



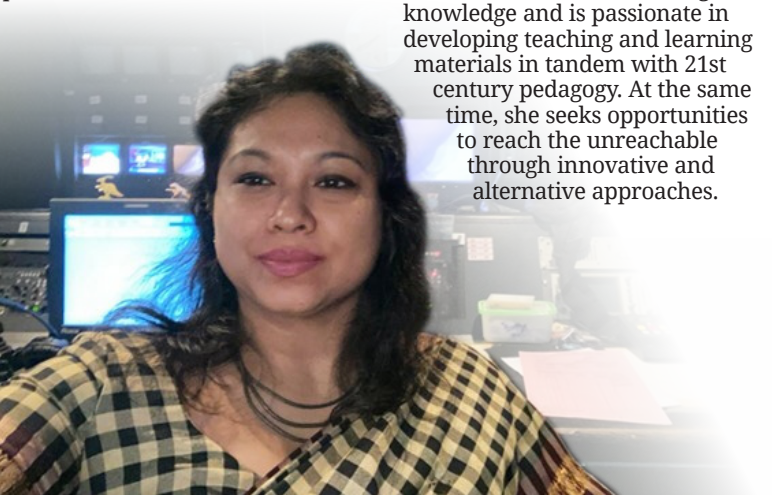
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“MY job is lecturing plus producing and directing educational audio and video programmes. I currently work as a senior programme producer-cum-project leader for educational TV, radio and audio programmes. I have produced numerous formal and non-formal additional supplementary learning materials in audio and video for general education in Sri Lanka,” says Dr Chamila Nishanthi Edward, alumna of Management and Science University’s (MSU) PhD in Management/Business under the Graduate School of Management (GSM).

Dr Chamila started her career as an assistant lecturer at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, soon after finishing her postgraduate studies. She has been promoted twice – to lecturer and



She has guided many teachers and students in completing research that is relevant to the field of education.

senior lecturer – and was awarded the BHU Gold Medal from Banaras Hindu University of India in the academic year 2000-2002 for securing highest marks and standing first in the Master of Music Examinations. She is currently a senior lecturer at the Department of Electronic Dissemination at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Sri Lanka.

Her relentless self-determination in her career after working in the education field for about 15 years has brought her thus far. She is multi-talented and brings so much to the table. With interest in transpiring the existing education system in Sri Lanka, her doctoral research topic was on Instructional Design and Music Education.

She is interested in sharing her knowledge and is passionate in developing teaching and learning materials in tandem with 21st century pedagogy. At the same time, she seeks opportunities to reach the unreachable through innovative and alternative approaches.

Raising the bar high, Dr Chamila goes on to pass her knowledge to many others. Her accolades and achievements have inspired many to join this career. She has transformed the lives of many students, too. She is a role model and a trainer, having trained teachers in her field to write for the media. She has guided many teachers and students in completing research that is relevant to the field of education.

With many years of experience, Dr Chamila has a wealth of knowledge in education. Her passion for this career is reflected in the topic she chose for her postgraduate pursuit.

“The country-based research study I conducted was designed to experiment how effective a blended learning strategy is in the teaching and learning process, especially to teach an abstract subject like music. The results were highly significant and proved that blended learning is the best fitting instructional design to teach music to students at secondary level in Sri Lanka,” she says.

Dr Chamila was offered a scholarship to study at MSU. She says, “MSU is a globally recognised institution that is registered under the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka and it is one of the world’s top ranked universities, mainly focused on developing human capital. So, I’m immensely proud to be a MSUrian.”

Dr Chamila also shares her experience studying at MSU, which she considered to be a life-long memory etched in her heart.



Dr Chamila is a prodigious woman with a passion in developing teaching and learning materials in tandem with 21st century pedagogy in Sri Lanka.

“I was a full-time doctoral student who spent almost three years at MSU’s campus in Malaysia. My supervisors and all the lecturers were so helpful, friendly, always supportive and guided me well to finish my PhD on time. The facilities at the university such as the accommodation were highly impressive. I had opportunities to participate in seminars, workshops, poster presentations, cultural activities, and entertainment during my study,” she says.

When asked to give the younger generation of MSUrians some tips, Dr Chamila says, “Success will always come hand in hand with hard work and creativity. Commitment, loyalty, and

accountability are the pillars of success.”

Management and Science University (MSU) houses an abundance of academic disciplines.

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 to transform lives and enrich the future.

■ For a full range and information of postgraduate programmes at MSU, call 03-5521 6868, email gsm@msu.edu.my or visit www.msu.edu.my.

UNIKL Business School was established in 2008 to pursue the university’s vision to be a premier entrepreneurial technical university.

It complements the other institutes and colleges that provide technical fields of study through its postgraduate and undergraduate programmes in Business Administration, Accounting, Islamic Finance, Marketing, International Business, Tourism Planning and Economics.

