

StarSpecial

THE STAR, THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021

EDUCATION GUIDE



Make the right choice

Check this pull-out for ideas on courses and universities before you decide on the next path.

EARLIER this year, the Faculty of Engineering and Science at Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) introduced Labster to its Foundation in Engineering and Science students.

Labster is the world's leading provider of virtual science labs. With a menu of over 150 virtual labs introducing students to a wide range of subjects, the system has proven an ideal learning tool for the foundation students.

Student Brandon Chai Chan An said conducting lab experiments virtually using Labster has been a surprisingly fun learning experience.

"The online lab simulations were very realistic. We had lots of fun doing the experiments and learned lots of problem-solving techniques which I am sure we will continue to use in the physical labs on campus later."

Dayang Farzana Aidha Awang Idrus said the system's high-quality

Labster a hit with foundation students

graphics provided her a good visual understanding, and all information was well presented and easy to understand.

Meanwhile, Faculty of Engineering and Science dean Prof Tuong-Thuy Vu said quality and innovation is key to the design and delivery of courses at Curtin Malaysia to stay relevant in today's fast-evolving higher education sector.

"We have to ensure our students can continue effective learning and Labster has proven very useful, as attested by the students themselves," he said.

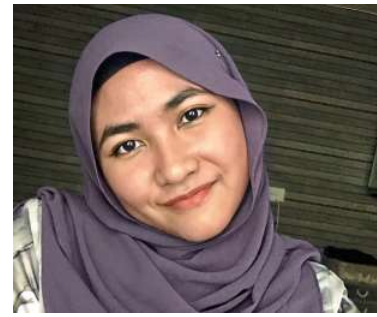
According to Dr Raymond Chiong, Department of Foundation in Engineering and Science head, Labster is used specifically for the Chemistry for Engineers, Physics

for Engineers and Human Biology units – the core foundation units for Curtin's undergraduate engineering and science courses.

Curtin Malaysia's foundation programmes in Engineering and Science, Commerce and Arts are designed for school leavers to gain the essential skills and knowledge for a smooth transition to tertiary study.

The programmes feed directly into undergraduate courses in engineering and science, business and humanities, which are identical to those at Curtin University's main campus in Perth but at affordable Malaysian fees. All are recognised by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

Many of the undergraduate courses are world-ranked in the



Dayang Farzana said the system has high-quality graphics and information is well presented and easy to understand.

global subject rankings, such as the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022, ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic

Subjects 2021 and Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2021.

Curtin is currently ranked among the top 200 universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings (QSWUR) 2022.

For more information on courses at Curtin Malaysia, visit courses.curtin.edu.my or email enquiries@curtin.edu.my. The Semester 1F, 2022 (January) intake for foundation courses, as well as the Semester 1, 2022 (February) intake for undergraduate courses, are now open. For more information on Curtin Malaysia, visit curtin.edu.my or look for Curtin Malaysia on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or LinkedIn.

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CENTRE FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDIES

- Foundation in Science
KPT/JPT(R2/10/3/0186)/09/2023 | MQA/FA3974
MAR | JUL | AUG

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- Medicine
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0033)/09/2026 | MQA/FA6155
FEB | SEP
- Psychology
KPT/JPT(R3/311/6/0013)/09/2027 | MQA/AB177
FEB | SEP
- Counselling (Master)
KPT/JPT(N762/7/0046)/09/2026 | MQA/PA12002
SEP

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

- Dentistry
KPT/JPT(R2/724/6/0010)/01/2023 | MQA/FA7026
FEB
- Endodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N724/7/0043)/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12162
APR
- Implant Dentistry (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R724/7/0019)/06/2026 | MQA/SWA6111
SEP
- Prosthodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N724/7/0042)/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12163
JUN

