

Star Special

THE STAR, THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023

EDUCATION GUIDE

New students take the pledge

THE Management and Science University (MSU) in collaboration with MSU's Student and Career Development (SCD) Department held an oath-taking ceremony for 2,400 new MSUrians involving the academic session of 2023/2024.

Leading with the highest number among the congregation gathered at MSU Chancellor Hall on campus in Shah Alam Section 13 were the 631 new students from the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies (FBMP); followed by the School of Education and Social Sciences (SESS), the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE), the International Medical School (IMS), the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS), the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts (SHCA), and the School of Pharmacy (SPH).

Also present were new international students from 17 countries, including from China, Indonesia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Brunei, Sri Lanka, France and Seychelles.

Pledging to commit to higher purpose, and the upholding of MSU's good name, the newly minted MSUrians promised to observe varsity's rules and regulations in the course of advancing causes for diversity, inclusion, and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

Liu Wentian, an international student from China, led the oath-taking ceremony. Liu is currently in the Traditional Chinese Medicine (Hons) programme at the School of Pharmacy (SPH).

In his address, Prof Mohd Shukri highlighted the perspective of student journey experiences.



(In the centre) MSU president Prof Mohd Shukri and MSU vice-chancellor Prof Junainah with the jubilant new MSUrians.

“Look into the components beyond your academic responsibility, build your characters into the balanced, holistic, and well-rounded graduates with specific components, including of excellent mindset, entrepreneurial, cultural, global as well as humanity mindset.

MSU currently holds a position in the QS Top 100 among the best young universities in the world, the QS Top 200 among the best universities in Asia, the QS Top 30 among the best universities in South-East Asia, the QS Top 301+ for Graduate Employability Ranking, and the QS Top 301+ for University Impact Rankings.

MSU is also listed in the QS World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 and the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2022.

According to the 2023 QS World University Rankings by Subject, MSU is ranked in the top 50 universities worldwide for hospitality and leisure management, in the top 150 for art and

design, and in the top 350 for business and management studies.

The Netherland's Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities (ACEEU) recognised MSU as the Global Green University of the Year, the People's Choice Award, and the Top 5 Engaged Global University of the Year through the Triple E Awards 2023.

This builds on MSU's success in being recognised by ACEEU as the Most Entrepreneurial and Engaged University in Asia in 2019 and as a finalist for the Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2020 and the Student-Driven Sustainability Project of the Year 2020.

Prior to that, MSU became the first higher education institution to achieve an EMNA E-STAR from the Entrepreneurial Mindset Network, an international community dedicated to helping people make their unique contributions to the world.

MSU was also awarded with

the Platinum 5 Crowns by the ASIC; as well as QS 5-Stars Overall on the metrics of Teaching, Graduate Employability, Academic Development, Internationalisation, Hospitality and Leisure Management, Online Learning, Social Responsibility, and Inclusiveness.

As the recipient of the Malaysia's Best University (TVET Education) through Malaysia Education and TVET 2023 award, MSU has proven its unwavering commitment that promotes TVET-based education both in Malaysia and internationally.

This recognition has been strengthened even further by the implementation of numerous innovative strategies that prioritise TVET components across the curriculum in various study programmes.

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.

Further, various skills enhancement programmes which are aimed to improve competitiveness are offered to students.

The Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme at MSU serves to improve the students' soft skills.

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, where it aims at Transforming Lives and Enriching Futures.

■ For a full range and information on programmes offered at MSU, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my, or view its website at www.msu.edu.my

How to avoid missing deadlines in college

THE start of a brand new semester is when you have plenty of time stretching ahead of you. You're on top of things, and exams are a shadowy memory belonging to last term. Then suddenly, it's 24 hours till your first essay has to be in and you haven't even cracked the textbook.

Here's how you can plan like a pro and keep everything straight.