In the past, the business school has had collaborations with Grenoble School of Management France and Asian Institute of Management in developing its MBA programme. Its Islamic Finance programme is strengthened with the cooperation of Islamic Banking and Finance Institute Malaysia Sdn Bhd (IBFIM) and the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF).

As of March last year, UniKL Business School is ranked No.6 in the World’s Top 10% Institutions and Economists in the Field of Islamic Finance (from 125 listed IF institutions under EDIRC and RePEc). This index was published by the Economic Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, the US.

Currently there are two master’s degree programmes offered, namely Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Business Administration (Entrepreneurship) (MBAE).

Students can select from a variety of electives across different disciplines (Digital Entrepreneurship, New Business Venture, Change Management, Human Resources, Islamic Banking, etc.).

This selection of core curriculum

Pursuing an MBA



UniKL Business School’s exchange programme is an important agenda to expose students with an international experience.

and electives enables students to become innovative business leaders and practical problem solvers. For example, students are engaged in Business Project or Research Project to sharpen their analytical skills and research skills.

UniKL Business School also has collaborated with many local organisations to conduct special MBA programmes that cater specifically to the organisations’ needs.

To expose students with international experience, UniKL Business School has also concluded several exchange agreements with international universities and international programmes. The exchange programme has become an important global agenda for students’ exposure to culture, lifestyle, technology, social system and economy of the international community, while enhancing competitiveness and soft skills such as communication, entrepreneurship, problem-solving, leadership and other skills crucial for the job market.

UniKL Business School sets its learning goals by earning globally

recognised credentials through international partnership across Asia, Asia-Pacific and Europe. This includes five universities on academic articulation (i.e. transfer degree programme), 45 universities on international student exchange mobility, and 24 universities on the Erasmus+ programme.

In the context of economic, social and cultural globalisation, in the first quarter of 2018, the school carried out four short study abroad programmes (inbound) to UBIS. Additionally, the school has received a constructive number of international student exchange mobility programmes (inbound) of 15 students from Europe.

Last year, UniKL Business School also closed a deal with Universitas Warmadewa to extend its MBA programme.

UniKL Business School is definitely the right place for those who are seeking the best MBA experience and quality.

■ For more information and personalised consultation, email pg.ubis@unikl.edu.my or visit <https://bis.unikl.edu.my>.

The right time for a master’s degree

GETTING a master’s degree is highly beneficial. By having more academic qualifications, employers will perceive you as being better qualified for the job that you’re interested in. However, there is an ongoing debate about the opportune moment for when to pursue a master’s degree.

Some people would say that it is best to build on your career after you have already obtained your academic qualifications. Others would argue that a master’s degree is not needed early on in a career. Here are some upsides to getting a master’s degree before your first step into the working world.

The first reason people choose to study a master’s degree early is the ease of transition from bachelor’s to master’s, as opposed to transitioning from the working world.

If you choose to pursue a master’s degree after being part of the work force for numerous years, imagine your struggle adjusting back to student life. Are you able to quickly pick up the study skills, tips

and tricks that you’ve honed throughout your bachelor’s? One possibility is that you will be spending a good portion of your time getting back into the rhythm of your necessary tasks, which may lead to you being left behind in your studies.

Second, students who have yet to start working or support a family will have less responsibilities, which will allow them better opportunities to focus on their master’s without distractions. From housing loans and insurance policies to your kids’ education and daily family needs, juggling a career with family life and higher education is no easy task. This is ever more so without proper planning and necessary arrangements. A master’s degree is an arduous task to complete, so having a clear mind with no prior commitments go a long way in helping you prepare for your assignments and exams.

> TURN TO PAGE 4



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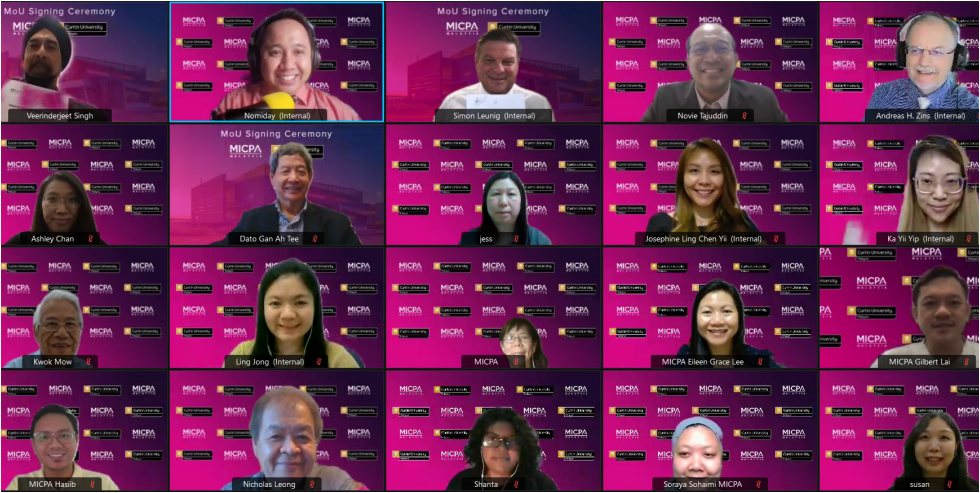
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Collaborating in accountancy



Curtin and MICPA representatives during the virtual signing ceremony.

