

Enhancing English language skills

FOR those pursuing professional careers or seeking opportunities in multinational corporations, and for those with aspirations to work abroad in the future, good English communication skills are essential for career development.

The University of Reading Malaysia (UoRM), as a wholly owned branch campus of the University of Reading in the UK, provides an ideal environment for students to develop their communication skills.

Aside from being recognised in the top 100 universities worldwide for International Outlook by the Times Higher Education (THE) 2021, the courses offered at UoRM are the same as those in the UK, following the same high academic standards and rigorous curriculum.

UoRM first opened the doors to its state-of-the-art complex located in EduCity in Iskandar Puteri, Johor, in 2015.

An overarching aspect of the learning experience at the university is the holistic development of students, which includes both hard and soft skills.

UoRM Provost Prof Wing Lam highlighted the importance of holistic skills in career success.

She said, “Employers are seeking graduates who are not only book-smart but also work smart. This means they are problem-solvers rather than problem-seekers.”

“Employers prefer graduates who are proficient at working collaboratively as part of a team and interacting with customers and clients. Ultimately, this depends on their ability to communicate effectively and confidently.”

Immersive learning environment

At UoRM, students are inherently immersed in an environment that



UoRM students are inherently immersed in an environment that develops their English and communication skills.

develops their English and communication skills, often with a transformational impact over the three or four years that students spend studying at the university.

School-leavers who lack initial confidence in their English skills can consider signing up for the University English (UE) programme offered at UoRM.

This is an intensive full-time programme that spans over 10 weeks and is specifically designed for SPM, UEC and other students to improve their level of English before they embark on their university studies.

UoRM Programme Lead at the Foundation, Studies and Language

Institute (FSLI) Mohammed Ridzwan, said, “The University of Reading, through the International Studies and Language Institute (ISLI), has a long-standing reputation in providing English language support for international students.”

“Furthermore, the small class sizes at UoRM allow for a high-level of staff-student engagement, which also supports an interactive and practice-based approach to teaching and learning.”

The UE programme develops reading, writing, speaking, listening and study skills and enables students to communicate with greater confidence in English.

In the area of academic English,

students will cover key topics such as:

- > Academic writing for essays and exams
- > Reading academic texts and journals
- > Conversing confidently
- > Participating in group discussions
- > Making a presentation
- > Listening skills

In the area of study skills, students deal with topics that will help them become independent learners such as:

- > Conducting independent research
- > Formulating an argument

“The UE programme develops reading, writing, speaking, listening and study skills, and enables students to communicate with greater confidence in English.”

- > Critical thinking
- > Accessing online resources
- > Digital literacy
- > Effective note-taking

It should be emphasised that the UE programme is much more than just a test preparation course of the kind commonly found at tuition centres; it equips students with practical, real-world skills that help them get the best out of their studies.

Also, those who do not meet the English requirements for foundation or undergraduate studies at the university can also undertake the UE programme, which includes the Test Of English For Educational Purposes (TEEP) accepted for admission purposes.

The UE programme is offered twice a year in January and June.

■ For more information, visit reading.edu.my/English, call or WhatsApp Kristinah at 016-206 4012 or email my.enquiry@reading.edu.my

Getting up steam for a tough course

DO you have days when you wonder why on earth you ever decided to sign up for a course? When times are tough and you're having difficulty focusing, there are several things you can do to help you through.

First, try and build a vision of what it will be like when you complete your studies. For example, work out what it will be like to finally get that job as doctor and help heal people, or an architect and design houses that people love to live in. Or maybe you want to be independent and earn your own money. Whatever you're looking forward to, the feel good factor of that image will help energise you.

Second, instead of looking at the difficulties, think about your strengths. You've made it this far, so you should have plenty on your side. Maybe you're good at seeing the big picture or industrious about chasing up little details. Whatever



It is important to recharge, re-energise and have a bit of 'you' time every now and then.

it is, make a list of all the stuff you're good at. Hang it on your mirror so you see it every day. It will give you a positive lift.

