Star Special

THE STAR, THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2025

EDUCATION GUIDE

Shaping minds, building futures

From undergraduate to postgraduate studies, discover opportunities that are transforming how we learn and prepare for the future.

Nurturing students for academic success

THE Foundation in Biological and Biomedical Sciences programme at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) is more than just an academic starting point.

It serves as a strong support system, preparing students for the rigours of degree-level study while fostering growth, confidence and independence.

The programme integrates peer mentoring, academic tutoring and personalised pastoral care, ensuring that every student has access to the guidance, encouragement, and support needed to transition smoothly into university life.

"At NUMed, we have a strong support network dedicated to raising awareness, reducing stigma and encouraging students to seek help when needed," affirmed NUMed student support dean Assoc Prof Dr Arun Kumar Basavaraj.

Under his leadership, the student support team plays a key role in providing tailored pastoral support, particularly for students navigating personal or non-academic challenges.

Additionally, access to a trained counsellor creates a safe space for students to address emotional or psychological distress, while the English language support team prepares them to communicate effectively in academic settings and beyond.

With these comprehensive support systems in place, NUMed's foundation programme not only nurtures academic success but also paves the way to a wide range of degree pathways at NUMed or its parent campus, Newcastle University in the United Kingdom.

■ Visit *http://www.newcastle.edu.my*, email admissions@newcastle.edu.my, call +607-555 3800, or WhatsApp +6011-1231 5411/+6012-784 9456 to find out more about NUMed.

You can register your interest for its on-campus Open Day on Aug 16 at *https://www.ncl.ac.uk/numed/study-with-us/get-to-know-us/open-days/*

NUMed's foundation programme is designed to support students in both academic preparation and personal growth.

IMU University enters a new chapter where we go beyond medical and health sciences into the realms of business, technology and social sciences to shape tomorrow's global leaders. Unlock your potential with us today.

Step into the future
fuelled by our One Health vision

IMU UNIVERSITY

Centre for Pre-University Studies

Foundation in Arts (NEW)
KPT/JPT(N/0011/3/0128)03/2029
MQA/PSA17403
APR . JUL . SEP

Foundation in Science
KPT/JPT(R2/010/3/0186)09/2028
MQA/FA3974
APR . JUL . SEP

School of Alternative and Complementary Medicine

Bachelor of Chinese Medicine (Honours)
KPT/JPT(R2/0917/6/0011)01/2027
MQA/A10260
FEB . APR . JUL . SEP

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chiropractic
KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0054)08/2026
MQA/A9294
APR . SEP

School of Business and Technology

Bachelor of Business Administration with Healthcare Management (Honours) (NEW)
KPT/JPT(N/0414/6/0180)01/2029
MQA/PSA17191
FEB . APR . JUL . SEP

Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) (NEW)
KPT/JPT(N/0414/6/0364)05/2030
MQA/PSA18402
SEP

Bachelor in Digital Health (Hons)
KPT/JPT(N/482/6/0209)03/2028
MQA/PSA14380
FEB . APR . JUL . SEP

School of Dentistry

Bachelor of Dental Surgery
KPT/JPT(R3/724/6/0010)01/2030
MQA/FA7026
FEB . SEP

School of Health Sciences

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biomedical Science
KPT/JPT(R3/421/6/0011)12/2027
MQA/A8230
JUL . SEP

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Dietetics with Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0021)09/2029
MQA/A8176
JUL . SEP

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Food Science Innovation (NEW)
KPT/JPT(N/0721/6/0007)07/2030
MQA/PSA18714
APR . SEP

Bachelor of Applied Sciences (Hons) in Medical Biotechnology
KPT/JPT(R2/0512/6/0001)09/2027
MQA/A8228
JUL . SEP

Bachelor of Nursing (Hons)
KPT/JPT(R2/0913/6/0017)04/2027
MQA/FA8944
SEP

Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) #*
KPT/JPT(N-DL/0913/6/0001)09/2029
MQA/PA14397
APR . SEP
* For registered nurses only
# Available in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0011)06/2027
MQA/FA1298
JUL . SEP

School of Medicine

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0033)09/2026
MQA/FA6155
FEB . SEP

