

Trailblazing medical studies

SINCE the Covid-19 pandemic, medical and healthcare professionals have been needed more than ever. The Malaysian Health Ministry (MOH) estimates that Malaysia needs 28,000 more medical specialists by 2030.

So, if you're keen on pursuing MBBS in Malaysia, you're in luck.

But one should not take this profession lightly. Behind any successful surgery or medical breakthrough, medical professionals contribute their expertise to save lives. In high-stress situations, even the best medical professionals can struggle if there is no effective leadership to guide them through a crisis.

The need for more astute leadership in healthcare is why Management & Science University (MSU) is offering the exclusive Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme.

Among the many medical schools in Malaysia, MSU stands out for its ability to produce well-rounded medical doctors who can significantly impact the healthcare sector.

Through attentive lectures and instructions, MSU's medical students develop essential soft skills including critical decision-making, surgical teamwork, crisis management, effective communication and a deep understanding of medical knowledge.

Studying MBBS at MSU

Studying MBBS is exciting, but it also requires complete dedication and focus for a prolonged period as the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) is a five-year programme. It's offered at MSU's main campus in Shah Alam and its offshore campus in Bangalore, India, which is Malaysia's first medical school to receive a five-year accreditation from the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC).



MSU students learn clinical skills to solidify their degree-level medical education in their final year.

The programme is also recognised by the India National Medical Commission, Sri Lanka Medical Council and Maldives Medical and Dental Council. In addition, the MSU's MBBS curriculum complies with MMC guidelines and presents a continually expanding level of medical experience.

To ensure students get the maximum knowledge out of their learning, MSU's five-year medical course is divided into two study phases through its International Medical School. In Phase I, also known as the pre-clinical phase (Years 1 and 2), students will be exposed to basic medical sciences through system-based modules.

Phase II, also known as the clinical phase (Years 3, 4 and 5), is conducted through discipline-based postings that includes Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatric, Psychiatry, Primary

Care, Orthopaedics, Emergency Medicine and Short Postings.

Students spend their first and second years learning the fundamentals of medical sciences. In their third year, they acquire fundamental clinical knowledge and abilities. In their fourth year, they learn about various medical specialties. Students learn clinical skills to solidify their degree-level medical studies in their final year.

MSU emphasises clinical communication skills for its MBBS course. Hence, it is designed to give students numerous opportunities to develop their clinical skills through community engagement visits to medical practices, community care facilities and hospitals.

Upon completing their MBBS degrees, the new doctors must register with the Public Services Department and undergo a two-year housemanship at selected



MSU's offshore medical school campus in Bangalore, India, provides MBBS students with the chance to experience an international setting.

public hospitals while supervised by the Health Ministry.

MSU medical students can complete their clinical training at two major referral hospitals in Malaysia: Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah in Klang and Hospital Sungai Buloh.

State-of-the-art facilities

When training future doctors, having state-of-the-art facilities for practical training greatly affects the learning experience. As such, MSU has become Malaysia's first private university to have its own private specialist hospital and healthcare services for the public, as well as job opportunities for its medical and health science graduates.

Honouring its tagline "Caring, Healing, Educating" through accessible and integrated medical services, MSU Medical Centre is equipped with 250 beds in 14 levels with six

operation theatres, six labour rooms, five intensive-care units, four dental clinics, specialist clinics and daycare facilities, all of which come with the latest medical technology and instructional aids.

Be a well-rounded doctor

Intakes for MSU's MBBS programme are in April and October. Qualified students are required to sit for the Medical Entry Test at the Shah Alam campus to determine their aptitude for the programme.

Alternatively, MSU's Foundation in Science Biology/Health Science offers a fast-track pre-university programme that prepares for entry into the MBBS programme.

■ For more information on scholarships and fee waiver, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit www.msu.edu.my

AZWAN Muhammad has been a purser at AirAsia X Bhd for 12 years. As expected of a cabin crew at Malaysia's top no-frills airline, he has an inexhaustible smile, a positive attitude and looks that could turn heads. However, one fact sets him apart – he is also a counsellor.

"Although I have a great job as a flight attendant, I'm also very interested in the field of counselling," he said.

"That led me to look for a university which offers a counselling programme that is accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency. I also needed flexible and part-time studies so that I could learn without having to sacrifice my career.

"The best option I could find was Open University Malaysia (OUM), so I signed up for its Master of Counselling programme in 2019."

With the programme being industry-driven and market-relevant, Azwan, 41, discovered that he could gain real-time knowledge from his lecturers.