Third, have a good moan with a fellow student. As long as you keep it short, and you don't make it a constant thing that has you depressed all the time, a bit of a whimper can help you unload all the stress. While you're enjoying your misery, have a lovely cup of hot chocolate or an ice-cream.

Fourth, go out and have some fun and forget about work for 24 hours. If you're all burned out because you're working too hard,

your brain slows down and it becomes difficult to get anything useful done. Recharge, re-energise and give yourself a bit of time. When you do hit the books again, you'll be all rested and efficient.

Fifth, get a study buddy who will keep your nose to the grindstone. When you've someone to bounce ideas off, and who will help you figure out what you need to work on more and what you've mastered, studying becomes a lot easier.

Above all, remember all the other times that you thought you'd never make it and you did. You can do it!

Fun study tips for musical people

IF you are a musical person, you can leverage your love for song while you study.

First, instead of going for printed materials, work your ears and go for audio or video lectures. If you have an Apple phone or tablet, the place to start is the iTunesU app. It has thousands of audio lectures from top universities like Oxford and MIT. If you don't have one, try using YouTube.

Second, when you have something short you need to memorise, use a mnemonic. For example, let's say you study chemistry and need to remember that an electrode in which oxidation takes place is called an anode and that an electrode in which reduction takes place is called cathode.

You can remember: “Red cat and an Ox” for “Reduction at cathode and anode for oxidation”. Google your subject for them and share with others.

Third, play music when you're

learning. This shouldn't be stuff that you want to listen to but something that energises you.

Nobody is sure how it works, but some studies suggest that even mild music in the background while you're watching a taped lecture can help boost your memory and learning.

Also, light music will act as white sound, drowning out distracting traffic and random noises.

Finally, sing your exam notes. Yes, you may feel a little odd doing this but let's face it: if you can remember your body bones by singing, “Toe bone connected to the foot bone, the foot bone connected to the heel bone, the heel bone connected to the ankle bone”, then singing about countries, capitals, formula and history dates doesn't sound so weird.

Tape it and stick it up on your blog: you may be helping others who have a musical memory but who can't sing.

Helping kids with special needs

JOYOUS Kiddy Education group operation manager and Special Education Needs Department head Sharifah Nur 'Addawiyah Syed Mohd Famy Al-Bukhary (Adda) is an alumna of Management and Science University (MSU).

Hailing from a family of doyens who worked hard to bring about change in their respective fraternities in Malaysia, Adda now has a greater responsibility to walk the path her late grandfather and dad have set.

She shares, "My dad has continued his consultancy and research in leadership, total quality organisation and management post-retirement and after UTM conferred on him the title of emeritus professor.

"He once told me, 'My dad fought for the independence of this country and he could claim that Malaysia was his country. I educate the future leaders in this country and I can claim that Malaysia is my country. What about you?' I was 17 years old at the time, fresh out of school and looking for possible career goals.

"To date, I think I can already claim that Malaysia is my country too as I work hard to help in the area of special education needs for children in Malaysia," she said.

With nine years of working experience in this industry, Adda is passionate about working with children with special needs. Her desire to help unlock the hidden talents of these children is the focal point of choosing this challenging yet rewarding career.

"I am a simple person who always wants the best for everyone around me, especially children with special needs. I can spend hours talking about how unique they are and getting people to understand how to unleash their strength," she said.

Family is not just an institution that holds blood ties together, but is also a point of beginning of knowledge. This is particularly



Adda currently works as Joyous Kiddy Education Group's operation manager and Special Education Needs Department head.

true in Adda's life as she looks up to her family as inspiration for her career pursuit.

"My family places much importance on education and sharing of knowledge, and we will always hold knowledge sharing sessions whenever we gather – or via Zoom now due to Covid-19. To a large extent, this has influenced my passion in education, particularly special needs," she said.

