

Benefits of a dual accounting diploma

IMAGINE this: You lost your job and your ex-boss paid you only a month's salary in compensation. But you are not going to let this crush you. So, you and your friends team up and start a new food business.

You were all thrilled because there were plenty of orders coming in, even on the first day. All of you were busy cooking and deli-vering from morning to night, every day.

However, at the end of the month, there was no extra money in the bank. Whatever your new business earned was only enough for you to buy the ingredients for next week's orders.

Although your business was thriving, yet, there was no profit to share between you and your partners. So how are all of you going to survive?

Enter the accountant who only needed a few hours to figure out why is your new business failing and it is because:

• Your initial capital expenditure is too high and it will take some time to depreciate, thus affecting your cash flow

• Your selling prices are insufficient to compensate the expenses on premium ingredients you used, thus eating into your bottom line

• You are spending too much on social media advertising but the conversions into sales are too low.

"Every business needs an accountant. We need someone who looks deeply into concrete data and sees what is really happening. In fact, many start-up companies fail not because they do not have a good business idea but poor financial manage-ment," said UOW Malaysia KDU School of Business head Assoc Prof Dr Brian Wong. An accountant, Dr Wong described deals

A 14 hidden Introduce the Dual Accounting Diploma Program UOW MALAYSI/ ACCA CF HISLIGHTONS Diploma in Diploma in Dual Accountin Accounting and Diploma (DAD) (DIA) Business (DIAB) Certifications



The launching of the world's first dual accounting diploma programme.

in reality and never speculates.

They make assessments based on what is in front of them. They are highly disciplined in maintaining a strict regimen when it comes to keeping track of figures, analysing them, and making it meaningful to the business," he explained.

Dr Wong went on to comment on a historic revolution in accounting studies taking place at UOW Malaysia KDU.

Those pursuing a Diploma in Accounting at UOW Malaysia KDU will be the first students globally to be able to experience the

fast-track route of obtaining the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) professional Diploma in Accounting and Business (DIAB).

It is the world's first dual accounting diploma programme with ACCA and on Feb 4, UOW Malaysia KDU and ACCA held a virtual agreement signing ceremony to celebrate this breakthrough.

"Accounting graduates are required to obtain an accounting professional qualification, such as ACCA, and three years of relevant work experience to be a certified public accountant. This dual diploma programme in partnership with ACCA provides UOW Malaysia KDŪ students an advantage by nurturing accounting students towards a professional qualification as early as during their diploma studies.

"With a dual accounting diploma, you will be in a much better position to land an accounting job in a more established firm where you will get precious real-world experience," he stressed. But there's more. Those who hold ACCA's

Diploma in Accounting and Business are exempted from taking the first three papers of ACCA's Foundation level professional certification.

The journey of someone aiming to be a certified public accountant under ACCA involves passing a total of nine Foundation and four Professional papers, and those with a DIAB would have already dealt with a chunk of that.

Dr Wong said the educational experience of this dual accounting diploma programme is deepened through the pairing of two globally esteemed institutions.

UOW Malaysia KDU is part of Australia's University of Wollongong, which is ranked in the top one percent of the world's universities.

ACCA, in turn, is one of the world's leading professional accounting bodies with almost 230,000 fully qualified members and over half a million future members worldwide.

If you love problem-solving and quantitative analytics, then you may well benefit from a dual accounting diploma.

For more details, visit *http://uowmkdu.edu*. тy

Challenging yet rewarding career

VANESSA Sue Anak Henry Delang believes that as a student one should reinforce the soft skills attributes which in turn will empower them with well-roundedness as well as sharpen leadership qualities and communication skills.

"Always trust and believe in yourself and don't let other people or things get in the way. If you have a passion for something, just go for it," said Vanessa.

Born and raised in Kuching, she completed her Diploma in Pharmacy from Management and Science University (MSU) in 2009.

This MSU alumna is currently a pharmacy technician at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar, for three years now, while she previously worked at Kelana Jaya Medical Centre.

