

# Star Special

THE STAR, THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2025

HIGHER EDUCATION

## Recognising research excellence

THE Management and Science University (MSU) made a significant impact at the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2025, winning 12 prestigious awards.

This year's participation saw strong representation from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS), Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE), School of Pharmacy (SPH), as well as MSU's research centres – the Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security (AICS) and the Software Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre (SEnDI).

MSU's nine research entries highlighted 11 of its 37 strategic research areas – applied health sciences, medical sciences, traditional and complementary medicine, art and design, 21st-century education (game-based learning), community interventions (autism spectrum), sustainable energy, environmental sustainability, engineering, green technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning and cybersecurity.

### Notable achievements

One of the biggest highlights was a project titled "Anti-Inflammatory, Anti-Apoptosis and Pro-Angiogenic Growth Factors Modulating Potentials of OriMili (Cordyceps militaris Extract) in Treating Diabetic Retinopathy", which clinched Outstanding, Special and Gold Awards.

It was spearheaded by Muhammad Danial Ramli (FHLS) with Dr Syntyche Seow Ling Sing (Ganofarm), Dr Cheng Poh Guat



MSU president Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid (centre, in grey suit) with the winning participants from MSU at the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2025.

(Ganofarm), Dr Noor Aishah Izham (MSU), Dr Mahathir Mohd Uzid (MSU), Amanina Nurjannah Atan Hamdan (MSU), Dr Hussin Muhamad (IMR), Dr Syahida Maarof (Mardi), Dr Zulkapli Eshak (UiTM) and Dr Nelli Giribabu (UM).

Another standout project, "Home-Based Busy Kit with Gamified Visual Sensory Activities: Enhancing Young Children's Motor Skills and Sensory Development for Preschool Readiness", also earned Special and Gold Awards.

This innovative educational tool was developed by Revathi Aruchunan (FISE) and her team, including contributors from MSU's graphic design and game design programmes.

Four silver awards were secured, one each from FISE, AICS, SEnDI and SPH:

> PIEZO-WALK: Harnessing

Piezoelectric Generators for Sustainable Energy through Walking-Induced Kinetic Optimisation led by Assoc Prof Dr Safaa Najah Saud Al-Humairi (FISE) with Dr Nor Izzati Ahmad (FISE), Goh Wen Han (FISE), Shasha Firzannah Mohamad Zahid (FISE) and Mohammed Mubarak Salman Yashout (FISE);

> TrafficVision AI: Intelligent Traffic Monitoring System Powered by SD-YOLO Algorithm with Advanced Cybersecurity led by Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Irsyad Abdullah (AICS) with Li Jiao (Mianyang Polytechnic), Safaa Najah, Assoc Prof Dr Asif Iqbal (AICS), Theebana Durairajh (Bachelor in Computer Science), Dr Adhes Gamayel (Jakarta Global University, Indonesia) and Asst Prof Dr Mohammed Hazim Alkawaz (University of Mosul, Iraq);

> Greenally: An Intelligent System for Sustainable Manage-

ment of Perishable and Disposable Resources led by Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Irsyad Abdullah (SEnDI) with Amirudin Makin, Prof Datuk Dr Md Gapar Md Johar, Muhd Aldiansyah, Saiful Hakim Sullini, Assoc Prof Dr Rabab Alayham, Prof Puan Sri Datuk Dr Junainah Abd Hamid and Dr Rimuljo Hendradi (Unair, Indonesia); and

> Smart Epilepsy System: Wearable Biosensors with Location and Communication Features (EpiGuard) led by Dr Saeid Mezail Mawazi (SPH) with Kinn Abass Bakon (FISE), Tan Zi Yin (Bachelor in Information Technology (Hons) Mobile Wireless and Technology), Kenneth Koh Juin Long (Bachelor in Computer Science) and Wong Chyi Siang (Bachelor in Computer Science).