School of Pharmacy

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
KPT/JPT(R3/442/6/0003)01/2028
MQA/A8229
FEB . APR . JUL . SEP

Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours)
KPT/JPT(R2/727/6/0050)09/2026
MQA/FA8374
JUL . SEP

School of Psychology and Social Sciences

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Psychology
KPT/JPT(R3/311/6/0013)09/2027
MQA/A8177
FEB . APR . JUL . SEP

School of Veterinary Medicine

Bachelor of Science in Bioveterinary Science (Honours) (NEW)
KPT/JPT(N/0841/6/0001)07/2029
MQA/PSA17574
OCT

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IMU Bukit Jalil Main Campus
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+603 8656 7228 (Main)

IMU Technology Park Campus (New)
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Pathway to a career in management

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

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

The Diploma in Management programme at MSU College offers a broad business education and equips students with essential soft skills.

Diploma programme overview

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

The programme is specifically designed to provide students with the necessary tools for management roles, along with exposure to key areas of organisational management such as communication, leadership, marketing, finance and more.

Holistic learning and career readiness

The programme also equips students with up-to-date knowledge and practical skills, while instilling strong moral values and integrity in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

A solid foundation across key areas gives students a clearer understanding of potential fields they may wish to pursue at the bachelor's level.

Entry into this two-and-a-half-year programme requires a minimum of three credits in any subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or an equivalent qualification.

Upon completing the diploma, students may either enter the workforce or advance to the second year of a bachelor's degree in the same field or a related programme at MSU through the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies (FBMP), with the option of credit transfer.

In line with MSU College's aspiration to nurture balanced, holistic and well-rounded graduates, a comprehensive entrepreneurial ecosystem and industry-integrated programmes are firmly embedded into the curriculum.

These initiatives are designed to enhance students' soft skills and ensure they are job-ready and competitive in the workforce.

Apart from this, there are also other programmes available under MSU College's School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies (SHB) such as Early Childhood Education, Accounting and English Language Teaching (ELT).

MSU College also serves as the MSU APEL Centre, allowing prospective candidates to take the APEL Aptitude Test – a non-conventional pre-qualification pathway for entry into higher education.

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

■ For more information on programmes, contact MSU College at 03-5521 6787, email enquiry@msucollege.my or visit the website at *www.msucollege.edu.my*

Rise of independent fashion designers

The Fashion Forum featured Esmod KL alumni Aaron Yong Wei Hao, Shoong Nuo-Wen and Liew Hung Yi (second, third and fourth from left, respectively). They were joined by moderators Fedrick Wong (left) and Esmod Kuala Lumpur's fashion design head Andréa Guérot (right).

The Corset Exhibition highlighted creations by Esmod Kuala Lumpur alumni and students.

Choong in his element during the live painting session.

ONLINE fast fashion, where catwalk trends and high-fashion designs are replicated and mass-produced at a low cost, has become the go-to for many consumers worldwide.

It encourages the purchase of cheap, poor-quality clothes often discarded after minimal use, not to mention its appalling unethical circumstances and environmental impact.

Fashion has always been a deeply personal form of self-expression – a reflection of individuality and creativity, but mass production dilutes originality.

As awareness grows, more people are stepping away from fast fashion's throw-away culture, turning instead to sustainability through thrifting, mindful consumption and ethical alternatives.

This now leaves space for a new wave of consumption, which requires better quality and unique yet affordable garments.

But who is bringing back the artistic craftsmanship that fashion once thrived on? The answer is simple: emerging designers.

With fresh ideas, bold prints, new narratives and a commitment to sustainability, they are proving that the future of fashion is more exciting than ever.

To spotlight this movement, Esmod Kuala Lumpur hosted its Fashion Festival from March 8-25 at The One Academy.

Centred on corsetry, the festival opened with an exhibition showcasing collections by alumni-turned-entrepreneurs and current students.

The following days featured a Paper Corset Workshop for high schoolers and the public, along with a three-day Advanced Corset Workshop led by French lecturer and fashion course leader Andrea Guerot.

Attendees also experienced a live garment painting session by Eric Choong, a Malaysian fashion icon renowned for weaving traditional ethnic elements into his designs.