"My main task is to assist the pharmacists. I'm assigned at an in-patient pharmacy that covers warded patients. The hospital consists of 400 beds. I'm a specialised technician assigned in an IV (intravenous) room where we prepare most injections and antibiotics for warded patients and chemotherapy or cancer drugs for cancer patients.

"To be honest, Pharmacy Technician was never my choice of career. It was chosen by my dad and I am grateful for it. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have been able to come to Qatar today. When I first started my internship at Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), I grew fond of the job and started



Vanessa taking part in a cycling activity at Qatar Olympic Cycling Track.

building my passion and interest towards it. For me, dealing with drugs or medications is quite an interesting job," she said.

Vanessa considers her job to be an eventful career that is not to be seen lightly as she deals with the lives of thousands of patients' everyday – from assigning medication to arranging tablets in the right aisle, there is no room for mistakes.

"Filling patients' prescriptions and working in an in-patient pharmacy service where we have to prepare patients' medication for their sickness is the significance of this job.

"This is a critical area in pharmacy services because we deal with patients' lives and any error is to be avoided. Being able to see patients getting well and recover from their sickness is a great thing. However, we had to face different challenges during the pandemic.

"At first, when the pandemic started, it was tough. We were in a lockdown and had to stay home. We were only allowed to do grocery shopping.

"As we were an essential service, we had to work from the pharmacy and it was getting busier during the pandemic. We were not able to



Vanessa (right) with her fellow colleague at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar.

go home to Malaysia for vacation as the borders were closed and it was a very tough phase as I missed my home and family," she said. However, the flip side of work-

ing abroad despite multifaceted challenges is that it is rewarding in the end.

The best part about working abroad is you can travel to other countries and meet a lot of new people from different cultures. The challenging factor is when you work in a multicultural environment with people from all around the world: coping with communication barriers and understanding others' cultures. It is quite tough in the beginning," she said.

"Studying at MSU has given me lots of good memories. It taught me independence and self-discipline. My lecturers and friends were supportive of me throughout my time at MSU. One of the most important things I learned is soft skills.

"I was a member of the Student

Representative Council (SRC) as the Deputy Sports and Recreation

"The experience that I got from MSU is fruitful and enriching. It made me who I am today," she concluded.

As a top university in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student develop ment to enhance graduate employability.

Furthermore, various skills enhancement programmes which are aimed to improve student's competitiveness are offered. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEmS) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programmes at MSU serve to improve students' soft skills.

■ For more details regarding the courses offered at MSU, contact the Engagement and Enrolment Department at 03-5521 6868. Additional information can also be obtained at www.msu.edu.my

Exco and a facilitator in 2007/2008.

Making a difference

THE Department of Psychology at IMU had a very eventful December in 2020.

Firstly, it organised a workshop on Narrative Psychiatry: Introduction to Psychobiography and Life Stories. In the preview, introductory speaker Dr Fredrick A Boholst presented psychobiography as a method not just for analysing life stories but also as a possible psychotherapeutic approach to attain integration, meaning and healing.

Guest of honour Dr Lewis-Mehl Madrona, who live-streamed from the US, explored the basis of narrative philosophy in psychiatry and illustrated how it is emerging as a progressively stronger voice in the wide array of perspectives on psychiatry. He argued that story telling is a powerful mechanism for restructuring not just neural networks, cognitions and behavioural changes, but also a person's identity and personality.

The workshop preview was an intellectual teaser for a more comprehensive workshop on Narrative Psychiatry IMU hopes to run in the second quarter of 2021. It is further hoped that this would pave the way for a convergence among the different but interdependent fields of General Medicine, Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, and Counselling Psychology at IMU as it pushes forward as a learning organisation committed to serving society.

Second was an exciting competition. In response to the coronavirus outbreak and global shutdown, IMU's Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI) invited creative problem-



The Bachelor of Science (Hons) Psychology has been developed to meet high international standards.

solvers from within the IMU community to participate in the Research Hackathon 2020 challenge for a chance to win a RM20,000 research award to develop proof-of concept solutions to manage the country's Covid-19 challenges.