First, forget pen and paper. For good time management, you need a calendar like the one that comes with your iPad, Android tablet or smartphone. If you

don't have a device that's got a nice large screen, set up a Google or Yahoo account and use their free calendar.

Why do you need to go digital? Because you can drag and drop items, have yourself pinged with urgent tasks and make automatic To Do lists.

Second, put in your classes. If you have to travel huge distances, block the period to and from in a different colour so you know when you have reading time.

Third, put in every deadline for this semester. Make these all

day events so they're easy to spot. Put in an alert that tells you a few days before that these are creeping up on you.

Deconstruct what needs to be done for each deadline. You may want to do your reading a week or two before, and then devote three days straight to nothing else but the assignment.

Or, you may go for the “salam” approach where you do it piece by piece. For example, you may want to divide a paper into research, writing the introduction, writing the literature

review, writing your argument, writing your conclusion, organising your references and printing.

However you approach it, put each task into your calendar, blocking the appropriate amount of time. Now take a moment to breathe because it will look like chaos. It's okay, you can do it.

Next, the trick is to know how to poke yourself to keep to the schedule. Decide if you want to just go day by day or if you need timely reminders.

If you need reminders, you have to set these carefully so that

you're not jolted out of a class by a notice that says you have to do something the next day.

Tip: give yourself study reminders 10 minutes before you're supposed to sit down. That gives you time to excuse yourself from whatever you're up to and to get down to the books.

Finally, get into the habit of reading when you're in a bus, in a queue or having a coffee by yourself. You'll be amazed how much you can get read in just 15 minutes three times a week.

Culinary arts course in demand

MSU College offers the Diploma in Culinary Arts programme which allows students to transform their love and passion for cooking into a professional skill.



CULINARY arts are the art of preparing, cooking, presenting, and serving food in a more professional manner. Those in this field are in charge of preparing delicious food and creating edible artwork.

MSU College's School of Hospitality, Education, and Business Studies (SHB) offers a Diploma in Culinary Arts, which allows students to transform their love and passion of cooking into a professional skill that will lead them into the rewarding and exciting world of food preparation.

The programme will not only expose students to a variety of culinary arts disciplines, but it will also provide a blend of solid culinary knowledge, practical competency, industry know-how, and management skills.

This could include patisserie and local cuisine, visually appealing food art presentation, and flawless cooking and food processing.

For entry requirements, students must obtain a minimum three credits in any subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or its equivalent.

Students who complete the diploma level can immediately start their career or further their studies at the Management and Science University (MSU) through the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts (SHCA) by performing credit transfer to

second year bachelor's degrees in the same field or other related programmes.

In line with MSU College's aspiration to produce a balanced, holistic and well-rounded graduates, various components are also embedded into student learning experience as part of the initiatives to further enhance their soft skills and to ensure they are competent in the job market.

With all the knowledge and entrepreneurial and soft skills acquired, graduates may have the opportunity to work in hotels, build their own restaurant or cafe, or run a catering business.

Apart from this programme, students can also choose other programmes such as Tourism Management, Hotel Management and Food Service and Restaurant Management.

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

■ For more information on programmes offered, call 03-5521 6868 or email enquiry@msucollege.my or go to www.msucollege.edu.my

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Check out past year papers and pinpoint questions your new knowledge is relevant to. See if you can answer them without looking at your notes. Repeat until you've got it.

Differentiating between memorising and learning

DO you ever look at an assignment or exam question and have no idea what's needed, even though you've actually done the work? If yes, it is possible that you're memorising instead of learning.

Memorisation is enough to get you through basic school but it's not enough to get you through tertiary education.

You can tell if you're memorising instead of learning by looking at the learning objectives, imagining an exam question and see if you can figure out the answers. Or, take a shortcut and look at a past exam paper.

If you have problems, think about changing your study game. The main shift is to move from learning the words to learning the meaning. That

means paying attention to the ultimate significance of the material.