The festival wrapped up with an exclusive forum featuring Esmod alumni Aaron Yong Wei Hao (founder of Weihaoyong Studio), Shoong Nuo-Wen (founder of Fetiche The Label) and Liew Hung Yi (founder of Atasan Studio), all of whom have been making waves on social media with their extraordinary designs.

They have found success within their niches – Yong with elegant evening gowns, Shoong with songket and Liew with bold anime-inspired designs. Their ability to blend cross-cultural influences with impeccable technique is proof that authenticity in fashion is in demand.

"When you're in school, that's the time to experiment with everything. Have fun with your work and don't limit yourself – that's how you reach your full potential. When you go out into the real world with the skill set you've acquired, you can do anything," advised Liew.

Meanwhile, Shoong shared, "Before starting a business, you need to identify your niche.

"Mine is songket corsets, and I make them appealing not just to the Malay audience but to all races in Malaysia.

"Stay true to yourself and be persistent in your vision and ideology – that's how you establish your signature style and grow as a designer," she continued.

Yong, on the other hand, urged future students to make the most of social media's vast influence.

"Right now, social media is everything, so make the most of it. Having great work alone doesn't guarantee visibility, so you need to put yourself out there to reach a wider audience. Building an online presence is one of the best ways to gain recognition and attract opportunities," said Yong.

Despite the misconception that the fashion industry is an oversaturated market, there is still plenty of room for unmatched innovation, creativity and individuality by fashion designers.

Social media has emerged as a powerful force in shaping fashion practices, with influencers revolutionising the way we discover, consume and engage with fashion content.

The movement towards celebrating independent designers is gaining momentum as people are now seeking unique, high-quality pieces that tell a story, rather than mass-produced fast fashion.

Esmod Kuala Lumpur is under the umbrella of the world's first and oldest fashion school, with over 180 years of history.

Just like The One Academy's commitment to the "Masters Train Masters" coaching philosophy, Esmod Kuala Lumpur students are nurtured with the best Parisian fashion design education.

This is done through comprehensive syllabuses that cover creative-based fashion designing and high-level practical techniques of pattern-making, led by experienced international fashion designers, most of whom hail from Paris, the fashion capital of the world.

■ For more information, visit *www.esmod.edu.my*, call 03-7875 5510 or e-mail your enquiries to esmod@toa.edu.my or info@toa.edu.my

Celebrating top accounting talent

THE Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) celebrated their candidates and graduates at the recent Excellence Awards 2025 event held on July 5.

These dynamic individuals deserved the recognition and honour given for obtaining top scores in various subjects, and for successfully completing the MICPA x CA ANZ Qualifying Programme.

This joint professional accountancy programme provides its graduates with a dual qualification from two highly prestigious bodies from Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand, as well as access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) – a passport which will come in very handy for a global career in accountancy.

The programme was revamped in 2022 to evolve with industry needs which place an emphasis on ethics, technology, data analytics and sustainability.

Assessments are not purely exam-based, but rather include a mixture of coursework and workshops to provide an interesting, interactive and collaborative learning experience which develops analytical thinking and application skills to prepare aspiring professionals for the workplace.

This year, the Risk and Technology subject was updated to Risk, Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure candidates gain knowledge of this emerging trend.

The Business Performance subject was also revised to Strategy and Business Performance to equip candidates with skills needed to guide an organisation's strategic decisions.

Proud family members, employers, funders and friends were amongst those present to show their support for all 202 individuals who were recognised for their achievements that day.

The 'Most Outstanding MICPA Student Award' recipients (from left) Walker, Muhammad Naif and Hu, are pictured with MICPA president Soo right).

MICPA president Soo Hoo Khoon Yean and CA ANZ Malaysia regional council chair Lee Chin Hon, presented the coveted gold medals and awards to prize winners.

The MICPA x CA ANZ Qualifying Programme also celebrated 112 graduates who completed the programme in Terms 1 to 4 in 2024 and were presented with their completion certificates.

A total of 14 gold medals were presented to candidates who had obtained the top scores in the 2024 examinations.

