THE STAR, THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2023

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

# Kick-start your medical journey

SINCE the Covid-19 pandemic, medical and healthcare professionals are in need more than ever. The Health Ministry (MOH) estimates that Malaysia needs 28,000 more medical specialists by 2030. Should there be a lack of medical professionals, access to healthcare will be limited, affecting all Malaysians.

If you're keen on pursuing MBBS in Malaysia, you're in luck as Management & Science University (MSU) offers the 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 and qualified medical doctors. Through attentive lectures and instructions at MSU, its medical students develop essential soft skills, which include critical decision-making, surgical teamwork, crisis management, effective communication and a deep understanding of medical knowledge.

Studying MBBS at MSU

It's offered at the MSU main campus in Shah Alam and offshore campus in Bangalore, India, which is Malaysia's first medical school to receive a fiveyear accreditation from the Malaysian Medical Council

The programme is also recognised by the India National Medical Commission, Sri Lanka Medical Council, and Maldives Medical and Dental Council.

In addition, MSU's MBBS curriculum complies with MMC guidelines.

To ensure students get the maximum knowledge out of their learning, MSU has designed its five-year medical course with 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 systembased modules.

Phase II, also known as the



The course is designed to give students numerous opportunities to develop their clinical skills through community engagement visits to medical practices, community care facilities and hospitals.

clinical phase (Years 3, 4 and 5), is conducted through the discipline-based posting that includes Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatric, Psychiatry, Primary Care, Orthopaedics, Emergency Medicine, and Short Postings.

Students spend their first and

second year learning the fundamentals of medical sciences. In their third year, they acquire fundamental clinical knowledge and abilities, and in their fourth year, they spend time learning about various medical spe-

cialties. Students also learn

MSU emphasises clinical communication skills for its MBBS course.

Hence, the course is designed to give students numerous opportunities to develop their clinical skills through community engagement visits to medical practices, community care facilities and hospitals.

By offering these opportunities, MSU creates well-rounded medical doctors who excel academically and in personality.

Upon completing their MBBS degrees, new doctors must register with the Public Services Department and undergo a twoyear housemanship at selected public hospitals while supervised

MSU medical students have the privilege of completing their clinical training at two major referral hospitals in Selangor -Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah in Klang and Hospital Sungai Buloh.

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## Nurturing holistic medical doctors

## > FROM PAGE 7

## State-of-the-art facilities

When training future doctors, having state-of-the-art facilities for practical training significantly affects a student's overall

educational experience.
As such, MSU proceeded to build its medical centre and became Malaysia's first private university with its own private specialist hospital and up-to-date healthcare services, besides also creating job opportunities for its medical and health science graduates.

## Become a well-rounded doctor

The demand for doctors has grown massively over the last couple of years.

So, if you're interested in studying medicine, you don't have to look far as MSU has all that you need to nurture you into a

holistic medical doctor.

You are covered in terms of facilities that will support you in your overall learning experience, and all you've got to do is study smart.

Intakes for the MBBS programme is in April and October. Qualified students are required to sit for the Medical Entry Test (MET) at the MSU campus in Shah Alam to determine their aptitude for the pro-

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 waivers, please call 03-5521-6868, email your enquiry@msu.edu.my, or visit www.msu.edu.my

# **Award-winning** short films



The top five winners of the 'Best Animation Shorts -Student' category at the SEA Kre8tif! Awards.



## **31 YEARS** of Nurturing Medical and

Healthcare

**Professionals** 

Since 1992, IMU has been fostering top-tier medical and healthcare experts through a comprehensive approach that integrates education, research, and healthcare in Malaysia. IMU holds the distinction of being the initial private medical university to attain self-accreditation status from MQA and has received SETARA's highest accolade for the third consecutive time.

