

Star Special

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting evolving industry demands

CURTIN University Malaysia has made significant changes to its Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management programme in response to evolving industry demands, particularly in relation to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The four-year honours degree has been offered at Curtin Malaysia since 2018, and has proven to be one of the most popular courses both at the local campus and at Curtin's main campus in Perth, Australia.

To shore up its popularity and ensure its relevance in the construction industry, the course's structure was redesigned this year to incorporate digitalisation and sustainability elements.

Another key change is the introduction of a specialisation in Quantity Surveying. This new specialisation not only aligns with industry demands for graduates with quantity surveying



Curtin Malaysia's Construction Management programme focuses on both construction management and quantity surveying.

expertise, but also equips students with the specialised knowledge and skills to excel in a variety of roles within the construction industry.

"The Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management focuses on two construction-related disciplines – construction management and quantity surveying – which are

critical in today's construction industry," says Curtin Malaysia deputy pro vice-chancellor and Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences interim head, Prof Vincent Lee.

It is also accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency and Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia, increasing its recognition and value in the local

construction industry.

In the course, students learn about construction technologies, quantity measurement, project planning and management, strategy and financial management, contract administration, construction law, cost estimating, planning and management, and communication skills.

This degree can lead to careers in a wide variety of industries including building and construction, local government, infrastructure, mining, and oil and gas, with career opportunities such as construction managers, contract administrators, project managers, property developers, building surveyors, building contractors, estimators and quantity surveyors, to name a few.

There is currently a shortage of quantity surveyors globally. Australian Visa Lawyer reports a shortage of quantity surveyors in Australia, and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) also acknowledged this shortfall.

On the local front, a 2022 online news report stated that

construction managers and quantity surveyors are the best-paying jobs in the Malaysian construction sector.

In addition to the Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management, the Department of Built Environment also offers a range of postgraduate courses in Project Management for those eager to acquire or take their project management skills to the next level.

The courses include a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master of Science in Project Management.

To find out more on the Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management and Project Management courses, visit courses.curtin.edu.my, or enquire online at futurestudents.curtin.edu.my/enquiry/

■ For more information on Curtin Malaysia, visit <https://www.curtin.edu.my> or look for Curtin Malaysia on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn or TikTok.



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- . medical assistant
- . health & science
- . optometry & visual science
- . cardiovascular technology
- . environmental health



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- . early childhood education
- . public relation & broadcasting
- . hospitality & creative arts
- . music & fashion
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- . engineering & technology
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INTERNATIONAL Medical University (IMU) lecturers Dr Yam Wai Keat, Dr Fong Pui Kwan and Dr Chuah Tong Kuan from the Centre for Digital Health and Health Informatics (CDHHI), School of Medicine, had on Aug 23 paid a visit to the Digital Health Research and Innovation (DHRI) Unit. Joining the lecturers for this visit were students from the varsity's Bachelor in Digital Health (Hons) (BDH) and Master of Health Informatics and Analytics (MHIA) programmes.

The DHRI team, consisting of Dr Mohd Aizuddin Abd Rahman, William Law, Dr Mohan Dass, Dr Kuan Pei Xuan, and their assistant research officers, played host to the visiting group.

DHRI is under the Institute for Clinical Research (ICR) located in National Health Institute (NIH), Setia Alam. It was established in 2020 with the aim to drive research and innovation in digital health.

The faculty members and students were introduced to the team, and were briefed on the background of the unit, as well as some of the remarkable digital health projects that have generated valuable outputs in transforming healthcare in Malaysia.

Both students and faculty team gained valuable insights from the projects showcased by DHRI in the areas of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), Extended Reality (XR), Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Digital Clinical Trials, and Software Medical Device (SaMD).

Through these projects, the students were able to connect and make sense of the knowledge that they have learnt from BDH and MHIA on how to drive digital health research and transformation in the healthcare sector.

The DHRI team has embarked on numerous projects since 2020, primarily focusing on innovative healthcare technologies that are predominantly data-driven and sourced from the Health Ministry (MOH).

