

Star Special

THE STAR, THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2025

EDUCATION GUIDE

New era for creative thinkers

IMU University has reached an exciting milestone, opening its doors to the inaugural cohort of the Foundation in Arts (FiA) programme. This trailblazing initiative welcomed 45 enthusiastic high school-leavers who arrived on campus eager to explore new frontiers.

More than just another foundation course, FiA represents an innovative gateway into a world of creativity, critical thinking, and boundless opportunities.

"This isn't just a foundation programme; it's a launchpad for students to discover who they are and how they can impact the world.

"We're not just preparing students for degrees; we're equipping them to be life-long learners, innovators and leaders," FiA programme director Parkash Mathivanan shared.

IMU's group managing director Prof Gerard George championed the programme's vision, tying it to the One Health concept, a holistic approach linking human, animal and environmental health.

"FiA inspires students to see the bigger picture, blending science and social science to create a new generation of thinkers," Parkash said.

This one-year programme is divided

into three fast-paced semesters. Designed to be challenging yet enriching, FiA acts as a direct pathway to IMU's undergraduate degrees in psychology, communication, and social sciences.

Students will gain both an academic advantage and practical, real-world skills to excel in their future careers. Starting a new chapter can be daunting, but IMU's FiA students are embracing the journey.

Wei Jie, one of the programme's first students, shared, "At first, I was nervous, but now I'm excited. Collaborating with students from the Foundation in Science programme is such a unique opportunity."

The first day was filled with ice-breaking activities, meeting with the faculties and an orientation to help students feel at home.

Shazliza, an FiA faculty member, reassured the students that the programme's goal was to give students the best start to their undergraduate journey. "We'll guide them every step of the way," she added.

The FiA programme thrives on collaborative effort and creative challenges that encourage students to push boundaries and think outside the box.

As students embark on this vibrant new journey, FiA is not just about academics,

it's about fostering a sense of belonging, creativity, and purpose. With this groundbreaking programme, IMU is setting the stage for a future where arts and sciences work hand in hand to shape the world.

One standout feature of the programme is its flexibility, allowing students to tailor their learning experience by choosing preferred modules.

The programme underwent a rigorous development process, inspected by multiple departments and committees to guarantee its excellence.

FiA secured the Malaysian Qualifications Agency's approval in January 2024 and the Higher Education Ministry's approval in March 2024.

This meticulous attention to detail not only guarantees a top-tier foundation programme but also demonstrates IMU's commitment to redefining education standards.

The commencement of this programme is in April and September of each year. Those keen on enrolling can send in an application online.

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



Prof Gerard George (front row, centre) and Parkash (back row, second from left) with IMU's first batch of FiA students.

Realise your culinary dream

CULINARY arts is the craft of preparing, cooking, presenting and serving food with skill and creativity.

Professionals in this field don't just cook – they transform ingredients into delicious masterpieces, blending flavour with artistry to create unforgettable dining experiences.

At Management and Science University (MSU) College's School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies (SHB), the Diploma in Culinary Arts programme offers students the opportunity to turn their love for cooking into a professional skillset, opening doors to the dynamic and rewarding world of food preparation.

This comprehensive programme not only introduces students to various culinary disciplines but also equips them with a strong foundation in culinary knowledge, hands-on expertise, industry insights and essential management skills. From patisserie and local cuisine to aesthetic food presentation and impeccable cooking techniques, students gain a well-rounded culinary education.

To enrol, students need a minimum of three credits in any subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or an equivalent qualification.

Career pathways

Graduates can step directly into the industry or further their education at MSU through the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts (SHCA).

With a credit transfer system, students can advance to the second year of a bachelor's degree in the same field or other related programmes.

MSU College emphasises producing holistic and well-rounded graduates, integrating entrepreneurial and soft skills into the curriculum to ensure that students are industry-ready.



From hands-on cooking to business skills, MSU's programme equips students for dynamic careers in food and hospitality.

Career opportunities include working in hotels, launching a restaurant or cafe, or running a catering business.

