organised by StartupMalaysia.org. which is recognised by Malaysia's Finance Ministry.

Journey of an aspiring animator

CONSISTENTLY on the lookout for betterment in her work, Marzlysya Merican Razali is persevering and dedicated and her eye for detail and passion led her to who she is today.

"I was hired during the very first movement control order (MCO). The experience at the company was more than just a 2D animator artist. I have worked with celebrities and multiple artists, and clients from big names," said the Management and Science University (MSU) alumna.

From pitching an idea to executing it into a successful project, the 2D animator, voice-over and VFX artist at the Light Up 7's typical day at the organisation is eventful and full of surprises.

"As a motion artist, the animations that I have created so far are animations like short ads on Instagram or ads for Petronas, for instance, graphs on a video, basically, VFX things. That is my forte," she said.

Petronas, Bank Negara Malaysia, Securities Commission Malaysia, and Tokio Marine Malaysia are some of the corporates Marzlysya commissioned her work with.

Her animations have been flagged up on the Light Up 7's official Instagram page as well.

"I love animation. To me, being able to create movements and bringing life to a static image is something that I have always found interesting and magical.

"Animation, to me, means it is a medium to tell a story. It's basically storytelling. That is how I view animation and VFX. It's visual storytelling," she said.

However, she did not always know that animation was for her.

"Funny enough, right before I enrolled in my diploma programme at MSU, I didn't know what I wanted to do.

"And then there was this movie, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*. I went to watch it with my mum. When I came out (of the theatre) I looked at her and said that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

"That is when I knew animation was where I wanted to be," she said.

Her experience while choosing a university for her tertiary education was also challenging, but not as gruelling as choosing her career as she knew what to expect of her alma mater, MSU.

"I came to MSU because they had the subject that I wanted – Diploma in Games Design and Animation and Bachelor in Creative Multimedia (Honours).

"I really wanted it; I fought for it. When I first got in, it just clicked. After my first and or second semester, that is when I knew this is the place I was meant to be," she said.

She added that MSU helped her understand in detail what she already had – underlying talent.

"The lecturers have given me the amount of support and knowledge that I needed to grow as a person. The way they supported me and showed me how much they cared for me; I would say they inspired me in many ways," she said.

MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability.

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

Blending technical vocational education and training (TVET) with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internship, community and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure; empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness desired and sought after by employers.

Various skills enhancement programmes which are aimed to improve students competitiveness are offered to students. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme at MSU serves to improve the students' soft skills.

■ For further information regarding the courses offered at MSU, visit www.msu.edu.my or call the Engagement and Enrolment Department at 03-5521 6868.



Marzlysya (third row, second from left) did an internship with Light Up 7 for six months. She was then hired during the first MCO in Malaysia.

AS the saying goes, first impressions matter. People take only a few seconds to make a judgement upon first meeting someone.

This is why at HELP University, all students will be taught proper deportment and etiquette before they graduate, so that they will be able to stand out in the crowd and shine with confidence wherever they are.

Etiquette is the rules indicating the proper and polite way to behave.

It helps us to know how to treat others, to make people feel comfortable and at ease, and shows that we value and respect them. It also promotes kindness, consideration, and humility. It gives us the confidence to deal with different situations in life, and it teaches us life skills.

Children are taught proper etiquette when they are young, such as saying thank you and please, and not chewing with their mouths open, to learn how to share and be polite. So that when they grow up they know how to behave.

But at school or university, and sometimes even at home, many people are not taught, or have the opportunity to learn the different social rules and etiquette, such as business etiquette, dining etiquette, grooming and deportment, email etiquette, and the right social skills. The list goes on.

It's important to be able to feel confident and know how to behave when one is in a social or professional setting, so that one doesn't feel awkward, and end up unintentionally insulting another person, especially someone from another culture.

Etiquette is a set of essential social skills that, when thoughtfully

Stand up and stand out



HELP University students being served at Lafite Restaurant, Shangri-la Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

practised, smooths the path of daily activity, work, and play. This behaviour includes the common courtesies of life that many have forgotten or may not have learned at all.

This etiquette course will be embedded into the Mata Pelajaran Pengajian Umum (MPU 4), a qualification that all Malaysian and international undergraduate stu-

dents from private universities in Malaysia must complete. This means, learning good etiquette is compulsory at HELP.

Etiquette 101 topics are therefore included in the MPU 4 offered at HELP University.

To enable students to understand and practise the essentials of etiquette in common social and business situations, there are skills

that will be taught which will be beneficial to lifelong learning.

Some of the topics that will be taught include common courtesies, first impressions, grooming and make-up, business etiquette, email etiquette, dining etiquette, and online class etiquette.