CURTIN University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) recently to strengthen collaboration in promoting the development of the accountancy profession and knowledge-sharing by jointly organising educational programmes, conferences, short courses, and other areas of collaboration for the benefit of students and academia.

Prof Simon Leunig, pro vice-chancellor, president and chief executive of Curtin Malaysia, and Dr Veerinderjeet Singh, president of MICPA, signed on behalf of their organisations via a virtual signing ceremony.

In his speech, Prof Leunig said the signing was significant as both organisations have had a close relationship for a long time and are now seeking a more meaningful partnership, particularly for students of Curtin Malaysia.

He added that it was apparent that MICPA's role as a professional body in the advancement of the practice of accountancy in Malaysia aligns with Curtin's commitment to delivering quality programmes.

Prof Leunig said this commitment is borne out by Curtin's global rankings for accounting and finance, including Top 200 in the world for accounting and finance in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021. Curtin also entered the world's top 200 in the QS World University Rankings 2022 and became one of only three Australian universities to achieve a QS Five Stars Plus rating.

Dr Veerinderjeet said MICPA was pleased to continue its collaboration with Curtin Malaysia that has spanned over a decade as it is one of the leading private educational institutions in Malaysia offering an accounting programme that produces quality accountants who will contribute to the

accountancy profession in Malaysia.

"As Curtin is an Australian university and the MICPA programme is based on the CA programme offered by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, it is ideal for accounting graduates who are already used to the Australian education system. Furthermore, this qualification opens many doors for their future careers, whether in Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand or anywhere around the world," said Dr Veerinderjeet.

He added that many employers prefer the MICPA programme for the upskilling of their staff as it equips them with a balanced mix of technical and soft skills, such as communication, teamwork and collaborative skills. A key element of the programme is the mentored practical experience which is highly valued by both employers and candidates.

Another benefit of becoming a MICPA member is the eligibility to become a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants, which is crucial for those intending to practise as accountants in Malaysia.

Dr Veerinderjeet also highlighted that Curtin graduates have the option to obtain MICPA's Associate CPA membership, which is open to accounting graduates of accredited universities who have obtained at least three years of relevant experience. Once they have the prerequisite work experience, they can apply and attain full CPA membership by attending a professional ethics workshop.

Full information on courses at Curtin Malaysia can be found at courses.curtin.edu.my.

■ For more information on Curtin Malaysia, visit curtin.edu.my, or the university's social media pages.



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Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master) Mar / Sep KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1082)9/2023 MQA/PSA11354 KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1090)12/2023 MQA/PSA11355 KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1085)10/2023 MQA/PSA11353	Molecular Medicine (MSc) ★ Mar / Sep KPT/JPT(R/545/7/0078)07/2022 MQA/FA1299
Counselling (Master) Sep KPT/JPT(N/762/7/0046)09/2026 MQA/PA12002	Pharmacy Practice (Master) Mar / Sep KPT/JPT(R/727/7/0051)03/2024 MQA/SA02796
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Endodontics (PG Dip) Apr KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0043)05/2024 MQA/PSA12162	Public Health (MSc) ★ Mar / Sep KPT/JPT(R/720/7/0077)09/2025 A10261
Health Informatics and Analytics (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master) ◆ Sep KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0131)09/2025 MQA/PSA13973 KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0130)09/2025 MQA/PSA13972 KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0129)09/2025 MQA/PSA13974	Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD) Throughout the year KPT/JPT(R/720/7/0049)06/2026 A10618 KPT/JPT(R/721/8/0043)01/2027 A3767



Mastering the decision

> FROM PAGE 2

Furthermore, among the advantages of pursuing a master's immediately after a bachelor's is that you get to mingle with industry professionals before you enter the workforce. You will get the opportunity to meet and interact with individuals from various industries and companies that you can build connections with. These connections can be useful in meeting possible clients, forming future partnerships and possibly gaining referrals to new jobs.

Although getting a master's early on can be a boon to some, there are some cons on getting a master's immediately.

Among the first cons is that you may dive into a course or specialisation that you do not enjoy or does not support your dream career. First of all, if you are unsure of what kind of specialisation you would like to go for, rethink your decisions until you can be more confident about your choice.