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Biomedical Science
KPT/JPT(R2/421/6/0011)/09/2022 | MQA/AB230
JUL | SEP
- Diabetes Management and Education (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N726/7/0030)/02/2023 | MQA/SWA9086
MAR | JUL
- Dietetics with Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0021)/09/2029 | MQA/AB176
JUL | SEP
- Medical Biotechnology
KPT/JPT(R2/545/6/0014)/09/2027 | MQA/AB228
JUL | SEP
- Nursing
KPT/JPT(R723/6/0125)/04/2027 | MQA/FA8944
SEP
- Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0011)/06/2027 | MQA/FA1298
JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry# (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2-CDU/42/7/0001)/01/2027 | MQA/FA1191
MAR | SEP
- Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N345/7/1082)/19/2023 | MQA/PSA11354
KPT/JPT(N345/7/1090)/12/2023 | MQA/PSA11355
KPT/JPT(N345/7/1085)/10/2023 | MQA/SWA11353
MAR | SEP
- Health Professions Education (PG Cert# / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N-DL/145/7/0120)/02/2026 | MQA/SWA05162
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0066)/09/2025 | MQA/SWA05162
KPT/JPT(N/145/7/0064)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA15163
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0070)/09/2025 | MQA/SWA5164
MAR
- Health Informatics and Analytics (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(N-DL/545/7/0101)/09/2025 | MQA/SWA11357
MAR | SEP
- Pharmacy Practice (Master)
KPT/JPT(R/727/0051)/03/2024 | MQA/SWA02796
MAR | SEP
- Public Health# (MSc)
KPT/JPT(N-DL/720/7/0118)/09/2023 | MQA/SWA11356
MAR | SEP
- Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD)
KPT/JPT(R2/720/7/0049)/06/2026 | A10618
KPT/JPT(R2/721/8/0043)/01/2027 | A3767
Throughout the year

OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL) mode available

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126, Jalan Jailli Perkasa 19, Bukit Jalil
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+603 2727 7450
start@imu.edu.my
www.imu.edu.my

Pledge for excellence

NINE-HUNDRED and sixty-five new students from the Class of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 have pledged a pursuit of excellence in an Oath-Taking Ceremony (OTC) at Management and Science University (MSU).

Taking place at the MSU Chancellor Hall at MSU main campus in Shah Alam recently, the event traditional to the university was the first to have been held face-to-face since Malaysia's Movement Control Order began as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic broke early last year.

A virtual OTC had been organised by MSU's Student and Career Development (SCD) Department earlier in June this year.

Leading with the most number of new MSUrians from the January to July 2021 intakes was the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies (FBMP); followed by the School of Education and Social Sciences (SESS), International Medical School (IMS), the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts (SHCA), Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE), Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS), and School of Pharmacy (SPH).

Present were MSU president Prof Tan Sri Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid, MSU vice-chancellor Prof Puan Sri Datuk Dr Junainah Abd Hamid, and members of the management team including deans.

In his address Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri touched on the perspective of holistic character building, "You are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, of Malaysia and of the world. Look into the components beyond your academic responsibility; the need for you to be people skilled, sustainability aware, and entrepreneur minded. Build yourself into the balanced, well-rounded graduates whose future we are investing in today."

Talent was abundant that afternoon, across solo as well as group performances. Opening with his rendition of *Kekasih Bayangan* was Muhammad Danial Nur Hakim Yusharifuddin from the Foundation in Medical Sciences programme at MSU's International Medical School (IMS).

A duet of *Fly Me to The Moon* and *Lucky* was performed by Dayana Anil Azreen Badrul Hisham (Diploma in Office Management Technology at FBMP) and Muhamad Fikri Daud (Bachelor in Education – TESL (Hons) at SESS). Members of MSU's Korean Cultural Association (KCA) performed a medley of dances to the tunes of Blackpink's *Love Sick Girl*, After School's *Weekly*, and Dumb's *Somi Somi*.

The merriment continued with three more singing performances by Muhammad Zahiruddin Akmal (Diploma in Management at FBMP), Ariani Soraya Saiful (Bachelor in English Language and Literature Studies at



A known name in higher education, MSU promotes excellence and advances quality education.

SESS), and Erisa Putri Hashim (Foundation in Business at FBMP); respectively with *Malam Semakin Dingin*, *Reckless*, and *Kuca Kuca*. The afternoon concluded with a Bollywood flashmob by all the new students, their facilitators, and all the performers.

A known name in higher education, the university promotes excellence and advances quality education, with a culture of industry and entrepreneurship embedded ecosystems, research, innovation and technology within the high-performance culture of the university.