FHLS, SPH and FISE each won bronze awards:

> Transfersosomal Gel of

Acaudina Molpadioides for Treating Psoriasis-Like Dermatitis (ClearDina) led by Dr Santhra Segaran Balan (FHLS) with Assoc Prof Dr Hasnah Bahari (Universiti Putra Malaysia), Dr Fezah Othman (Universiti Putra Malaysia), Dr Haniza Harun (FHLS), Dr Nurzafirah Mazlan (University Malaysia Sabah), Dr Azrina Zainal Abidin (FHLS) and Mishalani Vijayakumaran (MSU);

> Design of Innovative Biosensors Application for the Detection of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases led by Dr Saeid Mezail Mawazi (SPH) with Kinn Abass Bakon (FISE), Tan Zi Yin (Bachelor in Information Technology (Honours) Mobile Wireless and Technology), Kenneth Koh Juin Long (Bachelor in Computer Science), and Wong Chyi Siang (Bachelor in Computer Science).

> Hero Cyber Safe Nation: A Platform for Enhancing Community's Knowledge and Awareness of Cybersecurity led by Dr Asma Mahfoudh Hezam Al-Hakimi (FISE) with Assoc Prof Dr Asif Iqbal (FISE), Priwin Sri Morgen (Bachelor in Computer Forensic), Durgasuan Maniraja (Bachelor in Computer Forensic) programme, Mohamad Zufahmy Roslan (Yayasan Digital Malaysia), Ahmad Faizal Zulkipli (Yayasan Digital Malaysia) and I Wayan Budi Sentana (Politeknik Negeri Bali).

These achievements not only highlight MSU's research excellence but also reflect its commitment to impactful innovation across health, education, technology and sustainability.

## Smart habits that lead to success

DO you often find yourself wondering, "Where did the time go?" in the middle of the semester? While organising your time is crucial, it's essential to assess whether you might be unintentionally hindering your productivity. Here are some tips to help you stay focused and reach your study goals.

### Don't sweat the small stuff

It's great to excel in everything but when time is limited, focus on what counts most. Prioritise assignments with the highest impact on your final grade.

At the start of the semester, map out your workload and note how much each task contributes to your overall result. Work smarter, not harder.



Assessing your study routine is an important step toward improving time management.

### Be selective with extracurriculars

Participating in activities like debate or clubs can be fun and help you develop valuable soft skills, but not at the expense of your studies.

For now, focus on the activities that align most with your academic or career goals, and don't be afraid to cut back on those that don't.

After all, you can always return to these enjoyable pursuits later – after you've landed your dream job.

### Optimise your study space for success

Quality study starts with the right environment. You need a quiet, distraction-free space, the right resources and enough time to focus deeply.

Working in a noisy café might seem convenient, but distractions – from friends to missing materials – can derail your productivity.

Instead, create a dedicated study space, gather everything you need in advance, turn off your phone and make studying a focused, effective habit.

## Staying engaged for high-value learning

WHILE studying is meant to be inspiring and enriching, the reality is that some aspects of your course may be less engaging than others. You might find yourself tackling a required unit that feels disconnected from your chosen field of study, yet still plays a crucial role in the bigger picture.

Additionally, if you're pursuing a foundational degree, there will be times when you revisit certain topics due to overlap in course content or because some classmates may need extra support.

When this happens, how do you stay engaged? You might coast along and still pass, but a lack of motivation often leads to disappointing results.

Additionally, it can be disheartening to sit through a class that feels like a waste of time.

One effective way to cope is to remember that coping itself is a valuable life skill. There will be lots of times when you find that

your exciting, motivating career includes some mundane tasks that must be addressed.

For example, even when you're designing the most inspiring buildings in the world, you still have to file paperwork and do your taxes.

You can also view this as a challenge to enhance your learning skills. Identify what it takes to achieve a top mark, break it down into achievable milestones and approach it like a marathon for personal success.

Another way is to explore potential alternative relevance. While you might not immediately see the value of a subject, there could be real-life applications that make it worthwhile.

Finally, take comfort in knowing that this is only temporary. Remind yourself: this too shall pass. Push through these courses and before you know it, you'll be back to studying what truly excites you.

## Benefits of learning a foreign language

DID you know that learning a foreign language can boost your brain in terms of problem-solving abilities and creativity? It has many useful effects, including these three vital areas that will help boost your personal success.



Learning a new language helps build character and provides a valuable sense of cross-cultural awareness.