In addition to this programme, students can explore other exciting fields such as Tourism Management, Hotel Management, and Food Service and Restaurant Management.

MSU College is also an MSU APEL Centre, providing an alternative pathway for candidates to pursue higher education through the APEL Aptitude Test. This non-conventional pre-qualification allows entry into various academic levels, with MSU currently offering APEL A and APEL C at:

- > T-3 (certificate)
- > T-4 (diploma)
- > T-6 (bachelor's degree)
- > T-7 (master's degree)

This ensures greater flexibility for individuals looking to further their education and career prospects.

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

ESU-TAYLOR'S PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2025



This year (2025) marks the 45th year of the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) which is one of the largest public speaking competition in the world bringing together students aged 16 to 20 from more than 50 countries around the world.

Now open for entries in search of our Champion to represent Malaysia in London, UK. (12th to 17th May 2025)

HOW TO TAKE PART :

Join the preparatory workshop **"CAPTIVATE & COMMUNICATE"**
8th March 2025 (Sat) 2:30pm (ONLINE)
 (All workshop participants will receive an e-Certificate of Participation)
Register here --> <https://bit.ly/WorkshopCapCom>

ONLINE: PRELIMINARY ROUND

Prepare & submit a video of your speech (5 mins) based on theme :

"We Know What We Are, But Not What We May Be"

Deadline: 22nd March 2025 (Saturday)

ONLINE: SEMI-FINALS ROUND

Prepare & submit a video of your speech (5 mins) based on theme :

"Unity, To Be Real, Must Stand The Severest Strain Without Breaking."

Deadline: 5th April 2025 (Saturday)

LIVE ON-STAGE : NATIONAL FINALS

Attend a "live on-stage" to deliver your prepared speech (5 mins) on theme :

"We Know What We Are, But Not What We May Be"

@ Taylor's College Lakeside Campus, Subang Jaya, Selangor

Date : 19th April 2025 (Saturday) 3:00 pm

PRIZES

1st PRIZE (Champion)

RM 1,500 cash & Flight Ticket to UK & Certificate & School/College receive RM500 cash

2nd PRIZE (1st Runner-up)

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3rd PRIZE (2nd Runner-up)

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Consolation (Finalists)
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SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY FORM HERE <https://bit.ly/ESUTAYLORSPSC2025>

Switch up your study methods

IF time at the library isn't working for you, try these unconventional study techniques.

Train yourself

Take a tip from the animal trainers and set yourself a schedule whereby you study to earn treats. Think a clock, a pack of biscuits and a book. You are allowed a biscuit every time you finish a chapter, and one biscuit on the half hour. If you find you're cheating yourself, get a study partner to test you and award treats.



If being in a study environment is making you twitchy, try a new place to boost your motivation. — AFP

morning is perfect.

Be your teacher

Teaching means breaking down information into chunks and presenting it logically. So, prepare class notes and give a lecture as if you were teaching a class. If you

succeed, you will have learned what you need to know.

Write song lyrics

If you need to learn lists of things, make them memorable by putting them to song. Pick a tune you love and put in the words to suit but rhyming will boost memory retention and if you have a guitar or a piano, and can write your own music, even better.

Make flashcards

Children learn their ABCs by using flashcards so borrow the technique and make yourself a set.

Each card should be very short so look at one fact or a snapshot of three points.

Print them out, shuffle them around and flash yourself five times a day until the stuff's imprinted in your mind.



Kartick leveraged his education at MSU to excel as an entrepreneur.

Alumnus turns vision into reality

REFLECTING on his time at Management and Science University (MSU), Kartick Abimanyu credits the institution with shaping his entrepreneurial journey.

A graduate of the Bachelor in International Business programme under the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies, Kartick completed his studies in 2023.

For Kartick, MSU provided a dynamic environment with activities that honed his leadership skills.

"I wasn't one to take the lead in activities but at MSU, I was tasked with leading a business project," he shared.

"That experience taught me to take responsibility for others, manage finances and guide my team effectively."