Adda completed her Diploma and Bachelor in Education – TESL (Hons) at MSU's School of Education and Social Sciences and then proceeded to Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia, for a Masters in Education with Specialisation in Special Education. She excelled in both her undergraduate and postgraduate studies, which garnered her job opportunities at



Adda recently shared her expertise with fellow MSU'ians during an online talk in September.

credible organisations.

Among her most notable working experiences are as a behaviour therapist in Western Australia and as a programme developer and consultant at Sungai Buloh Hospital's Department of Paediatrics, which provides early intervention programmes for autistic children.

"Being able to help more families with special needs children has been my biggest achievement so far and I would like to reach more people who need such services and walk them through the process of acceptance and moving forward," Adda said.

Her passion for inspiring the lives of many children is laudable. Her current job at Joyous Education Group – an EdTech company that focuses on online and offline modes of teaching, prepares her to continuously update her skills and train her subordinates.

"I manage the branches and make sure the teachers are up to date with new tools for teaching based on recent developments in the area. I provide internal training to upskill our teachers and staff as well as external training for schools who would like us to train their staff.

"I also work closely with the team to reach the target sales and strategise on other possibilities we can venture in, including establishing joint ventures with local and international companies," Adda explained.

As a top university in Malaysia, 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 as Malaysia's No.1 for graduate employability.

Blending technical vocational education and training with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internships, community and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure, empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness sought by employers.

Various skills enhancement programmes are offered. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEmS) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme at MSU serves 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, aimed at "Transforming Lives and Enriching the Future".

■ For more information on MSU's programmes, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or log on to www.msu.edu.my

CHANGE IS HERE. JOIN US.



A global university with campuses in Australia / Malaysia / Singapore / Dubai / Mauritius



Get a global perspective by learning with students from all around the world.

At Curtin Malaysia, you will get a unique global and cross-cultural experience studying with students from over 50 countries. Our teaching staff from over 15 countries further strengthen our global focus. Coupled with Curtin's innovative, world-ranked courses and immersive learning experiences, you will graduate well-equipped for the global workplace. Intakes in progress. Find out more at curtin.edu.my.

Curtin Malaysia and industry-sponsored scholarships, early bird rebates and other financial aid available!

Curtin University Malaysia
CDT 250, 98009 Miri Sarawak, Malaysia

+60 85 63 0100 @ enquiries@curtin.edu.my
curtin.edu.my f @ [CurtinMalaysia](https://www.facebook.com/CurtinMalaysia)

MQA
2019 SETARA
D-SETARA

Curtin University Malaysia is owned and managed by Curtin (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. 199801009086 (404213-M) Ministry of Education Registration No. KPTUPTDFT/US/Y02 DULN003(Q). CRICOS Provider Code 00301.J.



Getting enough sleep every night is crucial in order to keep your brain buzzing along efficiently.

Improve your attention span

EVERYONE goofs off sometimes but when browsing YouTube instead of studying becomes a habit, you might waste so much time that you start failing. If you have trouble maintaining a decent attention span, here are some tips.

Get seven to eight hours of sleep every night

Sleep deprivation is a torture. After a day without it, you become clumsy and can't make rational decisions; after a couple of days, you'll begin to hallucinate. So, don't torture yourself. You need a good night's sleep every night in order to keep your brain buzzing along efficiently.

Write a to-do list

You need to set yourself clear goals so that you can track how you're doing and focus on what must get done. Also, it feels really, really good to cross things off. An electronic device is okay, but paper and pen can be even more satisfying when it comes to crossing items off.

Work during downtime

When you're waiting for the bus, you can read a chapter of your book. When you're walking to class, you can visualise that presentation you'll be graded on. When you make that list, work out what you can do while you're busy doing nothing.

Switch off your phone

It's nice to see who's doing what on WhatsApp but unless someone is in hospital or in an emergency situation, you can live without it. So, switch it off and concentrate on what you're doing.

Reward yourself

If you plan your time well during the day, you will have ample time to do what you love most. So, block time in your schedule that is your own time. Try for five-minute refreshers here and there in a busy day, and at least one big chunk of time during the week where you can do something substantial like hiking or playing football.