"All of my lecturers were mental health practitioners and registered counsellors. They discussed and explained real-life cases, making the classes relatable and

Flying high with a master's in counselling



As a working adult, Azwan found OUM's programme the best fit so that he could have a compelling learning experience while still working.

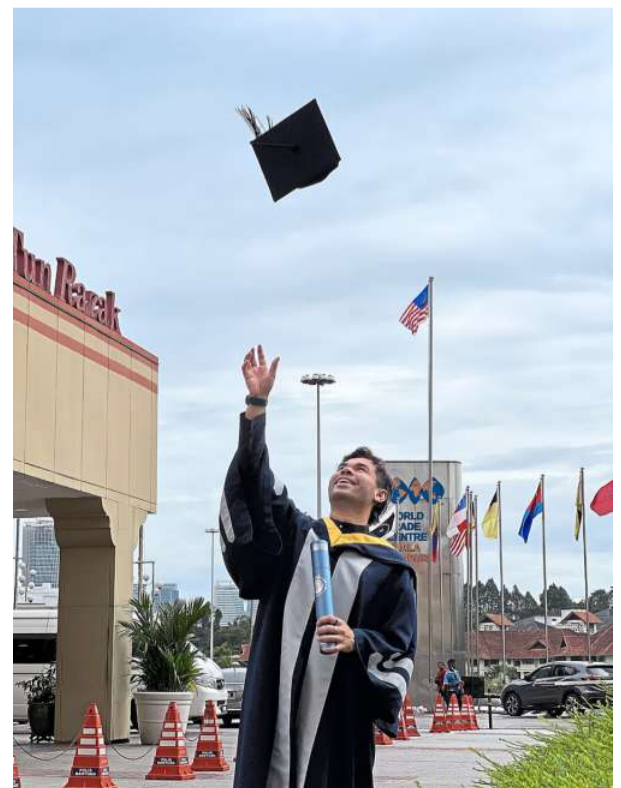
interesting," he recalled.

There were even opportunities for networking and learning from other students.

"My coursemates were also working adults. But we all came from vastly different backgrounds,

so we had much to share in terms of our respective working experiences in relation to the lesson at hand.

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'My next plan is to pursue a PhD. My ultimate ambition is to become a professional mental health practitioner and lecturer,' says Azwan.

Dreaming big for the long term

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“As a result, we never skipped a class, even when it took up several hours. I must say the good delivery by the lecturers influenced the class environment and enhanced our mood to learn,” said the Kuala Lumpur resident with a first degree in communications.

Azwan’s journey as a student was not all smooth-sailing.

“I had no choice but to sacrifice my flying allowance so that I could attend weekend classes. This meant a 30% salary reduction. And then when I had to do my internship, I had to take seven months of unpaid leave.

“But I never regretted choosing this path. I remember what was said in a counselling therapy class – we choose what we want and it comes with consequences, and we are responsible for the choices we make,” he noted.

The bigger the challenge, the greater the reward. Azwan’s sacrifices paid off handsomely when he received his scroll at OUM’s 26th convocation ceremony last October.

“It took me just two years to complete my studies. I’m grateful to AirAsia X Bhd for giving me full support and arranging my flying roster accordingly. They did their best to help me.

“So now I’m a flying cabin crew with a counselling licence. I can do what I have long wanted to do – practise as a freelance counsellor,” he said with jubilation.

But like a true-blue lifelong



Azwan’s sacrifices paid off handsomely when he received his scroll at OUM’s 26th convocation ceremony last October.

learner, Azwan has one more goal in mind: “My next plan is to pursue a PhD. My ultimate ambition is to become a professional mental health practitioner and lecturer. Wish me luck!”

With the motto “University for All”, OUM offers a learner-friendly, flexible and accessible approach to higher education for everyone, especially working adults. Its programmes are delivered through online learning so that anyone can study anywhere at any time.

Enrolment is possible through two routes: conventional and Accreditation of Prior Experiential

Learning (APEL).

APEL enables individuals to enrol in the programme of their choice if they have relevant knowledge and working experience.

There are 55 programmes in the fields of education, business and management, technology and applied sciences, and social sciences and humanities. Support services are provided by 35 learning centres nationwide.

■ For details on OUM’s programmes, call the speedline at 03-7801 2000, e-mail enquiries@oum.edu.my or visit www.oum.edu.my



Azwan now has the unique status of being a purser at AirAsia X Bhd as well as a licensed counsellor.



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