Three undergraduate psychology students – Haziqah Packirgani, Yuveisya Krishnamoorthi and Shareena Syaira Shaari, under the guidance of their mentor Alexius Cheang, pitched their idea of addressing mental health issues faced by the public through their app – Mind Sejahtera.

During the global pandemic, the students noticed increasing mental health suffering. When individuals finally decide to reach out, they did not have easy access to proper facilities due to lack of knowledge and financial constraints. Also, different people had different needs

requiring different approaches. However, all Malaysians used the MySejahtera app – a common platform to reach out to the everyday person.

The goal was to integrate Mind Sejahtera into the MySejahtera app, so that all Malaysians would have better access to evidence-based psychological aids.

This unique idea along with two others from competing teams, each won the RM20,000 research award. Hazigah said, "This idea was a

team effort and credit goes to each member for their contribution – they have truly been a great team."

The above events are examples of how life in the field of psychology is never dull, always growing and always seeking to improve the lives of our community.

The three-year Bachelor of Science (Hons) Psychology at IMU has a curriculum that has been developed to meet high international standards.

Students have the option to complete the entire degree in IMU or study part of the programme in IMU and transfer to University of Newcastle, Australia or the University of Strathclyde, UK for completion of their degree

completion of their degree. The programme has also been accepted internationally for further specialisation at the graduate level. To become a qualified psychologist, you will have to first complete your undergraduate degree in psychology, followed by a Master's degree in one of the specialised areas of psychological practice.

Intakes for the Psychology programme are in February and September. If you enjoy thinking about the causes of human behaviour and have a desire to help people manage their problems, apply now.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science, the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the university's local degree programmes.

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

Cultivating leadership abilities

MANY graduates these days tend to lack people management skills. Although you can discuss management philosophy in university or college, there's nothing like getting practical experience.

Here are fun ways to develop people management skills no matter what you study.

Sing together

It doesn't matter what you sing together – the main thing is to set a time frame that includes picking the song, practising the singing, developing choreography and trying it out in public. If you can lead a group through this, you can herd cats – just what employers look for.

Run a charity stall

Finding a charity, deciding what to sell, getting your team together and doing everything from promotion to sales and accounts is the perfect rehearsal for a full-time job. This is very challenging, so start by helping someone else before trying this yourself.

Set up a sports team

Gather like-minded people into a football/futsal/squash/marathon team and train for a particular event. A charity competition is always fun or you may want to compete in a school event. Whatever it is, as the leader you need to organise training, help people overcome obstacles, pick mini teams and work around injuries.



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A complete business education

AS one of three faculties at Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia), the Curtin Malaysia Faculty of Business has 22 years of experience in providing comprehensive, creative and inspiring business education.

Over 4,000 students have graduated and found employment in commerce and industry throughout Malaysia and overseas.

Many have progressed to leadership positions, while others have ventured out to establish lucrative business enterprises.

This exceptional graduate success is driven by powerful business courses, excellent teaching facilities and industry connectivity. A focus on rigorous, relevant and engaging learning, the course encourages students to become competent critical thinkers ready to thrive in a fast-paced modern world.

The faculty offers an exciting range of up-to-date undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as a pre-university Foundation in Business programme that feeds directly into students' preferred undergraduate programmes, from single majors in business administration, accounting and finance to double major combinations that include specialisations in banking, entrepreneurship, management, marketing, human resources management, public relations, and tourism and hospitality.

The innovative courses develop students' capabilities both in and outside the classroom to experience, understand and rise to the challenges of business in the global 21st century economy. Multidisciplinary education also helps to develop critical leadership and decision-making skills.

As a result, the Faculty of Business has a strong reputation and track record for producing agile graduates with a drive to succeed and capabilities to solve real-world problems.

The courses are aligned to the Curtin Business School (CBS) at Curtin University's main campus in Perth, Western Australia, and accredited by the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), as well as key national and international professional bodies.