### Gives you a new perspective

Learning a language isn't just about translating. In English, we refer to people as "he" or "she" while objects are "it." In Malay, "dia" can mean all three. In German, Frau ("woman") is feminine, Mann ("man") is masculine, but Mädchen ("girl") is neutral. One knock-on effect is that training your mind to think in new

ways can boost creativity and enhance problem-solving skills.

### Better multi-cultural skills

As language mirrors the culture of the people who created it, learning one gives you insight into how other communities think.

This process also deepens your understanding of your own culture and offers alternative perspectives on the world. This

cross-cultural awareness can enhance your career prospects.

### Boosts character

We tend to forget how much we struggled as tiny tots to make others understand us. Learning a foreign language is like being a kid again. Not only does this help build character, but it also makes you a more effective and creative communicator.

# Unlock your future in medicine



Global connections start at RUMC, where a diverse student body representing perspectives from Ireland, Malaysia and beyond lays the foundation for a borderless healthcare career.

ARE you a high-school leaver or pre-university student with a passion for medicine or the healthcare industry?

Are you looking for a world-class education that combines global opportunities with affordability?

Look no further than RUMC, where a unique blend of Irish and Malaysian excellence in medical and healthcare education can be found.

At RUMC, students get the best of both worlds.

Its five-year Undergraduate Medicine programme is designed to give students a truly international experience.

Students spend the first two and a half years in Dublin, Ireland, immersing themselves in the pre-clinical years of their medical education at one of RUMC's parent universities: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Dublin (UCD).

For the remaining two and a half years, students return to Penang, Malaysia, where they will complete their clinical training with exclusive access to hospitals in the region.

This unique structure ensures that graduates gain a global perspective and hands-on experience in diverse healthcare settings.

### A cost-effective path to excellence

What sets RUMC apart is its commitment to making world-class education accessible and cost-effective.

Compared to completing a full five-year programme overseas, studying at RUMC offers significant savings without compromising on quality.

Its boutique-sized classes ensure a personalised learning experience, where every student receives the attention and support they need to thrive.

For those aspiring to become doctors, the Foundation in Science opens the pathway to both the Undergraduate Medicine programme and the Bachelor of Science in Medical

Informatics, a cutting-edge programme tailored for students keen on the intersection of healthcare and technology.

Alternatively, the Pre-Medical Foundation Year is the perfect starting point to strengthen skills and knowledge in science subjects, preparing students for the rigours of the Undergraduate Medicine programme.

Speaking of technology, the Bachelor of Science in Medical Informatics is designed for the innovators of tomorrow.

### Supporting success, inspiring leaders

As part of the inaugural intake, RUMC is offering a special bursary: the first 10 successfully enrolled students will receive a 20% bursary on Year 1 fees, while the next five students will receive an RM5,000 bursary.

RUMC also believes in rewarding excellence. For high-achieving students, RUMC offers scholarships that make pursuing their dreams even more attainable.

Students entering the Foundation in Science with 6As or more in their high school exams such as SPM, IGCSE, O-Level or its equivalent will receive a 50% scholarship.

For the Undergraduate Medicine programme, RUMC is offering 20% scholarships and full scholarships to two exceptional students.

Whether a student is passionate about medicine, healthcare technology or the broader healthcare industry, RUMC offers the programmes, opportunities and support to help them achieve their goals.

Students ready to take the first step towards a rewarding healthcare career are invited to explore what RUMC has to offer. Apply now and join a community that is shaping the future of healthcare.

■ To learn more, visit [rumc.edu.my](http://rumc.edu.my) or contact [enquiry@rcsiucd.edu.my](mailto:enquiry@rcsiucd.edu.my) or 04-217 1999.



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# Practical skills for future managers



The Diploma in Management at MSU College covers fundamental aspects of organisational management such as communication, leadership, marketing and finance.

MANAGEMENT is the process of planning, organising, making decisions, leading, motivating and controlling an organisation's human, financial, physical and informational resources to achieve its goals efficiently and effectively.

With the aim of preparing students for a successful career in management and administration, the Diploma in Management at MSU College offers a broad-based business education and equips students with essential soft skills.

It is designed to provide students with the tools required in management positions while introducing them to basic components of organisational management including communication, leadership, marketing and finance.

It also provides students with up-to-date knowledge and practical skills, while instilling strong moral values and integrity as they

carry out their responsibilities.