This course, which promises to be fun and engaging, will provide hands-on exercises on the different

dining etiquettes of the world, culminating with a fine dining experience at one of the top French restaurants in the country, Lafite Restaurant in Shangri-la Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

When graduates start working, they may need to attend banquets or social gatherings.

Proper table manners are therefore, very important. In addition to great job performance, having good dining etiquette helps to establish their credibility and reputation.

Emily Post, who is famous for her writing on etiquette, said: "To make a pleasant and friendly impression is not only good manners, but equally good business."

More than just tertiary education, HELP University aims for its students to graduate with a much-needed skill that is missing in most universities' curriculum. These are lifelong soft skills, which are very important for success in life.

It is not just about learning how to eat with the correct fork or spoon, but learning how to behave in different settings, and most importantly to gain that personal confidence so that students can step up into the world and stand out amongst others.

■ For more information on HELP University and HELP Academy, visit www.help.edu.my or call 03-2716 2000.

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Students have the option to spend part of their studies at Henley in the UK.

Fast track to chartered accountancy

DESPITE the economic ups and downs, the demand for qualified accountants remains consistently high – in fact, accountants have been included in TalentCorp's Critical Occupations List (COL) since its inception in 2015. Furthermore, accountants with globally recognised professional qualifications also have many opportunities to work outside of Malaysia, such as in Singapore and the UK.

For those new to the profession, the journey to becoming a chartered accountant involves more than just completing a degree in accountancy.

After graduation, students must pass additional professional examinations and acquire relevant post-study work experience.

Fast-track with Henley-ICAEW Programme (HIP)

The Henley-ICAEW programme (HIP) is a partnership between Henley Business School Malaysia and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) – one of the industry's most respected professional bodies.

Designed as an integrated, career-focused programme, HIP offers students a fast track to chartered accountancy, which can normally be achieved within three to four years after students graduate.

One of the key benefits of ICAEW is the global recognition of its ACA qualification – ICAEW has reciprocal memberships with professional bodies in countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

Renowned Henley Business School in Malaysia

Established in 1945, Henley Business School at the University of Reading has a long-established reputation as one of the UK's premier business schools.

Henley is ranked in the Top 10 of UK Business Schools according to the Financial Times European Business School Rankings 2021, and is also among the 100 or so elite business schools in the world with triple-crown accreditation from AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), EQUIS (European Foundation for Management Development Quality Improvement System) and AMBA (Association of MBAs) in recognition of the quality of its teaching and research.

Students in Malaysia have the opportunity to study with Henley Business School at the University of Reading's international branch



Former students on their industry placement at EY Johor.

campus located at EduCity, Iskandar Johor.

The modern, state-of-the-art campus provides excellent facilities that include IT-enabled classrooms, PC labs, social areas and a spacious Learning Resource Centre (LRC) with breakout rooms.

Maximum paper exemptions with ICAEW

Upon successful completion of the programme and meeting all the requirements, students on HIP are awarded the prestigious BSc Accounting and Finance degree from Henley Business School and can claim up to a maximum of eight Credit for Prior learning (CPL) or paper exemptions from ICAEW, as well as a waiver of about £850 (RM4,860) in exemption and registration fees.

Furthermore, eligible students can also receive the ICAEW Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (CFAB) and use the Business and Finance Professional (BFP) designation after their name.

Industry work placement

HIP students undergo a full year work placement in Year 3 where they have the opportunity to acquire valuable work experience and further enhance their employability. Students are normally placed in established firms such as EY, KPMG, PWC, Deloitte, Grant Thornton, BDO and other ICAEW

Authorised Training Employers (ATE).

Students are not only able to put into practice what they learn in the classroom, but also develop valuable workplace skills such as business communication, time management and client interaction.

Prof Wing Lam, University of Reading Malaysia provost, highlighted the key advantages of HIP's industry work placement, "The HIP programme is one of the very few programmes in Malaysia with an integrated 12-month industry work placement. It is often the first time students have the opportunity to work in a professional setting at a major firm, so it gives them a real taste of the industry. They not only get to apply what they learn in the classroom, they also develop the soft skills that companies are seeking but often find missing from fresh graduates."

High-quality learning experience

Students can be reassured of an excellent learning experience – 75% of Henley's academics in Malaysia are PhD-qualified and many have further industry and professional certifications. Henley's approach to teaching and learning ensures students not only acquire the technical knowledge they need, but also the ability to think critically and solve problems.

Another benefit of studying at Henley

Business School in Malaysia is the low student to staff ratio. Class sizes are typically no larger than 35, which allow students to receive more personalised learning and benefit from a high degree of interaction between students and academic staff. In addition to the academic staff who are always ready to help, each student is assigned an academic tutor to provide support and mentoring where required.

Option to experience the UK campus

Students can take advantage of the flexible options which allows them to spend one or even two years at Henley Business School in the UK.