A master's degree should only be pursued if you have a specific goal in mind that requires a certain specialisation to achieve. Enrolling for the wrong specialisation will only end up wasting your money and time.

The second caveat is that by pursuing a

master's without prior work experience, you are basically working blind. Without relevant work experience, your prior knowledge is based only on source materials instead of first-hand knowledge and experience. This can lead to possibilities where you struggle to fully grasp key concepts or relate to your peers who may discuss events that occur at the workplace.

And finally, if you already have a loan to settle from your bachelor's, pursuing further tertiary education is going to increase that loan considerably, putting you in a bigger debt. Even if you managed to complete your bachelor's with a scholarship, a master's degree is still costly and is not something that an average person can pay off in a pinch unless they have some savings that they can use to help alleviate the costs.

With all being said, is it better to pursue a master's degree now or later? That answer will depend on your personal preference and circumstances. Whatever your decision, a master's degree is a worthy investment that will pay off later in your career. What you must keep in mind is that it is not a decision to be made likely, and detailed preparation and planning is required in order to make the most of the opportunity.

Planning and preparation alongside personal preference and circumstances are key deciding factors on when to pursue a master's degree.





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VC COLUMN



By
ASSOC PROF
DR JASON
PANDYA-
WOOD

IN my previous column, I reflected on some of the challenges we face as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to reshape much of our daily lives. I also nodded towards the bigger issues to come, what are often called the ‘long tail’ of Covid-19 – those social, economic, and political challenges that are building up and are yet to be fully known.

At the risk of spending too much time talking about this subject, I have been giving a lot of thought recently to two pressing questions that are on the minds of many of our academics at University of Nottingham Malaysia (UNM). First, how will the economy recover? And second, what shape will our economy take in the future?

We are under no illusions. The world economic impact of Covid-19 has been nothing short of seismic and eclipses the shocks felt after the last great world recession of 2008. Some figures suggest that global poverty rose by 120 million people in 2019-2020 with hopes of improvement this year dashed by the continuing need for lockdowns in several parts of the world. In Malaysia, those in insecure or informal employment have often been hit hardest, with around 47% of the self-employed losing their jobs.

A report evaluating social protection for the vulnerable, produced by the think tank IDEAS last year, found that Malaysia and much of the rest of the world had been very effective at producing measures for people to cope with the immediate impact of the pandemic. Coping strategies are important, but they are necessarily short term in their scope. They provide us with the water to put the fire out.

As we begin to plan our way out of this

Towards a sustainable society



A Memorandum of Understanding between Nottingham University Business School, University of Nottingham Malaysia and UN Global Compact Malaysia & Brunei reflects the university's commitment towards sustainability.

period and think towards the future, we need to consider what strategies will enable us to adapt. This means giving careful thought to what our ‘new normal’ looks like, especially in terms of the economy we will all participate in.

For many, this might include a focus on skills and reskills training. In time, we will also need to consider the longer-term focus on strategies that mitigate. How ready will we be the next time there is an economic shock of this magnitude?

These issues relate to the second question. What does the future of our economy look like?

In any reading of history, we can see significant societal transformation after significant periods of disaster. The UK's introduction of a welfare state after the Second World War is one such example: it changed the very fabric of society.

In the present day, as we begin to think about our adapt-and-mitigation strategies, economies the world over have a chance to reboot in new ways. The drive towards ensuring that our economies are fairer and that nobody is left behind is certainly a good aspiration. So too is a necessary and urgent focus on sustainability: the economic decisions we take today will shape the world that is to come.

In May, I was pleased and proud to see UNM sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Global Compact Malaysia and Brunei. This partnership signalled our common agenda to promote sustainability and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in business and society.

Sustainability is more than ensuring biodiversity and the reduction of carbon emissions. It encompasses all the many

“Sustainability is more than ensuring biodiversity and the reduction of carbon emissions. It encompasses all the many things that enable a society to thrive and sustain.”

things that enable a society to thrive and sustain. This includes reductions in hunger, poverty, and poor health, increases in access to education, decent work, and affordable and clean energy, and so on.

The partnership will ensure that UNM will continue to do its part in shaping the conversation about what kind of future society and economy is needed to ensure sustainability.

I would also encourage everyone reading this column to have a look at the UN SDGs and consider how we all, through our actions and decisions, can contribute towards a more sustainable society. In doing so, we will be on a much better footing to both adapt and mitigate in these new and uncertain times.

■ Assoc Prof Dr Jason Pandya-Wood is dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Nottingham Malaysia.

Scholar's road to awards and recognition

ACADEMIC Assoc Prof Dr Nantha Kumar Subramaniam made Open University Malaysia (OUM) proud when his paper on the use of adaptive learning and artificial intelligence to transform learning won the Gold Medal for Best Practice Award at the 34th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities.