A solid foundation in these core areas helps students gain insights into the fields they may wish to pursue at the bachelor's level.

The entry requirement for 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 may choose to begin their careers or continue their studies in the second year of a bachelor's programme in the same or a related field at Management and Science University (MSU), through the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies, with the option for credit transfer.

In line with MSU College's aspiration to produce balanced, holistic and well-rounded graduates, the programme is also supported by a comprehensive entrepreneur-

ial ecosystem and industry-embedded initiatives to ensure graduates are career-ready.

In addition, the School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies at MSU College offers a variety of other programmes, including Early Childhood Education, Accounting, and English Language Teaching.

MSU College also serves as the MSU APEL Centre, giving potential candidates the opportunity to take the APEL Aptitude Test – an alternative pathway for entry into higher education.

MSU currently offers APEL A and APEL C at the following levels: T-3 (certificate), T-4 (diploma), T-6 (bachelor's) and T-7 (master's).

■ For more information, contact 03-5521 6868, email [enquiry@msucollege.my](mailto:enquiry@msucollege.my) or visit [www.msucollege.edu.my](http://www.msucollege.edu.my)

## Writing well through group projects

WRITING may look simple on the surface, but it's actually a surprisingly complex skill. In school, we spend years churning out essays on history, science and literature.

Yet despite all that practice, studies, teachers and employers in the US, UK and even Malaysia still say the same thing – many young adults entering college or the workforce struggle to write well.

So, how do you build the habit of writing well? One effective approach is through collaborative writing projects.

Research shows that when young people team up to work on a piece of writing, they naturally sharpen their skills – learning from each other, exchanging ideas and improving together in the process.

University students have said that collaborative writing offers four key benefits:

- 1) Reducing workload by dividing tasks
- 2) Enhancing understanding through a combined effort
- 3) Leveraging each other's

expertise to produce the best outcome

4) Developing new skills for both the current and future group projects.

In practice, university students often face significant stress from project grading, particularly when team members have varying skill levels.

To alleviate this pressure, high school students might benefit from group assignments that are assessed for learning purposes but do not impact their final grades. This could foster collaboration without the added stress of grading.

Term time is already filled with assignments and assessments but the days at the end of the term, when the curriculum is complete, could be the perfect opportunity for a group-writing project.

Good topics include writing a romance story, creating a scene for a superhero film, drafting a ghost story, or writing dialogue for a cartoon where all the characters are animals.

## Spacing out study sessions

IMAGINE you need to memorise 20 pairs of vocabulary words, such as "effulgent" or "brilliant", written on flashcards. You have four days to study them and on the fifth day, you'll be tested.

With cramming, we expect to forget. But how often have you gone through new material in class, felt like you understood it, only to find yourself struggling to recall it a week later?

Now, imagine taking that same class twice, maybe a week apart. Would you remember the material better?

Most people instinctively know that repeating the class would help – yet when it comes to memorising those word pairs, they'd still likely go for short, intensive study sessions.

It's strange, but many of us lean towards less effective study habits simply because the strategies that actually work often feel counterintuitive.

In a study comparing the two methods, participants who tackled the large stack and reviewed a card four times with a one-day gap between each session retained 49% of the words. Meanwhile, those who used the bite-sized approach recalled 36%.

The key takeaway is that our brains rarely absorb information effectively with just one attempt, whether it's last-minute cramming or a single intense focus session. The most effective learning method is to observe, step away, revisit and repeat the process.



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PLANNING for university? Let the University of Cyberjaya (UoC) transform your ambition into a future-proof career.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, UoC is launching a series of Open Day events on May 10-11 and May 31-June 1, offering exclusive scholarships, rebates worth up to RM22,000 and free accommodation for SPM leavers and diploma-bound students.

Whether you're a student ready to take the next big step or a parent seeking a secure, affordable future for your child, this is the moment to act.

**Why choose UoC?**

UoC isn't just an academic institution – it's a launchpad for careers in high-demand industries. Its diploma and undergraduate pathways are designed to deliver practical, career-focused education that ensures graduates are job-ready.

These programmes cover various fields such as Mass Communication, Pharmacy, Cosmetics, Accounting, Early Childhood Education, 3D Animation and Creative Design, Digital Content Production and Graphic Design.