His time at MSU also included meaningful community service projects such as tree planting along the seashore and engaging with Orang Asli communities, which taught him the value of giving back.

Kartick's entrepreneurial journey began modestly.

"In the first two years, I worked at a smaller workshop with limited facilities. As my business grew, I realised the need for bigger machinery, a larger space and more workers to meet increased demand," he said.

Kartick, who is now in his third year of running his own business, specialises in creating customised cabinets. His team includes experts skilled in crafting unique designs such as hidden doors and curved cabinets.

He has established a strong online presence for his business, Cabinet Creation Co, through platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, enabling customers to arrange meetings, discuss designs and get tailored quotes.

One key advantage of his business is owning two high-capacity machines typically found only in large factories.

These machines allow his team to complete projects faster and with superior quality. By offering contractor prices, Kartick has made his services accessible to a broader market.

Kartick advises entrepreneurial students to know themselves and their goals. While it's helpful to seek advice from others, he believes only they truly understand what's best for their future.

He also encourages students to cherish their time in university. Building friendships and connections is invaluable as these relationships can support future careers.

Nurturing future leaders

As one of the top universities in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student development to boost graduate employability.

By blending technical vocational education and training (TVET) with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internships, community and creative entrepreneurship and global exposure. This empowers MSU graduates with the well-roundedness desired and sought by employers.

Various skills enhancement programmes aimed at improving students' competitiveness are offered. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEmS) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programmes at MSU serve to improve 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. MSU aims to transform lives and enrich the future.

■ For more details on MSU's programmes, visit www.msu.edu.my or contact 03-5521 6868 or email info@msu.edu.my.



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Bridging creativity and strategy

THE future belongs to those who can think creatively and communicate effectively, opening doors to career advancement, leadership opportunities and personal growth.

At Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), the Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI) at its Sungai Long campus offers cutting-edge programmes that blend creativity with industry-ready communication skills.

“Effective communication fosters teamwork, minimises misunderstandings and ensures alignment in achieving a company’s objectives,” said Department of Mass Communication head Kenneth Lee Tze Wui.

“But it’s creativity that brings communication to life – whether through compelling storytelling, innovative branding or engaging digital content.

“Mastering appropriate language, tone and etiquette across verbal, written and digital platforms is key to maintaining credibility and fostering trust.

“At the same time, a professional who thinks outside the box can develop fresh, engaging ways to connect with stakeholders and drive success,” he noted.

UTAR’s Bachelor of Corporate Communication (Honours) is a comprehensive three-year programme designed to equip students with practical skills in artificial intelligence-driven communication, digital media strategies and corporate branding.

Combining theory with practical applications, the curriculum covers strategic communication, public relations, crisis management, event planning and audience engagement to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Graduates are well prepared for dynamic roles such as corporate communications director, public relations and reputation manager, digital engagement strategist, data-driven media analyst and experiential event producer, making them valuable assets in today’s digital landscape.

Besides corporate communication, FCI offers a diverse range of degree programmes that prepare students for dynamic careers such as media and creative studies, broadcasting, journalism in Chinese media, graphic design and multimedia, digital animation, game design and game development.

With an impressive 95-97% employability rate within nine months of graduation, UTAR students are equipped with the skills needed to excel in producing and managing creative content across diverse media platforms.

UTAR offers over 140 programmes from Foundation Studies to bachelor’s master’s and PhD degrees in 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 the UTAR Open Day on May 24-25 and May 31-June 1, from 9am to 4.30pm, at the Kampar and Sungai Long campuses.

■ For more details, go to www.utar.edu.my or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long campus).



UTAR’s Corporate Communication students organised the Eye Believe event to promote awareness and inclusivity for the visually impaired community.

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



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MQA/SWA11353
MAR . SEP

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SEP

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WHEN you need to read a pile of papers very quickly, speed reading can be a handy skill to have.

Speed reading is where you skim over a text, picking up the essential points.

It's not very useful for learning, although it can help refresh your memory if you're going over something you've studied before.