## **CENTRE FOR** PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Foundation in Science APR | JUL | SEP

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Clinical Psychology NEW (*Master*)

KPT/JPT(N/0313/7/0001)07/2027 | MQA/PSA15641

SEP

 Counselling (Master) KPT/JPT(N/762/7/0046)09/2026 | MQA/FA12002 SEP

• Digital Health

KPT/JPT(N/482/6/0209)03/2028 | MQA/PSA14380

JUL | SEP

• Medicine

KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0033)09/2026 | MQA/FA6155

• Psychology

## **■ SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY**

• Dentistry KPT/JPT(R3/724/6/0010)01/2030 | MQA/FA7026 Endodontics

(*PG Dip*)

KPT/JPT(R/0911/7/0003)05/2029 | MQA/SWA12162

MAY

(*PG Dip*)

KPT/JPT(R/724/7/0019)06/2026 | MQA/SWA6111

OCT

Implant Dentistry

 Prosthodontics (*PG Dip*) KPT//PT(R/0911/7/0002)05/2029 | MQA/SWA12163 **NOV** 

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

• Pharmacy

\*PT/JPT(R2/727/6/0050)09/2026 | MQA/FA8374

## SCHOOL OF **HEALTH SCIENCES**

• Biomedical Science

• Diabetes Management and Education (PGDip)

kprijprikr/265/70030)01/2028 | MQA/SWA9086

kprijprikr/1009155/70004)11/2027 | MQA/PSA16046

MAR | JUL | OCT (ODL)

Dietetics with Nutrition
 Dietetics with Nutrition

 Medical Biotechnology KPT/JPT(R2/54 JUL | SEP

• Nursing KPT/IPT(R/723/6/0125)04/2027 | MQA/FA8944 SEP

KPT/JPT(N-D/D913/6/0001)09/2029 I MQA/PA14397

FEB | SEP

\*\*Available to registered nurses and\*\*

\*\*Available to registered nurses and\*\* ble to registered nurses only

• Nutrition

KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0011)06/2027 | MQA/FA1298

### **CENTRE FOR** COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

 Acupuncture (*MSc*) KPT/JPT(R/721/7/0071)03/2027 | MQA/SWA8570 SEP

• Chinese Medicine

Chiropractic
 KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0054)08/2026 | MQA/A9294
 MAR | SEP

## SCHOOL OF **POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

 Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry # (MSc)

(MSc)

(PT)PT(R2-CDL/4427/0001)01/2027 I MQA/FA1191

KPT/PT(N-DL/4427/0002)02/2026 I MQA/FSA11367

MAR | SEP

Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master) kpt/pp(rgas/7)0809)092081 MQA/PSA11354 kpt/pp(rgas/7)0809)12/20281 MQA/SWA11355 kpt/pp(rgas/7)080910/20281 MQA/SWA11353 MAR | SEP | OCT

• Health Professions Education
(PG Cert\*/PG Dip / Master)

KFIJPH(N-0.0148/706 20002/2026 | MQA/SWA14379

KFIJPH(R-0.0148/706 20002/2026 | MQA/SWA05162

KFIJPH(R045/7006/409/2025 | MQA/SWA05163

KFIJPH(R045/7007/009/2025 | MQA/SWA5164

MAR | SEP | NOV (ODL)

Analytics (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master) КРТ/ЈРГ(N7207/0131)09/2025 I MQA/SWA13973 КРТ/ЈРГ(N7207/0130)09/2025 I MQA/SA13972 КРТ/ЈРТ(N720/7/0129)09/2025 I MQA/SWA13974

 Molecular Medicine\* (MSc) KPT/JPT(R2/545/7/0078)07/2027 | MQA/FA1299 KPT/JPT(N-DJ/545/7/0101)09/2025 | MQA/SWA11357 MAR | SEP | NOV (ODL)

 Pharmacy Practice (MASSET)

KPT/JPT(R2/0916/7/001)03/2029 | MQA/SWA02796

MAR | SEP

 Public Health# (*MSc*)

KPT/JPT(R2/720/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261

KPT/JPT(R-DL/720/7/0811)09/2028 | MQA/SWA11356

MAR | SEP | DEC (ODL)

• Medical and Health Sciences (*MSc / PhD*)

KPT/JPT(R2/720/7/0049)06/2026 | A10618

KPT/JPT(R2/721/8/0043)01/2027 | A3767

Throughout the year

#Available in Conventional and Open & Distance Learning mode (ODL)

ANIMATION is a portal that transports an audience into a different realm where unique characters, storytelling and environments come to life. What people witness on the big screen takes an entire village of creative professionals to create. These multi-talented individuals are the reason behind impactful character personalities, expressions, costumes as well as environment design, lighting and colour grading. Animated movies have resonated and touched the hearts of people around the world in a way that writing and live-action films cannot.