**Making education accessible**

UoC recognises the financial challenges that many students and their families face when pursuing higher education.

To ease this burden, UoC has curated a series of initiatives aimed at making quality education more accessible and attainable.

# Flexible pathways to success



UoC is committed to providing top-notch education for all, ensuring that financial barriers never limit a student's potential.

By attending the Open Day events, prospective students can unlock exclusive benefits such as:

- > **Exclusive rebates of up to RM22,000:**

As part of UoC's mission to make quality education more affordable, generous scholarships and rebates are available for students enrolling in selected diploma programmes.

- > **50% UoC Chancellor's Scholarship:**

Available for most diploma and degree programmes, this scholarship supports high-potential students who aspire to make a difference.

- > **100% Foundation programme scholarship:**

SPM leavers enrolling in the Foundation programme enjoy a

full scholarship with a seamless path into degree programmes.

- > **Diploma entry with three SPM credits:**

Students with as few as three credits in their SPM can begin their tertiary education with UoC's diploma programmes.

- > **Free and subsidised accommodation:**

To ease the transition into university life, UoC offers limited-time accommodation packages for the first 200 students of selected diploma programmes.

This includes a fully sponsored free one-year stay for the first 50 students, complete with 24-hour security, CCTV and access to Cyberjaya's MRT station, parks and eateries.

The next 150 students will



At UoC, students thrive in a learning environment that balances academic excellence with practical experience.

enjoy quality student housing at a fraction of the cost, with a subsidised rate of RM250 per month, giving peace of mind to both students and parents.

- > **Early bird registration rebate:**

Registering during the Open Day events entitles an instant RM750 rebate, representing a head start in making education more affordable for all.

**From certificate to diploma to degree**

UoC offers flexible academic pathways tailored to your qualifications. Whether you're starting with just one credit or aiming for a professional degree, there's a roadmap just for you.

The Open Day events offer

more than just a campus tour – they provide an invaluable opportunity to meet lecturers and student counsellors, allowing prospective students to discuss academic interests and career goals.

Students can also apply for scholarships during the events, giving them a chance to secure financial support early.

They will also have a chance to explore campus life and facilities, gaining insights into the vibrant environment that awaits. Spots are limited, so secure your advantage now. Terms and conditions apply.

■ For more information on UoC's Open Day events, WhatsApp 011-1112 3344, email [inquiry@cyberjaya.edu.my](mailto:inquiry@cyberjaya.edu.my) or visit <https://cyberjaya.edu.my/openday-2025>

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Copyright © 2025 ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN MALAYSIA CAMPUS. All rights reserved. PENANG MEDICAL COLLEGE SDN BHD (265542-K)

# A journey of challenges and growth

FOR Shree Varssan Manisekar, the Foundation in Science (FIS) programme at International Medical University (IMU) was more than just an academic journey – it was one of transformation.

“The lecturers felt like family, guiding me through challenges, whether they knew it or not. They didn’t just teach; they prepared me for life,” said Shree.

“They showed me how to carry myself as a true professional. Their dedication and the way they presented themselves shaped my perspective of what it means to be a leader. They exemplified true professionalism, not just through words but by being inspiring role models.”

One of the biggest lessons he learnt in FIS was time management.

“I learned that cramming everything at once, as I did in school, would only end in failure or burnout. So, I changed my methodology and finally had time to focus on my passion.”

Shree’s days in FIS were when he discovered his true reason for pursuing medicine: “My father was a doctor, but I never really thought I would follow the same path. However, a moment of magic in FIS changed everything.

“I met Dr James Edward Walsh, a lecturer and IMU’s Centre of Pre-University Studies director. He was outgoing and gave me many words of wisdom.

“One quote of his that stuck with me was, ‘The right attitude for any healthcare professional is to be bathed in blood and sweat but still be able to say ‘I love this job.’”

What started as just an academic path slowly became a passion as Shree understood the depth and impact of the field.

The journey, challenges and people around him reshaped his perspective, making him realise that medicine is more than just a profession – it’s a purpose.

“I am currently in my first year of my Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS). Looking back, I wouldn’t be here without my experiences in FIS,” he said.