The Henley Business School is located on the university's main campus in Reading UK, which is set in 130ha of beautiful parkland and has won the Green Flag award 11 times in a row, making it one of the UK's best green spaces. The campus has everything a student could need, including sports facilities, health centre, eateries, a supermarket and on-campus accommodation. Furthermore, Reading town is conveniently only a 30-minute train ride from London,

April entry

For those with A-level, UEC or equivalent results, applications are now being accepted for entry in April. SPM, IGCSE and equivalent holders can enrol onto the university's 12-month International Foundation Programme (IFP) which, upon successful progression, guarantees them a place on the HIP programme in Malaysia.

A High Achievers Scholarship valued at up to RM33,840, or the equivalent of a 30% discount for the entire duration of study (subject to terms and conditions), is available for eligible students with excellent academic results.

■ For more information, visit www.reading.edu.my/henley or follow on social media:

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For a one-to-one consultation or to arrange a campus visit, call or WhatsApp Joyce at 016-721 5400

You may also email my.enquiry@reading.edu.my or visit University of Reading Malaysia at Persiaran Graduan, Kota Ilmu, EduCity, Iskandar Puteri, Johor, Malaysia.

Excelling in world-class research

THE global pandemic has drastically reshaped the way education is delivered around the world and made a significant impact on academic research initiatives.

Despite these challenges, AIMST University is expanding and thriving, with top-tier professors providing the highest quality teaching and learning.

Two of its scientists, Prof Dr V. Ravichandran and Assoc Prof Dr S. Parasuraman, have made Stanford University's list of the top 2% of the world's scientists.

Furthermore, for the last two years, Prof Dr V. Ravichandran has been consistently ranked among Malaysia's top 1,000 scientists by the AD scientific index.

In addition, Dr Arunachalam Muthuraman from the Faculty of Pharmacy has been named among the top 1% neuroscientists in pain management for the year 2021 by Expertscape, which objectively ranks people based on expertise in biomedical topics.

Though AIMST University is still in its early stages, there has been an increase in research grants received.

Its academicians have produced high-impact scholarly publications and intellectual properties, and received coveted international innovation awards like PECIPTA'19,



Despite the challenges of the pandemic, AIMST University is expanding and thriving.

ITEX'19, ASIANINVENT Singapore, and Falling Wall Labs, Germany.

In its research endeavour, AIMST University has a joint research effort with USM, which MOSTI awarded RM10.5mil as part of the National Vaccine Development Roadmap.

AIMST University and USM have jointly developed oral and mucosal vaccines using two locally produced technologies proven effective in preliminary animal studies.

The vaccines are anticipated to enter first-in-human trials in 2022.

Initial animal studies have shown the vaccine is extremely safe and effective.

Furthermore, the vaccine is stable at room temperature and does not need refrigeration.

This provides further advantages in logistics and costs, facilitating transportation to remote areas and enhancing vaccine distribution and equity.

The research group plans to utilise this platform for other infectious diseases to provide a "three-in-one" vaccine technology.

In addition, one of AIMST University's Centres of Excellence – COMBio (Centre of Excellence for Omics-Driven Computational Biodiscovery), was awarded the Research Excellence Consortium grant worth RM500,000 by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and recognised as Consortium of Excellence in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

AIMST University's cutting-edge research excellence has attracted collaboration with top worldwide universities like Boston Children's

Hospital, Harvard Medical School, US; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Leicester, UK; Deakin University, Australia; Technical University of Denmark, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden and many more.

Dedication to quality research and teaching enables its graduates to chart promising careers beyond Malaysia.

The acceptance of its graduates in top-notch universities globally, such as the National University of Singapore (NUS), University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, Ontario University and Johns Hopkins University is emblematic of that commitment.

As a result of mutual effort and dedication, AIMST University got ranked on the QS Asia Universities Ranking for the first time.

AIMST University aspires to teach students analytical thinking and independent judgement as it grows to become a centre of excellence for research and innovation in frontier disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas of science and technology.

■ For more details, visit AIMST University's campus in Semeling, Kedah, or call 012-672 7556/ 04-429 8123.