Speed reading is useful for the following reasons:

- To give you a bit of quick insight into a topic,
- For distinguishing between valuable resources and less valuable ones; and

Build up speed reading skills

- For eliminating duplicate sources.

If you're not used to speed-reading, these are some ways you can try out to build up this skill:

Find a quiet spot

You need silence or some white noise in the background because having external distractions will hamper your concentration.

Know what you're looking for Don't reread

If you want information on dominance in chickens, you can skip all the chapters that cover dominance in apes and humans.

Sort into piles

Start by sorting into "keep" and "discard" piles then sort the "keep" into topics or order of importance.

If you're learning, you tend to move backwards and forwards in a text to make sure that you get it.

However, speed-reading isn't about learning, so don't do this.

To help you avoid this, try cutting a three-sentence-shaped hole in a piece of paper. Drag it over the page - and don't go back.

Spot patterns

You're sorting things out, so think of the big picture. Look for key ideas, bold print and repeated tag words.

Keep calm

Speed reading is a skill and a useful tool, but it's just one of the many you will use in learning.

So, if you don't immediately get it, just relax and keep at it.

And if after a few tries you really loathe it, drop it and find another system that works for you.



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Stand out with ACCA advantage

AS some of the oldest professions in civilised history, accountancy, finance and business are undoubtedly among the more popular tertiary education options to study in Malaysia or even globally.

With so many institutions offering accountancy, finance and business programmes, many students will not be looking for just a degree; they will consider institutions that can provide additional benefits such as an industry-relevant academic syllabus, qualified teaching staff, compelling study experience or a fast track to a professional qualification.

Among the institutions that fulfils all these qualities is Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT). One key aspect strengthening TAR UMT's position is its partnership with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) that dates back to 1971. This long-term partnership has resulted in the university producing highly skilled graduates for the past five decades.

Such a solid track record has also positioned TAR UMT as ACCA's Platinum Approved Learning Partner, the highest and most prestigious level of approval awarded by ACCA to institution partners that meet their global best practice benchmarks.

TAR UMT is also the only institution in the world to conduct the Internally Assessed ACCA Applied Skills programme.

As such, upon completing their relevant accountancy, finance and business degree programmes, TAR UMT students will be exempted from up to nine ACCA Applied Knowledge and ACCA Skill level papers. With that, they can complete the ACCA exams much faster.

It is such benefits that drew



"I can now tick completing ACCA exams and move on to obtaining the necessary work experience to become a full-fledged ACCA member," Er shared.

students like Ng Shu Cynn and Er Xin Ni to study at TAR UMT.

Ng, who completed her Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) programme, scored the highest marks in Malaysia and fourth in the world for the Advanced Taxation paper in the ACCA September 2024 examination.

"Studying the ACCA syllabus would have been more challenging if I did not have knowledgeable and supportive lecturers."

"With the exemptions, I am now only one paper away from completing my ACCA exam, which will give me a huge advantage in my own professional growth," said Ng, who is currently working as a tax associate.

Er, another Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) graduate, obtained the highest marks in Malaysia for the Advanced Financial Management paper and highest combined marks in Malaysia for the ACCA June 2024 exams.

"I can confidently say that the opportunity to graduate with both



"Studying the ACCA syllabus would have been more challenging if I did not have knowledgeable and supportive lecturers," said Ng.

an honours degree and a globally recognised professional qualification is a huge boon to those aiming for a bright future in this field.

"I can now tick completing ACCA exams and move on to obtaining the necessary work experience to become a full-fledged ACCA member," she said.

TAR UMT's continuous dedication and commitment to bringing the globally recognised professional accountancy qualification to Malaysia has resulted in the university producing over 100 ACCA prize winners since 1971.

■ For more information, visit the university's Open Day from March 8-9 and March 15-16, 10am to 5pm, at TAR UMT's Kuala Lumpur campus and/or all TAR UMT branches nationwide.

Prospective students can also call 011-1054 8256 or 011-1059 7109, or visit www.tarc.edu.my to apply online. Various financial aid scholarships are available for qualified students.

Choosing the right college

YOU'VE decided what you want to study and found several colleges that look good to you. How do you choose the best one?