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

In all, 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 details, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Appointment of Pro-Chancellor



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Serba Dinamik Holdings Berhad

Conferment of Honorary Doctorates



**DATUK MOHAMMAD HARDEE
IBRAHIM**

Group Chief Corporate Strategy Officer
SME Bank Group, Malaysia

Doctor of Finance



**ENG. SALAH SALEM BIN
OMAIR AL SHAMSI**

General Manager
LIWA Investment Holding, UAE

Doctor of Business Leadership

Heartiest Congratulations to Our **391 Graduates** and The Following Award Winners

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Chancellor's Award

In Recognition of Outstanding Performance in Academics and Extracurricular Activities.

2019

• Mohammad Adha bin Sahar
*Bachelor of Software Engineering
with Honours*

2020

• Najwa Shamimi Nurain binti Zailani
*Bachelor of Software Engineering
with Honours*

2021

• Nur Asfia binti Jamaluddin
*Bachelor of Software Engineering
with Honours*

Vice-Chancellor's Award

In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Extracurricular Activities.

2020

• Abdul Matyn bin Abdul Jalal
*Bachelor of Computer Science
with Honours*

2021

• Muhammad Shafiq Aiman bin Shahrul Nizam
*Bachelor of Computer Science
with Honours*

Distinction Award

In Recognition of Excellent Academic Performance.

2019

• Farah Syahirah Abdul Rahim
*Bachelor of Computer Science
with Honours*

2020

• Muhammad Azym Efwan
bin Mohd Azman
Diploma in Game Development

• Tung Sin Nam
Diploma in Information Technology

• Amirah Darwisyah binti Ab Karim
*Bachelor of Computer Engineering
with Honours*

• Justine Yong Jia Hao
*Bachelor of Software Engineering
with Honours*

• Ruth Chew Jia Ying
*Bachelor of Business Administration
(Management Information Systems)
(Hons)*

2021

• Hew Lee Teng
*Diploma in Information Systems
(Business Computing)*

• Lim Yi Kyun
*Diploma in Interactive and Digital
Media*

• Lam Wei Jian
*Bachelor of Business Administration
(Management Information Systems)
(Hons)*

• Law Zhe Swien
*Bachelor of Computer Science
with Honours*

• Surene Lee Qizhen
*Bachelor of Computer Engineering
with Honours*

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*The QS World University Rankings 2022

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1980106877 (1552940)



The One Academy has partnered up with DigiPen USA to bring quality computer science and game design education to young creatives in Malaysia.

Boom for video games industry

TODAY, where many industries are facing a challenging time owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, in contrast, the games industry has taken off and gained record-breaking sales.

As millions stay home, they turn to video games for entertainment, stress management, social connection and a fun way to pass time.

According to a Market Watch analysis of data from International Data Corporation, most growth in the year's US\$179.9bil (RM762bil) sales were registered in the mobile phone gaming market which saw a 24% increase followed by consoles (20% increase) and PC (11% increase).

But is this spike temporary and will the numbers go down post-pandemic?

Market intelligence firm IDC and advertising platform LoopMe recently released a report, which found that 75% of the consumer playtime spike experienced by mobile games during the pandemic will remain after Covid-19 subsides.

This indicates there will be a surge in demand for talents who can conceptualise, design and produce video games to keep up with the consumers' wants.

In turn, renowned institutes like The One Academy which was recently ranked World's No.1 Art School by the Rookies International for a range of creative courses are stepping up to deliver world-class programmes.

For the first time in a century, The One Academy has collaborated with DigiPen US, the university behind the world's first video development degree to bring exceptional computer science programmes such as (BSc) Computer Science and Game Design and (BSc) Computer Science in Real-Time Interactive Simulation to Malaysia.

With corporations gearing up to release even more exciting titles, consoles and gaming experiences, the future of this industry sure looks bright.

However, in a fast-paced world where digital trends are changing by the minute, what tech innovations can we expect to see influencing the gaming experience?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has already made its way into our daily lives. Expect to see more AI integrated into non-player characters, content generation and analytics as games strive to be more personalised and enrich the gamer's experience.