For this purpose, read the text. Then, read up on the same topic somewhere else: your library should have a variety of textbooks.

When you have several different takes, try explaining the material to yourself while you go for a walk.

Don't just repeat information: pretend you're explaining it to a student who's six months behind you.

When you can do that, take another look at the past year papers, and pinpoint questions your new knowledge is relevant to. See if you can answer them without looking at your notes. Repeat until you've got it.

For the love of science

IF words like science, physics or chemistry are music to your ears and make your head turn or you are very curious about the nature of things and enjoy experiment sessions in the lab, then it is clear you are destined to venture into the world of science.

That is how Tristan Justin Lau, a student of Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) discovered his love for science. He is now pursuing his Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Applied Physics (Instrumentation).

“Science fascinated me from a very young age. I am naturally curious and as a boy, I wanted to understand how the world around us worked. During my secondary years, I was convinced I would want a future in physics. So, after my secondary education, I focused on gaining my tertiary qualification in physics,” he shares.

Lau chose to join TAR UMT as the other universities near his home do not offer degrees in physics.

“It was an easy decision for me because I know of its reputation as an excellent institute of higher learning in terms of quality and affordability.

“And it is a decision I do not regret because I enjoy what I am learning, particularly during laboratory work as I get to work with various equipment and get a sense of how experiments are conducted in the industries.

“In addition, my university life also consists of workout routines which I began developing during the lockdown period. I needed



TAR UMT applied sciences students can make use of the various state-of-the-art equipment and lab facilities available at the university.

some variety in my routines besides the online sessions, so I joined the home workout course as my online co-curricular activity. This was a real help to me as besides keeping me healthy, the workouts kept my mind active and I have maintained these workout routines in my daily activities up till now,” says Lau.

Kok Yi Cheng is another student who is pursuing the same programme as Lau.

“My interest in physics started during my secondary school years. After SPM, I completed my foundation before pursuing my degree in physics.

“Each level of study has its excitement for me and as for my degree programme, I love

the experiments which require us to use fascinating types of science equipment, such as the scanning probe microscope, which is used in the industry.

“It is satisfying that I am able to learn how to handle industry-standard equipment during my degree programme,” he says.

To help him cope well with his studies and laboratory activities, Kok took up swimming as his co-curricular activity.

“The lockdown period was challenging for me as I appreciate good physical activities. That is why when swimming was offered as a co-curricular activity on campus when the lockdown was lifted, I signed up for it and was able to use the Olympic-sized



TAR UMT students also learn how to handle industry-standard equipment during their studies.

swimming pool on campus.

“Swimming was good for my health and it helped me to relax after spending long hours in the laboratory. Through swimming, I have also fostered and built friendships with students from other programmes. In a nutshell, I am enjoying and appreciating my student life,” he shares.

Taking in the joy and fulfilment of working in the laboratory, aspiring chemist Austin Yap Yuhang who is pursuing his Master of Science, focusing in the area of analytical chemistry, is currently involved in an industry-related research project.

“I am developing a polymer-based electrolyte which is safer

than liquid-based electrolytes due to their low flammability and low explosion hazard. As a result, industries can benefit from these desired properties of polymers that find applications in wearable devices,” he details.

Yap has also learned other important skills during his time spent in the laboratory.

“Working in the laboratory is necessary to build essential practical habits that are crucial for experimental works. Besides, many minute details need to be taken note of, in particular, proper ways to handle and maintain scientific equipment.

“Furthermore, working in the laboratory has also helped me develop valuable skills such as problem-solving and troubleshooting, especially when one needs to think outside the box to deal with problems or unexpected outcomes during experiments.

“As TAR UMT has good working partnerships with industries, I have the opportunity to learn and liaise with industry professionals. This allows me to expand my professional network and will be helpful when I join the workforce,” he explains.

■ For more information about TAR UMT’s applied sciences programmes and to apply online, please call 011-1075 8544 or log on to www.tarc.edu.my. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are available for qualified students.