The Conference was hosted virtually by Open University of Sri Lanka from June 1-3.

Dr Nantha's research paper entitled, *Explorelets: Context-Aware Intelligent Adaptive Learning System for Online Learning*, discussed his efforts in developing a coursework which he terms as “Explorelets” that helps learners improve their object-oriented programming skills.

“The Explorelets also provides learners with instant feedback to correct erroneous understanding of the lesson. They are useful as they create a dynamic learning path. For instructors, they are a good way to keep track of the learners’ progress,” explains Dr Nantha.

He says that adaptive learning stands out as one of the more promising e-learning trends that OUM is exploring as part of its continuous effort to enhance teaching and learning.

“I felt very happy as my work, which took almost two years, finally paid off. The award will reinforce OUM's position as an undisputed leader in online learning, with innovation and creativity as the main pillars of the university's academic culture. It is also a testament to OUM's excellence in online teaching and learning,” he says.

Dr Nantha's efforts have also been recognised by other organisations and academic circles. Another Explorelets-related project won him a special award under the Outstanding e-Learning Project/Product category at the 2021 International University Carnival on E-Learning, which was hosted virtually on June 15 and 16 by a local university, and co-organised by Majlis E-Pembelajaran IPTA Malaysia and Jabatan Pendidikan Tinggi.

“Adaptive learning stands out as one of the more promising e-learning trends that OUM is exploring as part of its continuous effort to enhance teaching and learning.”

Dr Nantha Kumar Subramaniam

In early April, he received a certificate of recognition from the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) as a shortlist in the SEAMEO Pre-Congress Lecture Series 2021 for his innovative teaching method using instructional videos.

Dr Nantha has almost 20 years of experience as an academic, starting as a lecturer before becoming the Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology and Multimedia Communication. He has served in various capacities within the university, and currently heads the Centre for Learning Technology.

In his current position, Dr Nantha manages the development of various learning technologies to support online learning delivery at OUM and conducts training for academics. He also teaches several courses under the Cluster of Applied Sciences, namely Java Programming for undergraduate learners, and Machine Learning for postgraduate candidates.

With industry-relevant courses taught by experts like Dr Nantha, OUM offers IT



Assoc Prof Dr
Nantha Kumar
Subramaniam.

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STUDENTS worldwide affected by campus closures are responding to roll calls from their lessons online. With this sudden shift away from the classroom and residency training, some are wondering whether the adoption of online learning will continue post-pandemic, and how such a shift would impact the teaching and learning in medical education such as acupuncture.

When the pandemic hit Malaysian shores in the first quarter of 2020, there was a marked rise of e-learning in the global education landscape, where teaching and learning is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms.

IMU's Master of Science in Acupuncture (MSA) programme which is blended learning-centric, has been tackling the challenge that came with the Covid-19 pandemic. This led to a massive shift in online learning operations.

The programme's students have shared their insights on online studies while working as full-time healthcare workers during these trying times.

A year into online learning, Dr Loh C.H. says the setting has made her learning so much easier. She does not have to worry about travelling to KL every week to attend class. Instead, she relaxes at home on the couch and listens to the online lecture.

She is grateful of the flexible learning which provides ample time at her own space, a big relief for her when she is juggling between work and study in these challenging times.

She describes her online learning as a superb experience with easily accessible materials and recorded lectures available any time, anywhere on demand. She also feels less stressed and more relaxed without the time-bound factor.

Similarly, a medical officer working in a district hospital, Dr Que J.Y., says studying this programme is a brand-new experience. Weekend online classes and virtual practical demonstration of acupuncture techniques through synchronous learning are easy to follow with the university's e-learning environment.

Successful online study



IMU's Master of Science in Acupuncture programme has adopted online learning as an approach to cope with the pandemic.

He says the availability of recorded lectures is an upside as he can replay and recap prior learning at ease without worrying about missing anything. Online classes are not inferior to conventional classes, he concludes.

Dr Ng W.K. says there has been prompt response at every stage with regards to the revised learning schedule and believes online learning will continue to be a key part of the university's learning model.

Dr Gan C.L. agrees that the new normal in learning brings its own challenges and adjustments. She sees the main challenge

as maintaining the same level of discipline in her studies while coping with family and a hectic work schedule as a frontliner.

In a nutshell, students responded that these online sessions break monotonous routines, provide flexibility of time and the material is easy to access. They feel motivated to read on those topics at their

own convenient time with easy access to materials and it helps them plan their work-study times. The most frequently mentioned factor hindering learning is the limitation on the number of practical sessions, which has been addressed through remedial sessions when students are allowed to return to campus eventually.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made the university realise the importance of online training for part-time postgraduate students. Apart from gaining knowledge, the present fluid situation reveals the impact of online learning on the morale of students by creating a diversion from the impact of the pandemic.