The idea of a fully immersive game with Virtual Reality (VR) now seems more possible than ever. Tech giants like Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Sony, and start-ups like Magic Leap are looking to make that dream a reality having invested considerable resources to develop VR hardware and games.

Pre-Covid, there was a rise in hyperreality gaming experiences. The perfect combination of AR and VR, hyperreality game players will notice that what they see in their headsets actually corresponds to the physical space of the room.



VR is one of the growing fields of gaming.

Augmented Reality (AR) has taken off faster than VR and the reason is simple. Consumers favour games that interact with reality, not remove them from it. As seen from the success of geo-based AR gameplay Pokemon Go, the game's blend of virtual and real, the interplay between digital characters and physical locations largely contributed to its success along with its beloved IP.

Perhaps the biggest anticipated game changer for the video games industry is the arrival of mobile 5G. For most gamers, the one thing keeping them from breaking the mobile game ceiling is Internet speed.

With telecommunication companies rolling out 5G, slow Internet and laggy game experiences will be a thing of the past.

The future of the video games industry sure looks exciting, but does it end there?

Nowadays, more and more companies, brands and services are getting in on the action by integrating gamifications in the way they work. Gamification elements such as points, badges and leaderboards are being used in marketing, health, education, influences, websites and more.

All this has made it blatantly obvious that the video games industry is going mainstream and will undoubtedly grow even bigger in the years to come – contributing even more job opportunities and career pathways to dive into.

In Newzoo's estimation, the global gaming market will surpass US\$200bil (RM848bil) by the end of 2023.

The One Academy is committed to providing the best art education programmes and continues to nurture its students passionately through its "Masters Train Masters" coaching philosophy, which has been practised for almost 30 years by providing diploma and degree courses namely Advertising and Graphic Design, Digital Animation, Digital Media Design, Film Visual Effects, Interior Architecture and Design, Illustration, Fine Arts and Paris Fashion Design & Pattern Making.

■ For more information on The One Academy, visit www.toa.edu.my or call 03-7875 5510 or email your enquiries to enquiry@toa.edu.my

Keeping up with online studies

EXPERIENTIAL learning is an important building block embedded in the learning of Chinese medicine. Through a mixture of face-to-face interactions and online learning using modern technology, the programme in International Medical University (IMU) is able to continue nurturing students who are well equipped with not only Chinese medicine knowledge and skills, but also the soft skills and attitude to become lifelong learners.

Livhuwani Mavis Mukoma-Boyle, an international student from South Africa, shares her experience studying Chinese medicine at IMU during the Covid-19 pandemic:

"I joined Semester 1 in February to study a Chinese medicine degree in the middle of MCO – all learning had to be adapted to online learning through interactive live sessions and pre-recorded videos. The advantage of online learning is being able to learn in comfort at home at my own pace with 100% support from lecturers. All online live sessions are recorded, which enabled me to review and replay the lesson recordings.

Online learning also has its own challenges, however, like Internet connection problems, discipline in terms of time management and feeling lost at times.

At the beginning, it was very hard for me, being my first time doing online learning. I felt lost as everything was done remotely, but I had the full support of various university departments. My lectur-



Livhuwani Mavis Mukoma-Boyle (back row, rightmost) with her classmates after the completion of the simulation training for Chinese medicine diagnosis.

ers were also able to assist in easing the transition and on-boarding to the digital learning platform.

The highlights for me have been the hybrid learning through online and limited face-to-face clinical simulated patient sessions. I have learnt a lot especially with the real-life exposure to a clinical set-up.

I have been able to build an excellent rapport with my course mates, mentor and lecturers. Studying is hard work, which needs perseverance, discipline, dedication and time management, and can be challenging at times.

However the benefits are rewarding. Each day is learning curve versus experience curve.

I am very happy I enrolled with IMU. Even though it was hard at the beginning, I continued due to the enormous support and encouragement from everybody involved.

The future looks bright with digital platforms as can be seen during MCO – patients were able to do online consultation with their TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) practitioners and personally it was empowering to be able to have an online consultation with my per-

sonal TCM practitioners and getting my herbs delivered. As future practitioners, these platforms enable us to embrace and enjoy the benefits of digital space with our patients.