University of
Reading
MALAYSIA



Henley
Business School
MALAYSIA

UNIVERSITY ENGLISH

**Develop the English
communication and
academic skills to
succeed at university**

**Ideal for UEC and SPM students preparing for
entry to university**

Intensive 10-week programme

**More than just test preparation; helps develop
confidence for academic success**

Test of English for Education Purpose (TEEP)

reading.edu.my/english



**UNIVERSITY OF
READING is TOP 100**
for International Outlook
(THE 2022)

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS
– Same prestigious
UK degree now more
accessible and affordable

**INTERNATIONAL
BRANCH CAMPUS**
located in **EDUCITY,
ISKANDAR** Malaysia's
dedicated education hub

FLEXIBLE OPTIONS to
study at our **READING,
UK CAMPUS**

WORLD-LEADING PROGRAMMES SCHOLARSHIPS

University English

Our Pre-Sessional English
(R/KJP/00837)(07/2023)(R/KJP/00838)(07/2023)
Builds confidence in English communication and
develops academic study skills

International Foundation Programme (IFP)

Pathway for SPM, IGCSE and equivalent holders
resulting in Foundation in Business
(R/010/3/0173)(07/2023)(MQA/FA3723)

BSc Accounting and Finance with Placement Experience (R/343/6/0214)(08/2028)(MQA/FA8518)

BSc Finance and Business Management (R/340/6/0485)(11/2024)(MQA/FA5216)

BSc Business and Management (R/345/6/0827)(07/2025)(MQA/FA7579)

BSc Real Estate (R/341/6/0042)(07/2025)(MQA/FA7578)

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (N/380/6/0058)(06/2024)(MQA/PA12029)

BSc Psychology (R/311/6/0074)(07/2025)(MQA/FA6235)

BSc Psychology with Professional Placement (N/311/6/0118)(03/2028)(MQA/PA14287)

BSc Quantity Surveying (R/526/6/0145)(07/2025)(MQA/FA7112)

Provost's Award

Awarded on a highly selective and competitive basis
to a new student with a 100% discount off their tuition
fees for the entire programme of study*

High Achiever's Scholarship

Automatically awarded to eligible students with up to
a 30% discount off their tuition fees*

*Terms and conditions apply

APRIL 2022 ENTRY - Apply Now!

Call or WhatsApp KRISTINAH +6016 2064 012

University Entry in 2022

University English
Jan & Jun

Foundation & Undergraduate Degree
Apr*, Jul* & Sep
*Terms and conditions apply

FOR COURSE ENQUIRIES

+607 2686 205 +6016 7725 400

my.enquiry@reading.edu.my

Persiaran Graduan, Kota Ilmu, EduCity, 79200 Iskandar Puteri, Johor

www.reading.edu.my

Registration No: DULN008 (J)



Unique study partnerships

CURTIN University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) has signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for collaboration in education and research with two leading institutions of higher learning in Indonesia and India.

The MOUs, which were signed in an online ceremony, were with Universitas Tarumanagara (UNTAR) in Jakarta Barat, Indonesia, and the Indore Institute of Science and Technology (IIST) in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, India.

It is set for collaboration in a wide range of educational and research activities, including exchange of students and faculty members for research, knowledge sharing, academic internships, exchange of academic materials and publications, and the organising of joint academic and scientific conferences.

The MOU was signed between Curtin Malaysia's pro vice-chancellor, president and chief executive Prof Simon Leunig; rector of UNTAR Prof Ir Agustinus Purna Irawan and director-general of IIST Shri Arun S. Bhatnagar.

In speech delivered by Prof Lee on behalf of Prof Leunig, he commented that it was apparent that UNTAR's and IIST's strengths in academia and research could be leveraged with Curtin Malaysia's strengths as Curtin University's largest global campus and education and research hub in South-East Asia.