The gold medals were sponsored by approved training employers who provide the necessary mentored practical experience to MICPA x CA ANZ candidates before they fully qualify as certified public accountants and chartered accountants.

Representatives from BDO, Deloitte, EY, Folks DFK, KHR, KPMG and PwC were also present to give out the coveted awards.

The highlight of the day was the "Most Outstanding MICPA Student Award". This accolade is awarded to the top three candidates who recently completed the MICPA x CA ANZ professional examinations.

Nigel Ames Walker – a Bachelor of Business and Commerce graduate from Monash University Malaysia – emerged as the Gold winner of this prestigious honour.

Walker, who is now attached to BDO, started his MICPA x CA ANZ journey as a MICPA Educational Trust Fund Scholar, and received the Gold Medal for Data Analytics and Insights last year.

The silver award went to Muhammad Naif Mat Zain, who began his MICPA x CA ANZ journey under the sponsorship of Yayasan Peneraju after completing a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance) at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He is currently attached to PETRONAS.

Bronze winner Emily Hu Yi Hui, a Monash University Business and Commerce graduate, began her career at EY while pursuing the MICPA x CA ANZ Qualifying Programme.

Hu, currently attached to a well-established government linked company in Sarawak, also took home two Gold medals and four certificates of merit for various subjects over the course of her study.

The ceremony this year also saw three deserving graduates win the MICPA Educational Trust Fund Scholarship awards – Ng Ying Shuen (Monash University Malaysia), Eason Yip Chun Fai (TAR UMT) and Nur Izzah Inshirah Azmi Nassaruddin (UiTM Puncak Alam).

All three of them are now pursuing the programme on a full-time basis. Nur Izzah was awarded best accounting graduate from University Teknologi MARA (UiTM) under the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) National Accounting Student Excellence Award 2024.

■ For more details about the MICPA x CA ANZ qualifying programme, call +603-2698 9622 or email micpa@micpa.com.my or visit *www.micpacaanz.com*

UTAR students with their creative paper tower during an interactive STEAM workshop.

Creative learning sparks young minds

IN a world rapidly shaped by technology, innovation and global interconnectivity, the future belongs to those who can think critically, collaborate across disciplines and develop creative solutions to complex problems.

An education rooted in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, collectively known as STEAM, is more essential than ever in preparing the next generation to meet both challenges and opportunities ahead.

STEAM education offers a dynamic and integrated approach that connects logic with creativity, theory with hands-on practice and innovation with empathy.

It equips learners not only with technical skills but also with critical thinking, problem-solving abilities and an entrepreneurial mindset; all vital for success in today's fast-changing, technology-driven world.

UTAR aims to lead this transformation through its impactful STEAM Outreach programme.

Since 2023, the initiative has expanded traditional STEM learning by incorporating the Arts, creating a more creative, balanced and engaging educational experience.

Rather than just memorising facts, students are encouraged to explore, experiment and apply their knowledge in meaningful, real-world contexts.

The programme is built on a mission to make STEAM education accessible, engaging and transformative for all.

To date, it has reached over 29,000 participants through more than 100 hands-on activities, including workshops, science carnivals, design competitions and interactive talks.

It actively engages primary and secondary students, teachers and members of the wider community by offering opportunities to design, build and innovate.

STEAM Outreach head Dr Ong Kiah Ju shared, "This initiative does more than deliver knowledge; it inspires curiosity, fosters creativity and nurtures a sense of purpose.

"By involving academia, industry experts and community members, UTAR's STEAM Outreach encourages learners to tackle real-world challenges, apply interdisciplinary thinking and co-create sustainable solutions.

"Through these activities, students are empowered to become the changemakers of tomorrow."

> ***"This initiative does more than deliver knowledge; it inspires curiosity, fosters creativity and nurtures a sense of purpose."***
>
> Dr Ong Kiah Ju

The programme's alignment with Malaysia's national education priorities and its support from funding agencies, such as the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, further strengthen its impact.

With a community-focused and inclusive approach, UTAR ensures that learners from all backgrounds have equal access to quality STEAM education, demonstrating a strong commitment to equity and national development.

"As the world continues to evolve, so too must our approach to education. STEAM is no longer just an educational option. It is a future-ready necessity, and at UTAR, the journey to empower the next generation of innovators, creators and leaders is already well underway," added Dr Ong.