Recognising its importance, the SEA Kre8tif! Awards is a platform organised annually by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) in collaboration with 17 South-East Asian countries and territories, to seek and recognise the talents of animation content creators and awarding them for their outstanding work.

This year, the awards garnered over 100 short animation submissions regionally among its five categories: Best Animation Shorts - Student, Best Animation Shorts Professional, Best Animated VFX, Audience Choice Awards and International Animation Awards.

Students from The One Academy not only bagged one but two major awards in the SEA Kre8tif! Awards' 'Best Animation Shorts - Student' category. This category is open for students who are still in the academic term and have not graduated, with animation content that has a running time of 15 minutes or less.

A team of 27 students from The One Academy's Digital Animation and Illustration majors won the Gold award with their animated short film Strings whereas another team of 19 won Silver for their animated short film Solace.

Strings revolves around two girls who are best friends. They unfortunately experience a falling out and one of them notices her friend's friendship bracelet on the ground. Out of anger, she pulls the bracelet apart, snapping its string causing the beads to fall on the ground. After sometime, the beads come to life and take her on a remarkable journey filled with memories of her best friend, reminding her the true meaning of friendship.

"The idea was from a team member of ours about a falling out you have with a close friend which I think everyone can relate to at some point in their lives," said Trisha Vaghasia, the line producer of the film. Not only was the storyline impactful and meaningful but so was the animation

The art director, Melissa Heng, mentioned that the two-year project was a group effort consisting of editors, animators, VFX artists, concept artists and many more. She mentioned having to take on additional roles as opposed to her designated role as art director who was in

charge of making sure the artistic style stayed consistent and remained aesthetically pleasing throughout the production. The film was a result of tireless efforts, hard work, perseverance as well as talent from all team members.

*Solace* however, took on a more bone-chilling yet heart-warming approach. The film is about an astrogeologist, who was in the midst of analysing a mysterious glowing crystal she found in space when her spacecraft's alarm suddenly goes off. She then notices a scary one-eyed alien angrily approaching her. As she was about to shoot it out of fear, the alien crawls towards the glowing crystal which eventually hatches and turns out to be its baby. It leaves with its offspring causing no harm to the astrogeologist.

Line producer Loke Wei Hong was extremely proud of their win, "We are really happy and excited we won. Honestly we're glad our efforts for the film were rewarded". He also shared the vital roles the director, lead modeller and animator had to play in order to make sure everyone on the team were carrying out their tasks. The meaningful short film was indeed a challenge to complete according to art director, Chung Sze Jie. Despite that, he acknowledged that the team worked hard together to fix each problem and not overlook even the tiniest inconsistencies.

"Studying at The One Academy equipped me with a solid foundation of what it's like working in the actual industry. Without all the basics and practices I've learned from TOA, we would never produce such a fantastic film," said Chung.

The One Academy constantly exposes students to real life industry practices by having them unlock their true potential through big projects. The involvement of students in renowned competitions not only boosts their confidence but gives them a strong portfolio even before graduating. Training students in time management, teamwork, refinements and striving for perfection allows them to easily transition and thrive in the industry.

The One Academy is committed to providing the best art éducation programmes and continues to nurture its students passionately through its "Masters Train Masters" coaching philosophy, which has been practised for over 30 years, by providing diploma and degree courses in Advertising and Graphic Design, Digital Animation, Digital Media Design, Film Visual Effects, Interior Architecture and Design, Illustration, Fine Arts, Paris Fashion Design and Pattern Making, Computer Science and Game Design.