"Like your institutions, Curtin Malaysia is committed to innovation and excellence in teaching and



The signatories holding up their signed MOU documents during the online ceremony.

research, engaging local communities and transforming lives through leadership, innovation and excellence.

"Our collective goal with these MoUs is to develop and offer higher education of the highest quality and jointly conduct research that address and solve real-world problems," he said.

Prof Leunig added that Curtin Malaysia is well placed to be a formidable partner in such endeavours as it offers a wide range of Curtin courses that are ranked highly in the global subject rankings aside from double-accredited by Engineers Australia and the Board of Engineers Malaysia, while

its Chemical Engineering course is triple-accredited with the inclusion of IChemE UK accreditation.

Prof Ir Augustinus remarked that the close ties and historical links between Malaysia and Indonesia was the basis of the partnership between UNTAR and Curtin Malaysia.

"Their closeness as neighbouring countries will allow the two universities to effectively implement collaborative offline and online academic programmes and joint research," he said.

He added that the MOU was timely as UNTAR, Indonesia's second-highest ranked private university, seeks to expand its

footprint in the region in line with the emergence of a more integrative and unprecedented age of cross-boundary global education.

"It is our goal to produce a whole new generation of graduates who are able to compete not just in Asia, but also globally," Prof Ir Augustinus said.

Dr Keshav, meanwhile, said in his speech that IIST's vision is to be a nationally recognised institution of excellence in technical education and is committed to producing competent graduates who can make valuable contributions to society through holistic development, promoting critical thinking, project-orientated case-based learning and developing practical skills required for industry.

The collaboration with Curtin Malaysia will help IIST achieve its goals by enhancing the education it provides and also offer opportunities for joint research, he added.

The signing ceremony was followed by online academic talks where Prof Tuong-Thuy Vu gave a talk entitled "Understanding the World with Geospatial Intelligence", followed by Shri Arun S. Bhatnagar who gave a talk on "Holistic Work-Life Management – Developing Value-Based Future Leaders".

Dr Wahidin Wahab of UNTAR, meanwhile, delivered a talk on "Past and Present Research Activities in Robotics".

■ For more information on Curtin Malaysia, visit www.curtin.edu.my or follow its social media.

Plan your long-term career path

WHEN choosing a basic degree, you have a career path in mind. When you do this, are you looking at starting salaries and the first few jobs you take, or are you thinking about what you think you will want when you are 30, 40 and 50 years old?

Some people have a driving passion that's lifelong. For example, a person who adores the law will be diving in and out of courts all their lives and they will be happy.

But suppose you just work to earn a living. What do you want to happen to your career if you plan to have kids? Start up your own business? Do you want to retire early?

When you chose a basic degree, it's useful to look way beyond the first few years of your life wishes.

The question to ask is not just "What makes me happy now" but "What do I think will make me happy when I'm older?"

Then ask, "Will this degree allow me to do this? If it doesn't, how hard would it be for me to retrain?"

In the past, it was common for people to have a single career path but nowadays, many people have two or three changes of course.

As such, many universities offer degrees that have some wriggle room. Look at the types of specialised units you can take. There may be an entrepreneur unit in case you want to go it alone or a language unit in case you want to travel.

Make a list of what you want and consult lecturers, graduates and experienced industry leaders.

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. Build it at MSU, one of Malaysia's top-ranked and world-ranked for graduate employability.
#beMSUrians



ENROL ON
EDUCATION
programmes offered by
@MSUmalaysia



msu
management &
science university

Areas of Study :

- Education- (TESL)
- Early Childhood Education
- Counselling and Guidance
- Education (Visual Arts)
- Education (Science)
- Education (Physical Education and Health)
- Education (Electrical & Electronic Engineering)

Registration
fee waiver
RM1400

Up to
RM70k
Scholarship

Management & Science University (MSU) DU019(B)

Engagement & Enrolment Department, University Drive, Off Persiaran Olahraga, Section 13, 40100 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. Tel : 03 5521 6868 / Fax : 03 5511 2848 / Email : enquiry@msu.edu.my