UTAR offers over 140 programmes from foundation studies to bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees.

The programmes cover a wide range of disciplines including Accounting, Business, Finance and Economics, Actuarial Science, Mathematics and Process Management, Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Chinese Studies, Creative Industries, Digital Animation, Multimedia and Design, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

■ Visit UTAR Open Day on Sept 6-7, from 9am to 4.30pm, at both Kampar and Sungai Long campuses.

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

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*source: www.therookies.co/schools/rankings/2024

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

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

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 Movie & Game Art
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)(04/30)(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)(05/30)(A11081)
Fine Arts KL (R2/0213/4/0008)(3/28)(MQA/FA1738)

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THE ONE ACADEMY | MASTERS TRAIN MASTERS

How to master your presentation with confidence

LOOKING to deliver a standout presentation?

Whether you're prepping for a class assignment, business pitch, or public talk, here are some practical tips to help you present with confidence, clarity and impact.

Plan your timing wisely

Nervous presenters often rush through their slides, but your audience needs time to absorb the information. A good rule of thumb is to spend about 90 seconds per slide. So for a 15-minute presentation, aim for roughly 10 slides to keep your pacing clear and manageable.

Share your slides in advance

Let your audience know they don't need to jot down notes because your slides will be available afterward – either via email or on a shared platform or blog. This helps them focus fully on your message instead of scrambling to keep up.

Put on a polished performance

Eye-catching slides and flashy transitions won't make up for a lack of preparation. What truly impresses is a confident speaker who knows their material well. Go beyond the basics – read widely, understand your subject thoroughly, and practise until your delivery feels natural and assured.

Tie everything together neatly

Just like a good story, your presentation should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Start with a strong introduction, develop your main points clearly, and finish with a concise conclusion. If you're presenting in an academic setting, include a final slide with references – not to present, but to have available for anyone interested in checking your sources.

Rehearse your presentation

Practise your entire presentation out loud, whether to a pet or a family member. This helps you identify sections that feel clunky, are too fast, or too slow, so you can refine your delivery and timing.

Check your equipment

Arrive early to your presentation venue and test all of your equipment. This includes the projector, microphone, and any other technology you plan to use. By checking everything beforehand, you can troubleshoot any issues and avoid frustrating delays for your audience.

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6-7 September 2025

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enquiry@utar.edu.my **study.utar.edu.my**

IMU students will have the opportunity to collaborate and exchange ideas as they explore ways to shape the future of food science and prepare for exciting careers in the field.

Creating impact through food science

IMU is introducing the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Food Science Innovation, a forward-looking undergraduate programme developed in close collaboration with the food industry to address the growing global demand for safe, sustainable and health-focused food solutions.

This launch marks a significant milestone in expanding IMU's commitment to the One Health concept by linking human, animal and environmental health through innovative approaches in food science.

Under the tagline "Rethink Health, Redefine Food", the programme is designed to nurture a new generation of food professionals equipped to lead innovation in food systems from formulation and safety to sustainability, packaging and consumer insights.

Industry-driven education

The programme was developed in response to the rapidly evolving global food landscape. As challenges such as climate change, nutrition security and health risks intensify, there is a pressing need for graduates who can blend scientific knowledge with creativity, sustainability and industry insight.

Delivered through IMU's first 2U1i work-based learning model (Two years at the university and one year in industry), the curriculum is designed with input from top-tier global and local food industry giants, ensuring that students acquire practical, up-to-date knowledge which directly aligns with market demands, enhancing their employability.

Students gain a strong foundation in key areas such as Sustainability, Regulatory Affairs, Sensory and Consumer Study and Food Processing Technology.

In their final year, they also benefit from hands-on experience through a year-long industry placement.

This combination of academic study and industry immersion not only boosts employability but also creates a talent pipeline of graduates ready to make an immediate impact in the industry.

Students will gain practical experience in a modern learning environment, including the Food Science Innovation Laboratory – purposefully designed to support hands-on learning, research and product development.

They will work with industry-relevant tools and technologies, equipping them with the technical skills needed to thrive in the food science field.