I am looking forward to a world of endless possibilities with IMU."

IMU offers a four-year BSc (Hons) in Chinese Medicine. It also has partnerships with several universities of TCM in China (Shanghai University of TCM, Shandong University of TCM, Guangzhou University of TCM) and RMIT University, Australia for students to transfer after three years in the IMU Chinese medicine programme.

Students will then be awarded Bachelor degrees in Chinese medicine of the respective partner universities upon completion of their studies.

The commencement for the Chinese Medicine programme is in February and September each year.

IMU welcomes students with pre-university qualifications to start off a promising and rewarding yet challenging future with a career in Chinese medicine. If you have pre-university qualifications, make an online application today.

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

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

How to be the best in your field

WHEN you choose a career path, do you look to becoming the best in your field? If so, here are some ideas to help you on your journey.

First, read a book by an expert on what it takes to be super successful.

There are tonnes of self help and biographies about so if you want to become a pilot, lawyer or photographer, pick up a book by a professional that discusses how she did it. She may not live in the same environment but you can learn to avoid common errors and to see what really matters by looking at how others reach the top.

Second, be prepared to do an awful lot of work. If it were simple to be fantastic at something, everyone would be a genius.

As the American inventor Edison pointed out, "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety nine percent perspiration."

This means that your education should come first. Plan to study between lectures, and don't expect a constant stream of holidays and long weekends. Those come when you've hit the top.

Third, when you're learning, you might focus just on the goal but with most complex tasks, it's a process.

If you learn to analyse the process, and recognise the separate parts, then you can find ways to improve speed and quality. This will make learning more efficient – and less of a strain.

MAD ABOUT PHARMEDIC

Student satisfaction is top priority at MSU, in line with the University's objectives being for the betterment of its students. Employability would be your measure of success, as you hone soft skills around core competencies.

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Graphic designing for creative minds

GRAPHIC design can be defined as the art and practice of planning and projecting ideas and experiences with visual and textual content.

In other terms, graphic design communicates certain ideas or messages in a visual way.

These visuals can be artistic advertisements, eye-grabbing graphics on websites or stunningly arranged spreads in magazines.

As the most wide-ranging of creative disciplines, graphic design is one of the fastest growing sections and always in high demand.

Realising the potential, MSU College through its School of Sciences and Technology (SST)



MSU College through its School of Sciences and Technology (SST) offers Diploma in Graphic Design for students to become the new generation of highly skilled creative innovative workforce in the future.

offers Diploma in Graphic Design for students to explore wonders in developing skills in graphic design creatively and becoming the new generation of highly skilled creative innovative workforce in the future.

The programme is a comprehen-

sive course designed towards providing the relevant skills in acquiring knowledge and research and applying them to design solutions for industry-related projects.

> SEE NEXT PAGE



UCSI's Formulation Science programme will offer students a strong praxis approach to develop their own innovative products to kick-start their careers as formulation scientists.

A career that is in high demand

HAVE you ever wondered what goes inside medicine, food and vitamin supplements, cosmetics or other daily items that people use every day? Ever had a keen interest in chemistry, biology and biotechnology engineering?

Formulation scientists transform ingredients into products by developing an appropriate formula and process.

Formulation science is a hands-on career that is in high demand in the industries.

Depending on the company and industry, they may either be involved in the invention of a single product to its commercial production or specialise in one phase of development.

More than 70% of industries have said there is a gap in specialists of formulation science and formulation specialists are needed for innovative product development in a recent survey.

According to prominent industry leaders in Malaysia, David Ho, MD of Malaysia's leading pharmaceutical company Hovid Berhad, product formulators are observed to be among the top 10 critical occupations in Malaysia.

Dr Tan Chor Teck, co-founder of PROCTAS Sdn Bhd, mentioned that formulation scientists are also in demand in agriculture, farming, manufacturing, and construction.

UCSI University is proud to introduce the Bachelor of Formulation Science (Honours), the first programme of its kind in Asia. The programme provides students with in-depth knowledge and hands-on practical experience of the diverse fields in formulation science and technology.