■ For more information, visit *www.toa*. edu.my or call 03-7875 5510 or e-mail your enquiries to info@toa.edu.my.



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**Higher Education** THE STAR. THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2023

# Proud moment for dentistry faculty

DR Sivakumar Arunachalam and his team at the International Medical University (IMU) had on Aug 30 received a prestigious award called the "Patil Teaching Innovation Award 2023".

This award was given at a special event during the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) conference in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

The Patil Teaching Innovation Award is a significant honour presented by AMEE, an international group focused on improving medical and healthcare education. It recognises exceptional contributions in teaching and encourages educators to find better ways to train future healthcare professionals.

Dr Siva, upon receiving the award, expressed his gratitude to the IMU senior management and steering committee, and credited the entire dental faculty for their hard work and enthusiasm.

"I want to share this achievement with our entire faculty. They've all contributed in many ways during the development and are now actively supporting the implementation.

"I'd like to thank my professors – Prof Allan Pau Kah Heng and Prof N. Vishna Devi for trusting me and giving me this responsibility. A special shout-out to Prof Seow Liang Lin for supporting our efforts and helping us face challenges with confidence and calmness."

In the field of dental education and practice, a mix of art and science is involved. Students need to develop their skills systematically by working with real patients. When dental students graduate, they are allowed to practise independently, so it's important to keep their skills and knowledge up to date.

To help with this, a new teaching concept called "Entrustable Professional Activities" (EPAs) has been introduced at the School of Dentistry. This system helps students develop the skills they need for dental practice and provides a structured way to assess their progress.

Dr Siva said, "EPAs are like a step-by-step guide for students, helping them learn the practical workplace-based skills they need for their future jobs.

"This way, they can safely care for patients, meet professional standards, and graduate with the right abilities for their careers.

This approach works well in any field where hands-on skills are crucial for success."

He noted further that the students receive targeted feedback and support based on their performance in specific EPAs. This personalised approach to learning can help students address their weaknesses and build on their strengths.

EPAs are closely tied to the tasks and responsibilities that healthcare professionals will



Dr Siva (front row, eighth from right, in blue checked shirt) and his team at IMU posing after receiving the prestigious 'Patil Teaching Innovation Award 2023'.

encounter in their practice. As a result, students are better prepared for their roles upon graduation. As students achieve milestones by completing EPAs, they gain a sense of accomplishment and motivation, which can be particularly valuable in demanding educational programmes like dentistry or medicine. Further, the EPA-based education system is dynamic and encourages continuous improvement.

The Patil Teaching Innovation Award from AMEE celebrates creativity and innovation in medical and healthcare education.

It highlights the exceptional

work of educators who are shaping the future of healthcare professionals through new and effective teaching methods.

"My team and I are absolutely thrilled and overjoyed to receive this award. This award is a testament to the countless hours of dedication and passion we've poured into our work. I hope that this award inspires others to pursue their passion in education and innovation."

At IMU, students who are studying dentistry have the option to complete the entire degree in IMU or study the first two and a half years of the degree in IMU

and transfer to one of its five partner universities in Australia, New Zealand, UK, or Canada for completion of the dentistry programme. These international partnerships mean that the IMU curriculum has been developed to meet these universities' high international standards

The Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme aims to produce exemplary clinicians capable of delivering patient-centred oral healthcare to the highest standard with compassion and responsiveness using contemporary technology. Its graduates will be resilient and agile in adapting to diverse and changing environments, and to advocate for better oral health and healthcare through leadership, entrepreneurship, and inter-professional collaboration.

Intake for this programme is in February of each year. If you are interested in this dentistry programme, make an online application today.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the oneyear IMU Foundation in Science (FiS), the direct route for entry into any of the varsity's degree programmes.

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





BMHS programme director Nurhan Norris Ma Weng Chuen with the first batch of 200 graduates.