Students have the option to explore one of four elective pathways, which are Sustainability, Regulatory Affairs, Sensory and Consumer Study and Food Processing Technology.

These tracks provide students with the flexibility to focus on their areas of interest and prepare for diverse career paths in the food industry, ensuring they remain adaptable and well-prepared for evolving market needs.

Future-ready careers

Rooted in the S.I.H.A.T. values (Sustainable, Innovative, Healthy, Affordable, Tasty), the programme equips students to develop food solutions that align with planetary health.

It also strengthens IMU's academic ecosystem by bridging expertise across nutrition, dietetics and health sciences, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and innovations.

Graduates of the programme are prepared for careers across the food and beverage industry, agri-food sector, consultation and regulatory agencies, as well as entrepreneurship.

Potential career paths include product development executive, sensory scientist, food safety and compliance officer, sustainability specialist or consultant, packaging technologist, entrepreneur and science communicator.

The development and launch of this programme reflect strong collaboration between IMU and its valued industry partners.

Join IMU on this bold new journey by enrolling in its inaugural cohort in September 2025.

With a vision to rethink health and redefine food, the university encourages interested applicants to submit their online applications today.

The university is offering a RM10,000 bursary to students who join its new programme as part of its inaugural intake. This exclusive bursary is awarded at the discretion of the university, and its decision is final. Terms and conditions apply.

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

AI literacy for educators

IN a landmark move towards future-proofing education in South-East Asia, Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur recently hosted the AI Literacy Training Programme for Asean Primary and Secondary School Teachers – a pioneering three-day workshop co-organised with Unesco-Istic, the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW), and the China Society for Education Strategy and Development.

Held from June 17 to 19, the programme united educators from Asean countries, Malaysia's Ministry of Education, Teacher Training Institutes (IPG), and Sri Bestari School, marking a key step towards nurturing AI competencies among educators across the region.

(Front row, from left) Shi Yan; Han; Lee; Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur board of governors chairman Datuk Dr Sharifah Maimunah Syed Zin; Goh; Istic governing board chairman Prof Dr Mohd Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman; Choo; AETDEW deputy president Datuk Yong Ah Huat and Baptist (standing, second row, blue batik) posing for a group photo.

STEM to AI integration

Sri Bestari, which introduced STEM-focused extracurricular programmes eight years ago, has since integrated STEM into its core curriculum at all education levels. This year, the school advanced this commitment by introducing its STEM-AI modules to align with global technological progress.

"The challenge was the lack of a standardised curriculum. We developed our own in consultation with high-tech experts. Now in our fifth year of delivering STEM-Computer Science, we are expanding to include AI foundations," said Dr Steven Baptist.

AI insights shared by global experts

At the workshop, renowned Chinese professors – visiting professor, representing Beijing University of Science & Technology, and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications Prof Han Liqun, Zhang Yibao, Zhao Shuying and associate professor, executive director and deputy secretary-general of the special committee on artificial intelligence and robotics education for the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy Dr Shi Yan – presented deep insights into AI's development, moving beyond surface-level app usage to explore the neurological inspiration behind AI design.

Their sessions highlighted the importance of teaching students not just how to use AI, but to understand its ethical and developmental foundations.

Istic honorary chairman Datuk Dr Lee Yee Cheong emphasised the critical role of primary school teachers in shaping AI literacy from an early age.

"As with any subject, it begins with passionate educators," he said during his opening remarks.

The workshop's closing ceremony featured Dr Goh Peng Ooi, chairman of AI Malaysia and executive chairman of Silverlake Axis, who traced AI's evolution through pioneers Geoffrey Hinton, Richard Sutton and Yoshua Bengio.

He cautioned against overreliance on AI, particularly in politically and ethically sensitive areas where human judgment remains essential.

Paving the way for AI-literate societies

Drawing from China's model, the workshop underscored that AI education should begin with foundational knowledge and ethics – planted early to prevent future misuse.

AETDEW president Choo Kok Beng announced plans to expand the initiative across the Global South.

"This is just the beginning. Equipping educators with AI understanding is essential to preparing the next generation," he said.

Sri Bestari's bold step exemplifies how schools can lead in building AI-literate societies – one teacher at a time.