The programme trains students with creative and critical thinking, in addition to research skills needed to design and formulate innovative products in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, biopharmaceuti-



Formulation science is a hands-on career that is in high demand in the industries.

icals, food and beverage, chemicals, and veterinary products.

This programme will equip students with entrepreneurship skills, marketing as well as the international and local regulatory and environmental standards, with a pathway to register for a related Masters or PhD programme upon graduation.

A recent market survey conducted found that more than 80% of parents were keen to enrol their children into the course.

Graduates of this programme will undergo a three-month industry internship for hands-on exposure.

They will also be nurtured and coached to develop their own innovation during the course of their three-year study.

They can venture into fields related to the formulation of pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, food and beverage, biotechnology, veterinary, and chemical products.

Career opportunities include formulation process, quality control and assurance, regulatory services, product management, sales and support services, environmental scientist, research and development for industrial commercial products.

■ The university will be hosting its Info and eInfo Day throughout December 2021. For more details, visit www.ucsiuniversity.com.my or call 03-9101 8882/011-3592 0893.



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- > Communication
- > HR and public relations
- > Journalism, media services, marketing and advertising
- > Foreign affairs and diplomatic services
- > Education and cultural industries

Choose your preferred degree:

- Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences
KPT/JPT (R2/220/6/0014) 01/26 - MQA/SWA0103
- Bachelor of Digital Media and Communication
KPT/JPT (R2/220/6/0012) 01/25 - MQA/SWA0104

Areas of study:

Communication • Gender Studies • Global Studies • Public Relations
Psychology • Film, Television and Screen Studies • Writing

Monash University is ranked

49th for Arts and Humanities
Top 100 for Communication and Media Studies

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

APPLICATION DAYS

5 December 2021 • 11am – 4pm
E&O Hotel, Penang

11 December 2021 • 11am – 4pm
Monash University Malaysia campus

18 December 2021 • 11am – 4pm
Virtual platform



JOIN US
Register to attend
▶ monash.edu.my/apply2

Triple the convocation celebration

THE University Malaysia of Computer Science & Engineering (UNIMY) 2nd Convocation recently saw 391 graduands from multi disciplines take centre stage, marking their completion of their postgraduate, undergraduate, diploma, and foundation studies.

The ceremony, presided by UNIMY's vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Ts Dr Mohd Razali Muhamad, also marked a milestone for UNIMY with the conferment of two Honorary Doctorates.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Ts Dr Razali said, "The awarding of the honorary degree to these two distinguished individuals – Salah Salem Bin Omair Al Shamsi of LIWA Investment Holdings (UAE) and Mohammad Hardee Ibrahim of SME Bank (Malaysia) – is in recognition of their achievements which serve as examples and motivating factors of the University's aspirations for our students in their journey forward towards serving the nation.

"We welcome these pioneer honorary doctorates into the UNIMY family and look forward to enriching UNIMY's initiatives through their vast knowledge in entrepreneurship and business."

UNIMY also announced the appointment of Datuk Dr Ir Ts Mohd Abdul Karim Abdullah as its Pro-Chancellor.

A turbo machinery expert who has vast interests in technology and innovation, he is the group chief executive officer and managing director for Serba Dinamik Holdings Berhad.

Under his leadership, the group of companies flourished from just a local contractor in rotating equipment service providers into an international powerhouse in total engineering solutions for broad industries; with presence in 25 countries across six continents.

A Mechanical Engineering graduate from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, he is a member of Institute of Engineers Malaysia and member of Asean Federation of Engineering Organisation. Currently, also the Chairman of Sarawak Consolidated Industrial Berhad, Kumpulan Powernet Berhad and Bion PLC, UK.

He speaks regularly at government and corporate events on industry, leadership, knowledge sharing and his successful entrepreneurial journey and has won many awards and accolades locally and internationally for his achievements in Serba Dinamik as well as being a successful industrialist.

Rounding off UNIMY's triple celebration, a



UNIMY also announced the appointment of Datuk Dr Ir Ts Mohd Abdul Karim Abdullah as its Pro-Chancellor.

Prize Presentation Ceremony was held during the convocation to celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of the university's best students.