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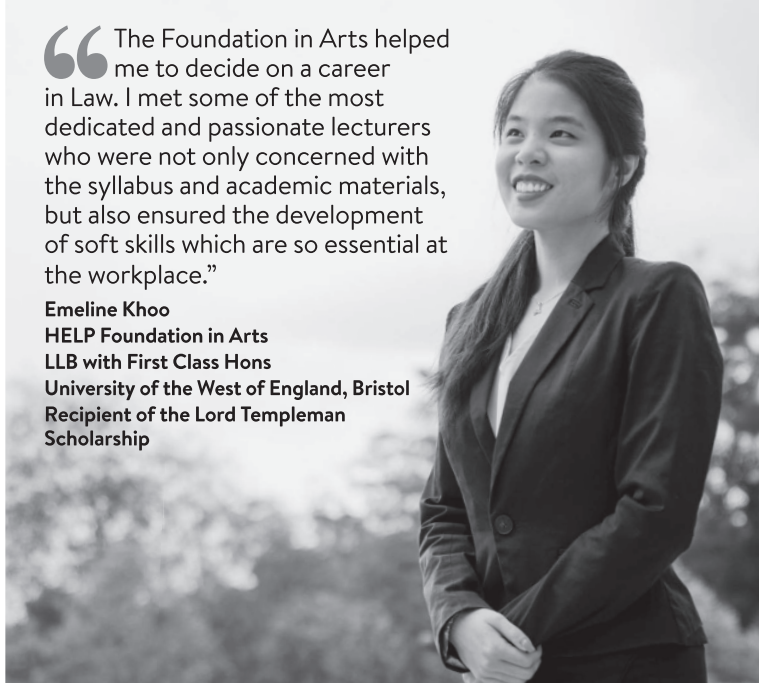
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Emeline Khoo
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Prestigious UK degrees closer to home

SPANNING some 12.14ha (30 acres) Kolej Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) Malaysia accommodates a state-of-the-art infrastructure, Wi-Fi connectivity campus-wide, fully equipped classrooms, lecture theatres, computer labs, multi-purpose halls, auditorium, sporting facilities, ample parking, 24/7 security and a full-fledged hostel on campus.

Located in the hub of the fully integrated EduCity at Iskandar Puteri, Johor – the institution was established in 2014, and is the second overseas campus after MDIS Tashkent, which was set up in 2008 in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

Poised to cater to a truly global student community, students of the various MDIS campuses from Singapore, Uzbekistan and Malaysia have the opportunity to pursue transnational education that provides a cross border education in a culturally diverse environment.

Committed to high standards of quality education and dedicated qualified lecturers imbued with academic and relevant industry experience, Kolej MDIS Malaysia's home-grown programmes are accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), while the three-year programmes are accredited by both the MQA and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in the UK.

Acclaimed for its renowned UK degree programmes from Bangor University, Kolej MDIS Malaysia is all geared up to welcome its new



With global campuses, students can benefit by choosing to study in different geographical locations and interacting with different nationalities and cultures.

batch of students for its February intake in 2022.

Kolej MDIS Malaysia chief executive officer Professor Hassan Ali believes that emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, "EduCity at Iskandar Puteri has great potential and is poised to play a salient role in the development of the education sector in Malaysia."

"As a heritage and trusted brand providing quality education since 1956, we are confident that MDIS will contribute significantly to the development of global talents in meeting the needs of businesses and industries of the Malaysian economy."

He added that at Kolej MDIS Malaysia students are able to obtain accredited pathways to high-quality UK degree qualifications in various disciplines from

Bangor University, at an affordable cost and closer to home.

"Students have the opportunity to live and learn in a vibrant environment at the full-fledged student hostel and brand-new campus."

"In addition, with our global campuses in Singapore, Tashkent and Iskandar, students can benefit from a truly global and transnational education. They can choose to study in different geographical locations and interact with different nationalities and cultures," he said.

Furthermore, the financial study loan provided by the National Higher Education Fund (PTPTN), for tertiary education and the Employee Provident Fund (EPF) withdrawal scheme, enables local students to tap on this financial assistance to graduate with a



Kolej MDIS Malaysia spans across 12.14ha and is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure to facilitate students' learning experience.

prestigious UK degree, at an affordable cost without having to leave their home country.

At Kolej MDIS Malaysia, accredited courses in the fields of Business Management, Accounting & Finance, Information Technology, Mass Communications, and Tourism & Hospitality are offered at the Certificate, Foundation, Diploma and Degree levels in collaboration with the renowned Bangor University, UK.

Ranked Top 40 in the UK for Teaching Quality by The Times and Sunday Times League Table 2020 and 169th in the world for International Outlook by The World University, Kolej MDIS Malaysia partnered with BU in offering the BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance, BSc (Hons) Banking and Finance, BSc (Hons) Business

Management and BSc (Hons) Marketing.

Intakes for these programmes will commence in February, June and September 2022.

The foundation programme, however, is designed for school-leavers to gain the essential skills and knowledge for a smooth transition to tertiary education.

Students are encouraged to enrol for the January, April or September 2022 intakes. Also available are the Certificate and Diploma courses with intakes in January, April and September 2022.

■ For more information on programmes at Kolej MDIS Malaysia, visit www.mdiss.edu.my or email info@mdiss.edu.my. Alternatively, follow them on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or LinkedIn.

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