# Becoming a qualified AMO

A LIFE experience showed Muhammad Hafiz Mond Nafiri the way to his current

"In 2012, a friend lost her life in a devastating road accident. I was at the scene but didn't know how to help her. She later died of severe injuries at the hospital,' shares Muhammad Hafiz.

"That heart-wrenching moment made me decide to work in the medical and healthcare field. So, I pursued the Diploma for Medical Assistants, graduated in 2016, and became an Assistant Medical Officer (AMO)."

Tragedy aside, the profession itself held an allure for Muhammad Hafiz.

"It is both interesting and challenging. AMOs are often out in the field, especially in providing pre-hospital care. Sometimes, we need to fight tooth and nail to save the lives of accident victims. We are their lifeline, stabilising them at the scene until we can get them to a hospital," he says.

However, despite already having a job, the 28-year-old father of two from Perak went on to enrol in the Bachelor of Medical and Health Sciences with Honours (BMHS) programme at Open University Malaysia (OUM).

Having begun classes in January 2020, he graduated at the university's 27th Convocation last month. He also passed with distinction, earning him a medal which he wore proudly at the convoca-

"Everyone who chooses to further their studies has their own answer to the big 'Why?'. Mine was that my working environment made me want to learn more, so that I could do better. I genuinely believe taking the BMHS was the best way to improve my knowledge and clinical acumen so that I could keep up with advancements in healthcare technology both in Malaysia and on a global scale.

But why study at OUM? For Muhammad Hafiz, it was a matter of convenience.

"OUM offered part-time studies in a flexible, easily accessible and user-friendly learning environment.

"All the classes were held online and recorded. So, if I missed out on a class, I could just watch it later. I didn't even need a computer; I could watch it on my phone. This allowed me to study anytime, any-

"I even got my studies shortened. While BMHS usually takes four years, I was able to use my diploma for credit transfer and finished in just three years," he adds.

BMHS programme director Nurhan Norris Ma Weng Chuen explains the programme's flexibility allows students to study at their own pace.

"BMHS takes up 11 semesters. But if you



Muhammad Hafiz at the 27th OUM

already have the diploma, you will be given 23 hours of credit transfer, which you can use to graduate faster.

"You can even work and study, as ours is the first online learning programme specifically designed for all AMOs in the government and private sectors," he says.

The BMHS programme, which is currently available only for AMOs, produced its first batch of approximately 200 graduates at the 27th Convocation this year.

The programme includes surgical, medical care, pre-hospital care, occupational safety and health, trauma and emergency care, geriatric rehabilitation, and palliative care, among others.

According to Chuen, AMOs are governed by the Medical Assistants Board Malaysia (MABM), which is a recognised professional body and stands alongside international non-physician professional bodies such as Physician Associates/Assistants in the US, UK, Germany, Poland and India.

"Many of our tutors themselves are licensed AMOs registered with the board. We also have registered clinical doctors and specialists, as well as experienced academics in government and private tertiary education institutions in Malaysia," he says.

Muhammad Hafiz believes that AMOs need to answer MABM's call to enhance the profession through education, as outlined in the Medical Assistants

Professional Development Plan 2016-2023. "By having more AMOs with degrees, we can make our profession more competitive, opening doors to brighter career prospects. If you ask me, success doesn't require exceptional talent. It can be achieved through effort, sacrifice when necessary, and solid faith."

Intake for the January 2024 BMHS programme is now open.

■ For more information, visit *www.oum*. edu.my, call 03-7801 2000 or email enquiries@oum.edu.my.

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## **International Recognition of Excellence**

For over three decades, students' international achievements and providing world-class education has always been The One Academy's first priority. Receiving international recognition for our efforts, we pledge to continue holding steadfast to our "Masters Train Masters" teaching philosophy and together with our exceptional team of educators, provide unmatched creative education to boost Malaysia's creative economy and become Asia's creative hub.

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(K. (R2/214/4/0152)(4/26)(A1826), (R3/0211/6/0035)(11/30)(A9123) & PG (R2/0211/4/0060)(3/25)(A11079)

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