The first semester of Medicine was made easier for Shree because the Biosciences module in FIS provides a smooth transition for IMU’s FIS graduates pursuing medicine. It covers a variety of topics that he is still learning to date.

“It was an enlightening experience for me as I truly understood how crucial the next few years in MBBS were going to be,” Shree said.



For Shree, the FIS programme at IMU was more than just an academic journey – it was one of transformation.

Next, there is the Computer Sciences module, which integrates technology with healthcare and is essential for the future, as technologies like artificial intelligence and other machinery are becoming increasingly important for saving lives.

Additionally, there is the Cross-Boundary Studies module, where Shree had to raise funds for a school.

“We were tasked with setting up a booth to sell items and raise funds. This allowed me to develop my teamwork, management skills and critical thinking.

“The FIS at IMU was not just a foundation for my academic skills, but also the foundation of my growth. From learning professionalism to refining my skills, from forging bonds to embracing competition, this journey shaped me into who I am today.”

IMU’s FIS programme provides students with a direct pathway to the undergraduate programme of their choice at the university and many of its international partner universities.

It is designed to equip prospective students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their chosen degree programmes. It has also proven effective in facilitating a smooth transition for students into various degree programmes, potentially leading to promising career pathways.

The FIS at IMU has three intakes each year – in April, July, and September. Submit an online application today via the university’s website at [www.imu.edu.my](http://www.imu.edu.my)

■ For more information, email [start@imu.edu.my](mailto:start@imu.edu.my) or call 03-2731 7272.

## Honing practical leadership skills

MANY graduates often find themselves lacking in people management skills upon completion of their studies.

While educational institutions offer valuable insight into management philosophy, it’s incomparable to acquiring hands-on experience.

Here are some methods to enhance your people management skills, regardless of your field of study.

### Organise a karaoke song quartet

It doesn’t matter what you sing together. The main thing is to set a time frame that includes picking the song, practising the singing, developing choreography, getting everyone on the same page and finally, trying it out in public.

### Run a charity stall at a bazaar

Finding a charity, deciding what to sell, getting your team together and doing promotion, sales and accounts is the perfect rehearsal for a full-time job. This is very challenging, so start by helping someone else before trying this yourself.

### Set up a sports team

Gather like-minded people into a football/futsal/squash/marathon team and train for an event. A charity competition is fun, or you could compete in a school event. As a leader, you need to organise training, help people overcome obstacles, pick mini teams, etc. All these will help to chalk up your people management skills.

## THE ÔNE ACADEMY

# WORLD’S NO.1\*

2024 Top 50 Creative Schools Ranking - World’s No. 1  
Out of 462 schools across 105 countries in The Rookies International

\*source: [www.therookies.co/contests/groups/rookie-awards-2024/results](http://www.therookies.co/contests/groups/rookie-awards-2024/results)

Partners with DIGIPEN USA & ESMOD PARIS

# WORLD’S 1ST\*

Video Game Development Degree & Fashion Design Institute

\*source: [www.digipen.edu/about](http://www.digipen.edu/about), [www.esmod.com/en/esmod-group/history](http://www.esmod.com/en/esmod-group/history)

# WORLD’S BEST

2024 Best Schools in the World - Graphic Design, Immersive Media, Concept Art, Product & Industrial Design, Motion Graphics, 2D Animation & Architectural Visualisation by The Rookies International

\*source: [www.therookies.co/schools/rankings/2024](http://www.therookies.co/schools/rankings/2024)

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John Hughes for Film VFX Programme

\*source: [tauffilms.com/john-hughes](http://tauffilms.com/john-hughes)

# CREATIVE SCHOOL

of the Year - Advertising & Graphic Design, Digital Media Design, Illustration and Digital Animation in the Kancil Awards 2024 by 4As Malaysia

\*source: [kancilawards.com/student-winners/year/2024](http://kancilawards.com/student-winners/year/2024)

## International Recognition of Excellence

For over three decades, students’ international achievements and providing world-class education have always been The One Academy’s first priority. Receiving international recognition for our efforts, we pledge to continue holding steadfast to our "Masters Train Masters" teaching philosophy and together with our exceptional team of educators, provide unmatched creative education to boost Malaysia’s creative economy and become Asia’s creative hub.