Over the years, the global business sector has transformed

The innovative courses develop students' capabilities both in and outside the classroom.

dramatically and students are required to connect their skill sets with relevant concepts and strategies. With this in mind, the Faculty of Business provides opportunities for students to grow their confidence, expertise and global awareness.

By equipping students with essential digital tools and technological concepts, including a state-of-the-art Curtin Trading Room, the faculty prepares them to take on complex challenges and apply their problem-solving skills to the digital workplace.

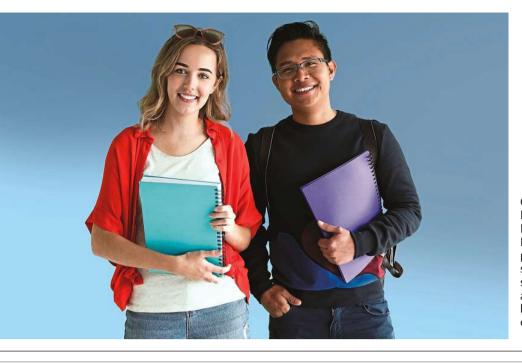
Drawing on Curtin's expertise across management, engineering, computing, technology, economics and education helps them capitalise on the opportunities presented by technological and social change, digital innovation and automation.

The faculty prepares students to succeed in a global business environment, developing a range of analytical and communication skills while maintaining a high standard of ethical business practice. Binding their professional portfolios with interests in today's technological advancements and 21st century trends will make their skills more rele-

vant and attractive to employers. The Faculty of Business offers a Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce programme with single majors in Accounting and Finance and 11 double major combinations.

Postgraduate offerings include coursework Master of Commerce in Marketing and Master of International Business degrees and higher degree by research (HDR) programmes in Accounting, Economics, Finance and Management.

■ More details on Curtin Malaysia can be found at *curtin.edu.my*, or look for Curtin Malaysia on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or LinkedIn.



Curtin Malaysia's Faculty of Business prepares students to succeed in a global business environment.

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Education Directory (IMED) R/721/6/0064 (MQA/FA7700)[03/2027]

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery

 Fully accredited by MQA and Malaysian Dental Council (MDC)

 R/724/6/0003 (MQA/FA1050)[08/2021)
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Hons)
 Fully accredited by MQA
 N/721/6/0048 (MQA/FA 4147](08/2021)
- Bachelor of Optometry (Hons)

 Fully accredited by MQA and Malaysian Optical Council (MOC)
 Listed in the World Council of Optometry (WCO)

 R2/726/6/0003 (A11255)(11/2027)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)

 Fully accredited by MQA and Pharmacy Board Malaysia (PBM)

 R/727/6/0014 [MQA/FA0325][02/2022]

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How to focus and get things done

OVERWHELMED with all the things you need to do? Check out these tips to help you focus and get things done.

Pick an organiser

Your phone, tablet and computer will all have an organiser. Pick one you like best and use it exclusively.

This is important as it ensures that all your work and reminders are in one place, so you won't miss any messages or tasks that have to be done.

Quit procrastinating

Set a time of day when you feel most energised and make that your work time. Make sure to tell everyone that you're not available.

Quit multitasking

Check your list of things to do at the start of each day – and then switch off your phone, social media notifications and everything else that might distract you from being productive.

Set limits

One problem with being connected all the time is that you're tempted to work when you should have fun.

Try not to "just this once" give up your swimming, your lunch, etc. Let your brain have time off to recharge.

Pathway to becoming a doctor



Dr Chai pointed out that SEGi University has collaborated with Duke University in the US to establish a Virology Surveillance Lab.



Dr Wong explained that the duration of the course is five years and divided into two learning phases.



29 YEARS of Nurturing Medical and Healthcare Professionals

Since 1992, IMU has been nurturing high caliber medical and healthcare professionals with a holistic approach and integration in education, research and healthcare in Malaysia. IMU is the first private medical university to receive MQA's self-accreditation status and awarded SETARA tier 6 status (outstanding) in 2017.