Online teaching is feasible, cheap and must be made a part of the postgraduate training going forward beyond the prevailing lockdown.

IMU offers numerous postgraduate programmes, including Master in Science programmes in Public Health, Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Molecular Medicine, Acupuncture and Pharmacy Practice; Master of Counselling; Postgraduate Diplomas in Diabetes Management and Education, Implant Dentistry, Endodontics and Prosthodontics; postgraduate programmes in Health Professions Education, Health Informatics and Analytics and Business Administration in Healthcare Management as well as MSc and PhD in Medical and Health Sciences.

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ESTABLISHED in 1945, Henley Business School at the University of Reading has a long-established reputation as one of the UK's premier business schools. Henley is ranked in the Top 10 of UK business schools according to the *Financial Times European Business School Rankings 2020*, and is also among the one hundred or so elite business schools in the world with triple-crown accreditation from AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS in recognition of the quality of its teaching and research (AACSB – Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AMBA – Association of MBAs, and EQUIS – European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) Quality Improvement System).

Best of both worlds

Students in Malaysia have the opportunity to study with Henley Business School at the University of Reading's international branch campus located at EduCity, Iskandar Puteri. Students get the best of both worlds – they receive exactly the same prestigious degree but pay only 40% of the overall estimated costs versus studying on the Henley UK campus, taking into account university fees and living expenses. The modern, state-of-the-art campus provides students with excellent facilities that include IT-enabled classrooms, PC labs, social areas and a spacious Learning Resource Centre (LRC) with breakout rooms.

In Malaysia, Henley Business School offers four undergraduate degree programmes that specifically address talent gaps in Malaysia and the region:

- Accounting and Finance (via the Henley-ICAEW programme)
- Finance and Business Management
- Business and Management
- Real Estate

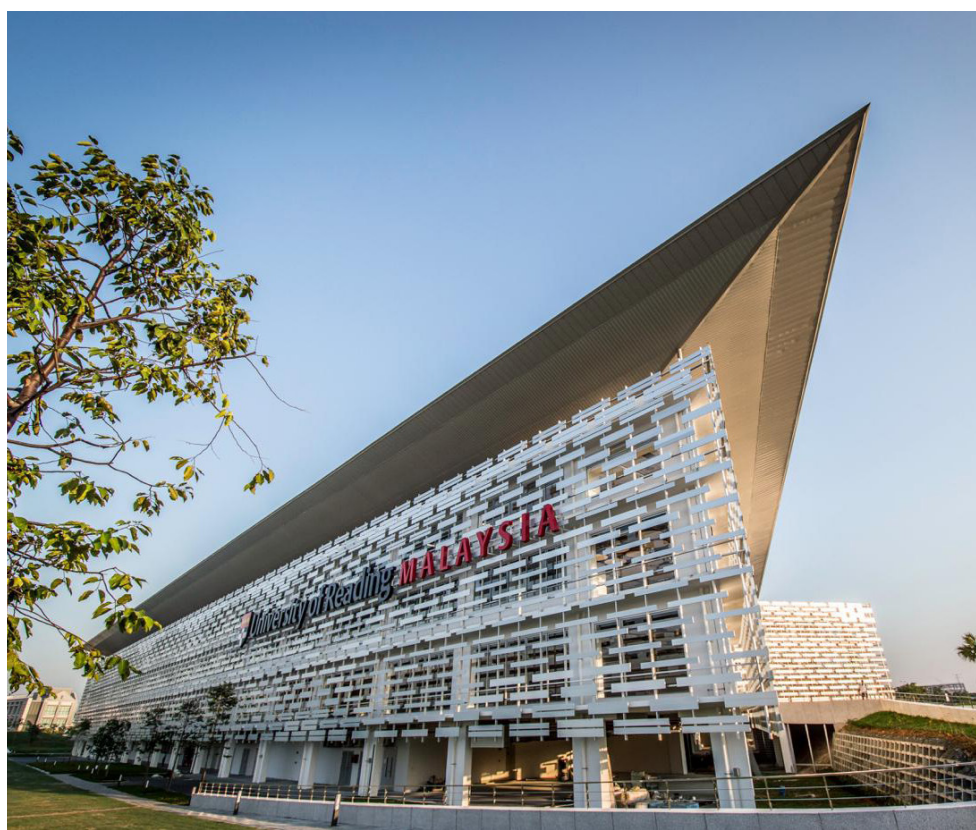
The programmes follow the same curriculum and quality standards as the UK and are accredited by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) as well as the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

Career-ready programmes

The programmes are specifically designed to prepare students for their future careers, leveraging on Henley's leading research and close relationship with the industry. The goal is not only to produce graduates who are highly employable, but who are also ready to make an impact in the workplace. Safe to say, Henley in Malaysia has an excellent track record of graduate employability, with many final-year students receiving job offers even before graduating.