The One Academy International Standard Diploma & Degree Programmes

### Computer Science

KL (N/481/4/0836)(12/26)(MQA/PA14945)

### Game Design

KL (N/213/4/0373)(12/26)(MQA/PA14946)

### Digital Animation

KL (R3/213/4/0289)(11/26)(A7675) & PG (R3/0211/4/0057)(8/30)(A11080)

### Visual Effects (VFX)

KL (R/213/4/0327)(10/27)(MQA/FA8826)

### Illustration

KL (R3/213/4/0317)(11/26)(A7674) & PG (R3/0211/4/0059)(3/30)(A11082)

### Interior Architecture & Design

KL (R3/214/4/0185)(10/29)(A7587), (R2/0731/6/0006)(2/29)(MQA/FA11216) & PG (R3/0212/4/0006)(4/30)(A11083)

### Fashion Design & Pattern Making

KL (R2/0212/4/0056)(10/29)(MQA/FA1580)

### Graphic Design: Advertising & Branding

KL (R2/0211/4/0147)(4/26)(A1826), (R3/0211/6/0035)(11/30)(A9123) & PG (R3/0211/4/0060)(3/30)(A11079)

### Digital Media Design

KL (R3/213/4/0290)(11/28)(A7609), (R3/0212/6/0009)(10/30)(A9124) & PG (R3/0211/4/0058)(5/30)(A11081)

### Fine Arts

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## THE ÔNE ACADEMY | MASTERS TRAIN MASTERS



Gunalaan (centre), Ng (left) and Cheng with their BIIC certificates and award.

# Innovating sustainable construction

SUSTAINABILITY is no longer a fad but has become essential for ensuring society's continued well-being.

With the rapid development of sustainable practices such as green building practices, circular economy, renewable energy and sustainable materials, sustainability is the way forward and will continue to gain massive traction as the world moves towards conserving resources.

At Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), sustainable best practices continue to take centre stage in the university's ecosystem, including its curriculum and research projects.

These efforts are driven by the expertise of its lecturers and the creativity of its students, who are actively engaged in research and innovation to address pressing environmental challenges, particularly in the construction industry.

Gunalaan Vasudevan is one such lecturer whose expertise in sustainable construction materials has earned him multiple awards.

"The construction industry is one of the major contributors to waste generation, which is a significant environmental challenge. Our focus has been on transforming waste materials such as fly ash, recycled aggregates and coconut shells into something useful and sustainable.

"With proper processing, these materials can serve as viable alternatives to traditional concrete, allowing us to create functional and eco-friendly solutions that align with the industry's sustainability goals," he explained.

Among the sustainable construction materials invented by Gunalaan and his team of construction management students are the Sustainable Development Eco-Friendly Interlocking Pave and the Sustainable Coconut Shell Concrete (CSC) for lightweight wall panels.

The Eco-Friendly Interlocking Pave minimises environmental impact by using recycled construction waste, reducing landfill contributions and raw material demand while ensuring efficiency and aesthetic appeal.

Similarly, the lightweight wall panels incorporate CSC, which is recycled industrial by-products and low-carbon cement alternatives, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and improving insulation for energy savings.

Both these inventions won the team

three awards in the International Innovation and Invention Competition through Exhibition (iCompEx) 2024.

Additionally, Gunalaan and his students – Ng Wi Liam and Cheng Zhi Qin, both pursuing the Bachelor of Construction Management and Economics (Honours) programme – developed concrete wall panels using palm kernel shell and coconut shell. Their innovation earned them accolades at the Borneo International Innovation and Invention Competition (BIIC) 2024.

These materials help manage agricultural waste while reducing the environmental impact of conventional disposal methods.

Their lower energy requirements in production enhance construction efficiency, while their natural thermal insulation properties improve building energy efficiency by minimising heating and cooling demands.

Ongoing research and best practices will further facilitate their successful adoption in the industry.

For Ng, the project was a good exposure to real-world challenges.

"While concrete remains the optimal choice for structural integrity and affordability, its production process contributes significantly to global carbon emissions.

"Therefore, we wanted to focus on developing a practical sustainable solution and Gunalaan is the right advisor as he is an expert in innovative and sustainable concrete research," he shared.

Cheng, on the other hand, emphasised the importance of collaboration and hands-on learning.