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- Medicine FEB | AUG
- Psychology
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- Counselling (Master) KPT/JPT(N/762/7/0046)09/2026 I MQA/PA12002 SEP
- SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY Dentistry
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- Prosthodontics (PG Dip) KPT/IPT(N/724/7/0042)05/2024 I MQA/PSA12163 JUN
- SCHOOL OF PHARMACY Pharmaceutical
 - Chemistry FEB | JUL | SEP
 - Pharmacy 9/2026 | MQA/FA8374 JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

 Biomedical Science JUL | SEP • Diabetes Management

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- Dietetics with Nutrition JUL | SEP
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POSTGRADUATE STUDIES Analytical and

- Pharmaceutical Chemistry# KPT/JPT(N-DL/442/7/0022)02/2026 | MQA/FA1191 MAR | SEP
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- Molecular Medicine[#] KPT/JPT(R/545/7/0078)07/2022 | MQA/FA1299 MAR | SEP
- Pharmacy Practice KPT/JPT(R/727/7/0051)03/2024 | MQA/SWA02796 MAR | SEP
- Public Health[#]
- MAR | SEP Medical and Health
- Sciences (MSc / PhD by Research)
- # OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL) mode available

AS of Feb 9, globally, there were 107 million confirmed cases and over 2.3 million deaths due to Covid-19 reported to the World Health Organization. Doctors and healthcare professionals around the world and in Malaysia are mentally and physically drained from dealing with so many patients. It is obvious the number of doctors that we have is hardly enough to deal with such a crisis.

The Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) offered by SEGi University prepares those interested to be future doctors. To date, the Faculty of Medicine, SEGi University, has produced 354 doctors.

Dr Rebecca Wong Shin Yee, SEGi's Faculty of Medicine Assoc Prof of Physiology and Preclinical Sciences head, explained that the duration of the course is five years and divided into two learning phases. For the first and second year, students will learn basic medical knowledge and skills

Thereafter, they will head for SEGi's training hospital in Sibu, Sarawak for clinical training. Besides Hospital Sibu, clinical attachments are also done in Hospital Sarikei, which is another general hospital and Hospital Kanowit, a district hospital.

Students are exposed to outpatient practice in several government health centres as well in a private specialist clinic. "Students are exposed to hands-on tasks

such as understanding the delivery process in obstetrics and gynaecology as well as observing various operation techniques in an operating theatre with the guidance of the highly skilled specialists. In addition, with the support of local NGOs such as Diabetes Malaysia Sibu District, the Lions Club and Palliative Care Sibu, students will also carry out charity and blood donation drives and activities whereby they are tasked to travel to the suburbs of Sarawak such as the aboriginal settlements to visit patients and provide medical services. This is a very meaningful experience for the students and

one asset SEGi is proud of in offering students a chance to learn," said Dr Wong.

A plus point is that the cost of living in Sibu is affordable and people there are very friendly and helpful. Similarly, the staff at all the teaching hospital and clinics are always keen to assist students.

According to Dr Wong, SEGi has organised and hosted several international conferences since its inception in Sibu. The latest - the BRTMA-Malaysia International Congress on Tropical Medicine, held in November 2019 was a huge success. This conference, held in collaboration with Belt and Road Tropical Medical Alliance (BRTMA) and Hainan Medical University, managed to draw a big international audience. SEGi University is a member of this alliance of 130 institutions from 20 countries.

Faculty of Medicine senior lecturer Dr Chai Jen Wai pointed out that SEGi University has collaborated with Duke University in the US to establish a Virology Surveillance Laboratory, enabling students to carry out research projects.

"This lab has been involved in providing diagnostic services for Covid-19. As the lab receives a large number of throat swab samples on a daily basis, our students have been roped in to assist the lab. They were involved in low-risk task such as data entry and labelling of specimens," he said.

He also said that within the five years of study, students would further learn various soft skills, such as communication, social responsibility, team building, critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership and management skills.

Want to be part of the next generation of medical practitioners? Learn more about SEGi's Faculty of Medicine by logging on to www.segi.edu.my or call 03-6145 1777. Intakes are available in May and September yearly.



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