Digital libraries

Traditional libraries are useful, but not always cutting-edge. To access the newest information, look to digital libraries where

newly published books and journal articles are made available.

Moving on to further studies

If you're planning to do a post-graduate degree, note that some schools prioritise former students.

As such, if you plan to take a master's degree in school X, then you may want to check if they prefer you take your first degree with

them too.

Corporate links

One way to ease yourself into the working world is to learn from industry leaders or short internships. Schools with guest lecturers from relevant industries and strong links with corporations provide such opportunities.

Global speaking opportunity

THIS year marks the 45th edition of the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC), the world's largest public speaking competition of its kind, bringing together students aged 16 to 20 from over 40 countries for a week of cultural exchange and competition.

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) of Malaysia will once again be organising the annual Public Speaking Competition in collaboration with Taylor's College, Malaysia and with the support of the Malaysian Institute of Debating and Public Speaking (MIDP) and Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA).

The competition will be organised online for the preliminary and semi-finals of the Malaysian round. The Malaysian Finals and International Finals will be held "live" in Malaysia and London, UK.

The speech for the preliminary round, national and international public speaking competition finals will be based on the theme "We Know What We Are, But Not What We May Be".

Semi-finalists will have to speak on the theme "Unity To Be Real, Must Stand The Severest Strain Without Breaking".

The international finals in London will take place from May 12 to 17.

Participants will be judged on expression and delivery, reasoning and evidence, as well as organisation and prioritisation. During the finals, they will also be assessed on listening and response.

All workshop participants will receive an e-certificate of participation. All finalists will also receive a certificate of merit.

The proposed prizes are as follows: The first prize winner will receive RM1,500 and a flight ticket to the UK to compete in the World Finals; the second prize winner



Estelle Sia Yu Qi (front row, second from left), Malaysia's 2024 ESU Public Speaking champion, made her mark at the World Competition in London last year.

will receive RM1,000; the third prize winner will receive RM500; and seven consolation finalists will receive RM250 each. Additionally, the school or educational institution of Malaysia's champion will be awarded RM500.

To assist interested students and participants in the competition, a special Zoom session titled "Captivate and Communicate" will be held on March 8 at 2.30pm.

ESU Malaysia chairman Tunku Dara Tunku Tan Sri Naquiah Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar said, "We hope that this competition will help enhance communication skills, foster international understanding and provide a platform for Malaysian youths to develop confidence and mastery of spoken English."

Taylor's College campus director Josephine Tan said, "At Taylor's, we believe that education must help students

pursue their passion and purpose and make an impact on communities and industries, which is why we are committed to be at the forefront of promoting youth leadership and development in collaboration with our long-standing partner, ESU Malaysia.

"Throughout our partnership, our core mission has been to empower young individuals by equipping them with the essential skills and knowledge to thrive in an ever-changing global landscape. We are proud to see these young individuals excelling not only academically but also in cultivating a strong sense of self-awareness, resilience and adaptability."

■ For any questions, email info@esumalaysia.org. Additionally, visit the ESU Malaysia Facebook page for more details about the competition.

Anticipating exam questions

YOU have a thick textbook, a pile of notes and not a clue what you need to do to pass the test.

Instead of trying to learn everything and hoping for the best, try approaching your revision from another angle: by anticipating exam questions.

Unless you are taking a new course, you should be able to find some old exam papers.

Read through them and note the themes and mark the ones that come up over and over again.

Look at the table of contents of your textbook as well as the headings of your study guide, and jot down all the buzzwords that you've heard most often in class.

When you have a list of six to 10 topics, sit down and think of what a typical exam question might be for each.

If you have more time to revise, go through everything again and note some of the minor subjects. Then, repeat the exercise.

Finally, have a go at reading the textbook again. Maybe now that you've got a good grounding, you'll pick up something new.

Or even better, try picking up a textbook from the library about the same subject but written by a different author.

This will give you a new perspective, and might give you that extra bit of edge you need to score an A.

#129
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#28
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