"Working on this project allowed me to see how sustainable materials can be integrated into construction practices without compromising on quality or performance.

"It's great to have the university's and our lecturers' support in helping us turn our ideas into potential industrial solutions," he said.

■ For those interested in construction management or other built environment programmes, visit the university's open day on April 19-20 and April 26-27, from 10am to 5pm. Prospective students can also call 011-1075 8535 or visit [www.tarc.edu.my](http://www.tarc.edu.my) for more information and to apply online.

Various financial aid and merit scholarships for undergraduate programmes are available for qualified students.

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A10618  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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A3767  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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\* Available in Conventional and Open & Distance Learning mode (ODL)

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The award-winning palm kernel shell (left) and coconut shell (right) in concrete panels.

# Get a UK design degree locally

STUDENTS seeking better education abroad have become more common as Malaysia and the UK strengthen educational ties.

However, instead of studying abroad and incurring high living costs and tuition fees, students interested in pursuing UK design degrees may do so locally at The One Academy's (TOA) campus in Bandar Sunway.

As a leading college for art and design, TOA is renowned for its commitment to high-quality education and industry professional teaching.

The University of Hertfordshire, an established name in the UK design education scene, has a reputation for its distinctive teaching techniques in a wide range of fields.

Together with TOA, this educational alliance cultivates students who are capable of creating high-quality work and implementing creative ideas.

According to TOA founder and principal Tatsun Hoi, "In line with our 'Masters Train Masters' philosophy, the key to our teaching is to offer international quality education based on an industry-driven syllabus and practical coaching approach.

"With the extensive industry network of these two institutions and the firm foundation staffed by industry professionals, I am confident students will benefit from our international degrees." University of Hertfordshire



An interactive installation by a Digital Media Design student, showcasing innovation in digital art.

School of Creative Arts dean Stephen Partridge said, "The creative industries are a huge growth area, one of the fastest expanding sectors, and your development will enable you to thrive within it."

In this era of rapidly evolving technology, concepts such as the metaverse, 6G, artificial intelligence, machine learning, extended reality, cloud computing, blockchain, big data and game design are actively shaping how we live, work and interact.

By embracing these innovations, individuals unlock new opportunities, expand creative potential and prepare to lead in a tech-driven future.

In light of these shifts, TOA's trio of 3+0 UK degree programmes, offered in collaboration with the

University of Hertfordshire, are more relevant than ever.

These forward-thinking courses equip students with the critical skills, creative mindset and technological fluency demanded by today's global market.

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Digital Media Design explores dynamic content creation across platforms including multimedia storytelling, mobile technologies, augmented and virtual realities, immersive experiences and interactive design.

This hybrid programme prepares students for careers at the intersection of creativity and emerging tech. From conceptual development to hands-on production, the curriculum encourages innovation and experimentation.

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours)



(Top) University of Hertfordshire's de Havilland Campus in Hatfield, UK and (bottom) The One Academy campus in Bandar Sunway, Petaling Jaya.

Interior Architecture and Design focuses on the creatively enhancing built environments. Students gain experience in spatial planning, digital modelling and sustainable design.

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Graphic Design: Advertising and Branding trains students in visual communication.

Emphasising strategy, storytelling and innovation, it empowers designers to create compelling brand experiences.

These degree programmes at TOA cater to students' needs and also to parents' concerns. These courses eliminate two-thirds of the expenses typically incurred when studying in the UK.

Students have the flexibility to complete their final year in Malaysia or the UK, presenting opportu-

nities for those seeking an overseas education experience while ensuring a quality education.

The degree courses are now open for intake. Interested students can get more details from TOA's professional counsellors.

Among the degree programmes offered are Graphic Design in Advertising and Branding, and diploma courses in Visual Communication Design, Digital Animation, Digital Media Design, Film Visual Effects, Interior Architecture and Design, Illustration, Fine Arts, Paris Fashion Design and Pattern Making, Game Design and Computer Science.

■ For more information, visit [www.toa.edu.my](http://www.toa.edu.my) or call 03-7875 5510 or e-mail [info@toa.edu.my](mailto:info@toa.edu.my).



Management and Science University (MSU) is a globally recognized 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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- Aviation Management & Piloting
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