MSU is a QS and multi-global-ranked institution focused on building holistic human capital. Envisioning a better, more sustainable future for all, we champion equality by providing a level playing field across extensive efforts in transforming lives, enriching future through compelling learning experiences.

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Top-notch new programmes

THE competition to stand out in the world's professional marketplace continues to get steeper as technology evolves by the day.

However, having a postgraduate degree under your belt is one way to catch the attention of employers and grant you a head start over other job seekers in the market.

Additionally, postgraduates have the opportunity to enter the corporate world at a higher position or make the step up in their career quicker than their peers. This includes the chance to earn more.

The University of Cyberjaya (UoC) is pleased to announce the introduction of three cutting-edge and in-depth master's degree programmes to keep up with the constantly changing requirements of the contemporary job market and to meet the different educational requirements of students.

These new programmes, which transcend many academic disciplines, are created to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their respective fields.

UoC is committed to providing an unparalleled, student-centric learning experience.

The new programmes confirm the university's dedication to providing students with the competencies and skills they need to succeed in the job market that is undergoing substantial transformation.

As the academic landscape changes, the university is committed to providing forward-looking learning experiences that will help students succeed in the industry.

"Our master's programmes are thoroughly designed to not only meet



The University of Cyberjaya recently launched its cutting-edge Master in Islamic Finance programme, designed to prepare students for careers in the global Islamic finance industry.

but also surpass industry and global standards. We empower our students to serve as the pioneers of change, establishing new standards and advancing the fields they work in by promoting a culture of innovation, critical thinking, as well as ethical leadership," says UoC Faculty of Business and Technology deputy dean Priya Sukirthanadan.

The university has recently introduced the Master in Islamic Finance, a programme tailored to meet the growing

demand for professionals well versed in Islamic finance principles.

This programme is set to be a game-changer for students aspiring to work in the global Islamic finance industry. It provides students with a deep understanding of syariah-compliant financial systems, ethical finance practices and a strong grasp of Islamic economics.

Some courses include Islamic Financial Systems, Managing Islamic Financial Institutions, Islamic Investment Management and Islamic Corporate Governance, among others.

One unique feature of the Islamic finance industry is the growth of Islamic Finance start-ups, especially in Islamic Fintech, which are explored through this programme.

The Islamic finance sector is projected to surge to more than RM28 trillion by 2026. Another growing insight in the business landscape is the multidisciplinary field of study, data science.

Data science has become an indispensable part of modern business strategies and organisations are in constant need of skilled professionals who can harness the power of data for informed decision-making.

To address this need, UoC proudly introduces the Master of Business Data Science programme. In addition to gaining practical experience dealing with real-world data, students will be better equipped to handle challenging business challenges.

Recognising the growing demand for flexibility and accessibility in education, the university has also launched the Master of Business Administration (Open and Distance Learning).

This programme is designed to cater to the needs of working professionals and individuals who prefer remote learning options. It offers students the flexibility to study at their own pace, enabling them to balance work, life and education.

For those who have navigated the complexities of the professional world without a degree, this programme also has APPEL C recognition, which offers a chance to gain recognition for your expertise.

It is a significant opportunity to bridge the gap between experience and formal education.

APPEL C acknowledges that learning happens both inside and outside the classroom.

It recognises that your years of dedication, expertise and professional accomplishments deserve to be counted.

With APPEL C, you can chart a new course, attain academic recognition and further your career goals.

UoC accepts APPEL C applications, not only for its Master in Business Administration programme but also for its Master in Science in Occupational Safety and Health Management programme.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of these exciting new programmes that can shape your future in Islamic finance, business data science or business administration.

■ Prospective students interested in any of these programmes can find more information and application details on the university's website at cyberjaya.edu.my/pg-business or message its education counsellors via WhatsApp at 011-1112 3344 or email studywithus@cyberjaya.edu.my.



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