For its Accounting and Finance programme, Henley in Malaysia has partnered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) to provide students with a fast track to chartered accountancy known as the Henley-ICAEW Programme (HIP). As an integral part of HIP, students spend a full year industry internship in Year 3 with an ICAEW Authorised Training Employer (ATE)

Get a career head start



University of Reading Malaysia's state-of-the-art campus in EduCity Iskandar.

where they can apply what they have learned in the classroom and develop valuable workplace skills. There are over 200 ATEs in Malaysia and the majority of students on HIP are placed in well-established professional services firms such as EY, KPMG, PwC, Deloitte, Grant Thornton and BDO.

As for the Finance and Business Management programme, the campus is an affiliated university with the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute and the programme curriculum is aligned with CFA requirements, making it easier for those who wish to sit for the CFA exam. A distinct feature of the learning experience is Henley's Financial Dealing room, modelled on that at Henley's UK campus, which provides students with access to the ICTrader platform, one of the most sophisticated trading systems that is simulated to trade equity, foreign currency and derivatives in the US and UK markets.

Henley's Real Estate programme is ranked UK No.2 for 'Land & Property Management' and No.1 for 'Graduate Career Prospects in Land & Property Management' according to the *Complete University Guide 2021*. The programme is ideal for those seeking to develop a business career in the global real estate industry. The programme is recognised in Malaysia by the Board of Valuers, Appraisers, Estate Agents and

Property Managers (BOVAEP) and the Royal Institute of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), in the UK by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and in Singapore by the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV).

The Business and Management programme offered at Henley Business School is specifically designed to nurture entrepreneurial leaders, and was developed with the help of experts from the renowned Henley Centre for Entrepreneurship (HCFE) in the UK, recognised by the AACSB accreditation agency in 2017 as among the top 20 centres for entrepreneurship in the world. Aside from those with entrepreneurial ambitions, the programme is ideal for those exploring business careers in marketing, sales, business analysis, advertising, customer service and human resources.

Nurturing future leaders

Students can be reassured they will receive an excellent learning experience. Three-quarters of Henley's academics in Malaysia are PhD-qualified and many have further industry and professional certifications. Henley's approach to teaching and learning ensures students not only

"The modern, state-of-the-art campus provides students with excellent facilities that include IT-enabled classrooms, PC labs, social areas and a spacious Learning Resource Centre (LRC) with breakout rooms."

acquire the technical knowledge they need, but also the ability to think critically, solve problems and work collaboratively as part of a team. In short, students are taught skills that will enable them to adapt to different situations in a world that is constantly changing.

Prof Peter Miskell, head of undergraduate studies at Henley Business School, states that the degrees offered at Henley Business School are designed to prepare graduates for the future.

"The business world is rapidly evolving. The challenges facing firms, and technologies at their disposal, are changing at breath-taking speed. At Henley Business School, our mission is to help you make sense of this complex business environment, and to prepare you for professional careers in job roles that may not yet exist," he says.

Henley UK experience option

Students can take advantage of the flexible options which allow them to spend one or even two years at the Henley UK campus. The option may appeal to parents who wish to send their children to study in the UK but are concerned about travel restrictions and health and safety in the current pandemic situation. Some of the benefits of spending time on the Henley UK campus include the opportunities to embrace a new culture and environment, meet new friends and expand one's network.

The Henley building is situated on the university's main campus in Reading UK, which is set in 130ha of beautiful parkland and has won the Green Flag award nine times in a row, making it one of the UK's best green spaces. The campus has everything a student could need, including sports facilities, health centre, eateries, a supermarket and on-campus accommodation. Furthermore, Reading town is only a 22-minute train ride from London, making it ideal for students who are seeking to make the most from their time in the UK.

Admissions

The entry points for new students are in April, July and September each year.

Students with a recognised foundation, STPM, A-level, UEC or equivalent qualification can apply for direct entry to any of the programmes at Henley Business School in Malaysia. SPM, IGCSE and equivalent holders should first enrol onto the 12-month International Foundation Programme (IFP). Upon successful completion of the IFP and meeting all the necessary requirements, students have the option to start their studies with Henley either in Malaysia or the UK. High Achievers Scholarships valued up to RM33,840 are available for those with excellent academic grades who chose to study at the Malaysia campus (subject to terms and conditions).

■ For more information, consultation or to arrange for a campus visit, call or WhatsApp Joyce 016-721 5400 or Kristinah 016-206 4012, email my.enquiry@reading.edu.my or visit www.reading.edu.my/henley and the university's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Henley's Financial Dealing Room helps develop financial trading skills using advanced simulation software.



Henley Business School at the University's main campus in the UK.