Three students were presented with the Chancellor's Award in recognition of their outstanding performance in academics and extracurricular activities.

The Vice-Chancellor's Award was presented to two students for their outstanding achievement in extracurricular activities.

In recognition of their exceptional academic performance, nine students were presented with the Distinction Award.

Finally, seven students were presented with Industry Awards from UNIMY's industry partners. The award recipients expressed their elation and were pleased that the convocation ceremony was broadcast live to enable family members and friends of the graduates to rejoice in the occasion as it unfolded.

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

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

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The world through the eyes of history

MANY murder cases have taken the world by storm. Still, there are undoubtedly many others that never made the headlines.

Global Studies lecturer at Monash University Malaysia Dr Marek W. Rutkowski discovered the murder of a diplomat in South Vietnam in 1957 while working on his PhD a few years ago.

The case sparked many speculations at the time but was never resolved, which piqued his interest.

This murder case, although only a speck in history, could lead to lessons that can be learned today.

In the 1950s, Vietnam achieved its independence from France after years of the First Indochina War and was divided into North (communist) and South (anti-communist) Vietnam.

The country was in the process of setting up, and an international supervisory commission was established to oversee the ceasefire.

In April 1957, a Canadian diplomat on this commission was found dead in his villa in Saigon, stabbed with a knife with no evidence of a struggle.

Investigations were carried out briefly but ultimately dropped. There were many different speculations regarding who could have done it. Was it a local, or the communists who wanted to disrupt the situation, or another diplomat stationed there at the time?

"I have been trying to piece the story together using sources from multiple archives. To my surprise, I could only find a few documents in

Canada where the case was mentioned but without specifics.

"However, intriguingly, I was able to locate a former diplomat who was in Vietnam at the time who implied that the reason I could not find anything was that it was a sensitive matter that could damage the image of the country and the person himself.

"My speculation is that some of his actions at the time got him in trouble.

"The mystery surrounding the case compelled me to dig deeper and resolve it, although this may be impossible as it happened a long time ago," Dr Rutkowski expressed.

The murder case has become more than just a mystery as it touches on geopolitics and portrayals of how a post-colonial state like Vietnam had to manage relations with foreign powers, especially during the turbulent time of the Cold War.

Local police investigating the case had to manage foreign advisers who commented that their work was not done professionally and yet they could not interfere.

This leaves the question of who should have been investigating the case. And did it affect the relationship between governments in any way?

Global Studies is the interdisciplinary area of study comprising various disciplines including international relations, political science, history, sociology, economics and anthropology to compel students to understand the world around them



Dr Rutkowski said the murder of diplomats in post-colonial Vietnam was an interesting mystery.

and apply each disciplines' fundamentals to the contemporary world.

Dr Rutkowski, a historian by training, specialises in international history with a particular focus on the Cold War in Asia.

One of the units in which he lectures, Introduction to World Politics and History, covers the history of the Cold War.

The unit builds a student's understanding of what happened during that period which connects to what is happening today.

This, in turn, prepares students

for other units under Global Studies such as Globalisation which focuses on the engagement between countries, cultural spread and political replication which emerged from the Cold War period.

In their third year, students are exposed to the real world through work-integrated learning units, where they learn to resolve simulated crises in the real world.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are also invited to come in with projects for students to propose their solutions to.

This allows them to apply the knowledge they have gained in previous semesters in a realistic environment, which gets them ready for the workforce when they graduate.

"Career options for a Global Studies graduate are less defined than for an engineering graduate, but we like to emphasise on the soft skills that graduates gain during their degree such as research and writing skills as well as critical thinking.

"We train them to process information and to evaluate it critically. We prompt them not to take things at face value, to always ask questions, and not to accept a black or white answer, and instead look for the shades of grey.

"This skillset has successfully gotten our graduates into different sectors such as governments, private companies and think tanks," Dr Rutkowski said.

Monash University has placed 57th in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022.

Its research is strengthened through global collaboration with industry and government, and their improved industry income score demonstrates the success of these relationships.

Monash University Malaysia has also given out scholarships worth RM200mil to successful recipients for the past 10 years.

■ For more information, the public can visit www.monash.edu.my

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