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Innovative TVET shapes skilled grads

THE Management and Science University (MSU) continues to make strides in strengthening the national agenda of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through the launching ceremony of MSU's TVET programme by Deputy Prime Minister and National TVET Council chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The ceremony, held at MSU's main campus, was also attended by MSU president and founder Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid, MSU vice-chancellor Prof Puan Sri Dr Junainah Abd Hamid, MSU pro-chancellor Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang, Higher Education Ministry (MOHE) deputy secretary-general (policy) Datuk Dr Megat Sany Megat Ahmad Sufian along with the university's senior management.

The launch of the new TVET programme at MSU is designed to be an inclusive platform connecting students, communities, industries and policymakers within a holistic higher education ecosystem.

The five TVET clusters are: Hospitality and Tourism, Medical and Health Sciences, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security and Games, Business and Management and Education and Social Sciences.

MSU also offers various high-impact programmes in specialised fields such as Cardiovascular Technology, Engineering, Nursing, Aircraft Maintenance, and more.

(From left) Zaini, Megat Sany, Ahmad Zahid, Prof Mohd Shukri and Prof Junainah at the launch ceremony of MSU's TVET programme.

MSU also announced the launch of four new TVET programmes specifically designed to meet the growing demand for professionals in culinary arts, hotel management, cybersecurity and game development. These programmes are:

> Bachelor in Game Development (Honours);

> Bachelor in Hotel Management (Honours);

> Bachelor in Culinary Management (Honours);

> Diploma in Networking and Cyber Security.

This initiative significantly contributes to the national higher education landscape, particularly in fostering smart partnerships between higher education institutions (HEIs) and key industry players, especially in job guarantee and job matching aspects.

In conjunction with the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) exchange ceremony between MSU and 57 industry partners will also be held.

Among the participating industry partners are:

> **Hospitality and Tourism cluster** – UEDA College of Fashion, Japan; Zhonghang Future (Southern China Airline Services and Training Base); Hebei College of Industry and Technology, China; Liuzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College, China; Marriot International Group (involving 20 hotels nationwide); Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH); DoubleTree by Hilton i-City Shah Alam; Seri Pacific Kuala Lumpur; Chef Wan Group of Restaurants; Serai Group; Dandy Restaurant; Kays Lobster and Steak; CZ Group; Ascott Kuala Lumpur; Acapella Suite Hotel; Harmoni Perkasa (Banyan Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Pavilion Hotel Kuala Lumpur); Palace Butcher Resources (Me'nate Steak Hub); Concorde Hotel Shah Alam; Laketown Cameron Highlands; and The Boathouse Pulau Tioman;

> **Medical and Health Sciences cluster** – MSU Medical Centre (MSUMC); Alpro Pharmacy Sdn Bhd; Menara Optometry Bhd and KNC Optical Sdn Bhd;

> **Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security and Games cluster** – Todak Studios; EFXCO Academy; 3Particle Solution Sdn Bhd; Flystudio; Zevolusi; NETSEC Sdn Bhd; Knight Connections; Teralogic Solutions Sdn Bhd; Ensign Infosecurity (M) Sdn Bhd and SRKK Group;

> **Business and Management cluster** – AEON Co (Malaysia) Bhd and Home Product Center (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

These MOU and MOA signings are set to secure job opportunities (job guarantees) for MSU students and foster further collaboration in areas such as staff exchange, knowledge sharing, research and development, as well as industrial training.

Demonstrating its commitment to TVET, MSU has launched ChitChat TVET, a podcast series produced in collaboration with the Media and Strategic Communication and MSU Academy. It is aimed at sparking conversations, sharing insights and highlighting success stories within the TVET ecosystem.

Meanwhile, smart collaborations with the Government-Industry TVET Coordination Body (GITC) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) play a key role in empowering the TVET ecosystem among MSU students. MSU's dedicated efforts have earned it the recognition as Malaysia's Best University (TVET Education) by Malaysia Education and TVET 2023 (META 2023) and The Employers' Choice of Universities, 2025 by Talentbank.

■ To learn more about MSU and its offerings, visit *https://www.msu.edu.my*

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