VC COLUMN

STUDYING abroad is an exciting prospect for many people. After all, travelling overseas to enrol in a foreign university is a chance to explore the world, immerse in new cultures, and gain valuable life skills. For decades, the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and France have consistently ranked among the most popular countries for the best in overseas higher education.

Against that background, Malaysia too has gained a reputation as a choice destination for higher education options, especially within the Asian region. Those who opt to attend university in this country can enjoy affordable tuition fees and reasonable living expenses, excellent quality programmes with English as the main medium of instruction, rich cultural diversity, and a year-round sunny climate.

Although it comes as no surprise that Covid-19 has put a damper on everyone's plans to study abroad, the Higher Education Ministry reported that almost 96,000 international learners studied locally throughout last year. This shows that Malaysia continues to be a favourite among international learners, especially those from China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Yemen, and Pakistan, who are primarily enrolled as full-time learners at both public and private universities.

At Open University Malaysia (OUM), we have adopted a different approach to our own internationalisation efforts. As an open and distance learning (ODL) institution, our 20-year experience in e-learning has opened the path for us to collaborate with reputable higher education institutions abroad to offer our programmes, with partnerships spanning countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Over the years, OUM has partnered with 12 institutions in 10 countries, and produced more than 7,000 international graduates.

Recently, we have taken our international initiatives beyond these partnerships. Now, by opening up admissions to learners from all over the world, we have made studying at OUM truly accessible to everyone.

Of international calibre



OUM's international initiatives have made studying and admission at OUM truly accessible to learners from all over the world.

With our flexible ODL approach, there is no need for anyone to worry about visa or immigration processes, moving across countries or continents, or adapting to life in Malaysia. All they need is an Internet connection for them to enrol and study. With our fully online mode, anyone can learn comfortably from wherever they are, using the same tools and learning materials, and still get the same experiences and services enjoyed by local learners.

Currently, 26 postgraduate programmes in business and management, education and

social sciences, and applied sciences are open for international admission, and more will be offered in the near future. No matter how long the pandemic remains a global problem, our international admission pathway gives a chance for more people to enjoy the OUM experience, while at the same time, gain career-relevant knowledge that is useful across industries.

With programmes that are accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), learners can rest easy knowing OUM qualifications are recognised not just in Malaysia, but also throughout the world.

By PROF
DATUK DR
MANSOR
FADZIL



"With our flexible ODL approach, there is no need for anyone to worry about visa or immigration processes, moving across countries or continents, or adapting to life in Malaysia."

More importantly, with affordable tuition fees, no one has to give up on their higher education dreams.

For more information on OUM's international admission, email int_admission@oum.edu.my or visit www.oum.edu.my/international-admission. For other information, call 012-303 9935 / 019-357 9074, email enquiries@oum.edu.my or visit www.oum.edu.my

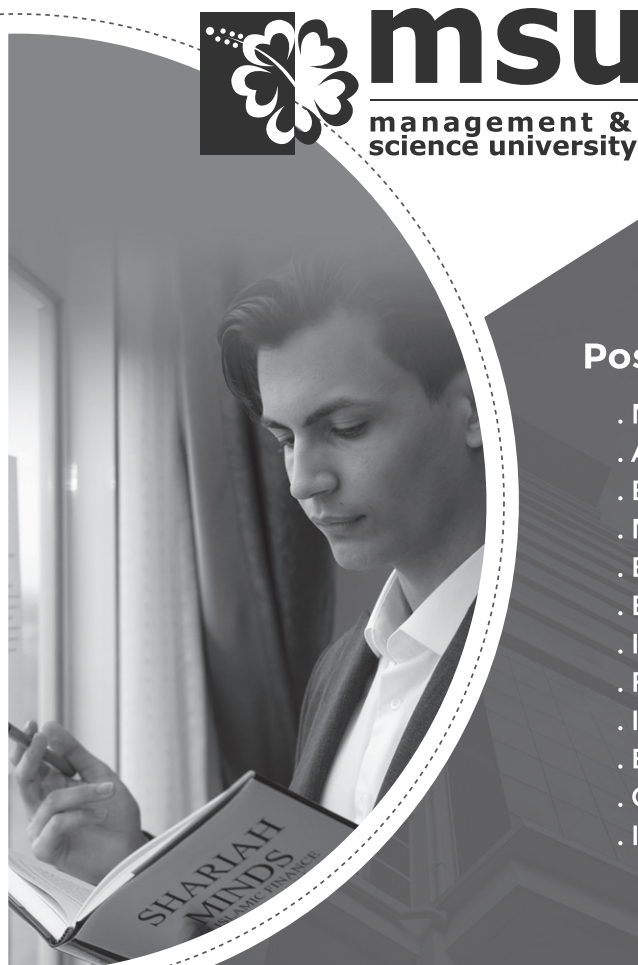
■ Prof Datuk Dr Mansor Fadzil is president and vice-chancellor of OUM.

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