An insightful field visit



With this visit, the IMU faculty team and students have gone beyond the classrooms to gather valuable insights in digital health research and innovations in Malaysia.

Some of the distinguished projects are:

- > Development of Breathing Flow Rates as a Biophysical Marker and AI-assisted Breathing Sensor for the detection of Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Airway Disease.

- > Development of a Cough Sound Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the detection of Covid-19.

- > Real World Application of a Digital Health Solution: Cognitive Observational Diagnosis for Quantified Home Monitoring.

- > Development and Validation of a Skin Mobile Application Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Screening of Leprosy in Malaysian Population.

- > Virtual Reality as Adjunct in Treatment of General Anxiety Disorder.

Students were amazed by the digital health innovations and its possibilities to the healthcare industry.

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research and innovations in Malaysia.

This also allows the faculty team to strategically collaborate in research projects that could involve BDH and MHIA students as their final year projects.

Overall, the BDH and MHIA programmes offer experiential learning and industry visit opportunities, including visits to the MOH, which is now gearing into healthcare digital transformation.

This educational field trip allows both faculty and students to be connected to the research and industries in digital health which is in line with the recent direction of MOH to embark on digitalisation in healthcare – now one of the priorities in MOH, digital health experts are essential in the modern healthcare landscape.

The BDH programme at IMU is the first undergraduate programme in Malaysia and South-East Asia that focuses on digital health. The programme aims to equip students with an in-depth understanding and know-how of the healthcare field, particularly digital health.

The Digital Health curriculum at IMU provides students with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the industry needs.

The programme is embedded with research-led teaching and an up-to-date structure to meet the ever-changing needs of the IT and healthcare industries. In addition, students have the opportunity to work in a digital health-related company or hospital in their final semester for about 20 weeks.

After the three-year Digital Health undergraduate programme, the students can progress to the Master in Health Informatics and Analytics. It is a one-year full-time master's programme, which provides the perfect pathway for Digital Health undergraduates who intend to pursue health informatics and analytics.

The students will be more focused on linking and analysing large complex datasets, using techniques that transform medical research and create exciting new commercial opportunities in the healthcare sector.

The commencement of the BDH programme is in July and September of each year while the commencement of the MHIA programme is in September. If you are interested in joining one of these programmes, make an online application via IMU's website at www.imu.edu.my

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

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Create a team to help share the load. Look for strengths and pick people who will do their part.

How to be a good team leader

WANT to ace your course? Take some tips from the pros and behave like a Premier League player.

So don't be a caretaker manager, analyse your team and be the captain.

Create a team

You can study by yourself and ace it, but it may be a lot of work, especially if you have more than one course to take care of. Create a team to help share the load. Look for strengths and appoint your team: researchers, writers, etc. When picking your team, remember the rule that the group is only as strong as its weakest link, so pick people you are sure will do their part – otherwise, you end up being the goalkeeper as well as the centre forward.

Focus on your goal

"Getting an A" may be a goal, but it's rather a nebulous thing to aim for.

Concrete goals tend to command better results so you may find it more useful to set your learning objectives as your goals.

If there are a lot of them, divide them into sets, and set timelines for what needs to be done and when. And remember, every time you make a goal, get everyone back to the centre spot for some motivational self-praise, and a double-check on where you're going next.

Be the captain

Teams thrive when they're under good leadership. Everyone has to know what they're supposed to be doing and when they're supposed to deliver.

As a team leader, your job is to figure out who needs a nudge every now and again to keep on track, and who is better left to themselves.

Plan for fouls

If you're lucky, everything will go smoothly. You'd have to be very lucky though. Most of the time there will be a snafu like someone will have the flu, or a teacher will change a deadline. So when you're planning, remember that training for the World Cup starts one or even years in advance – and plan for disaster.

A journey of perseverance

NURUL Adrianna Omar, a Bachelor in Accountancy (Honours) student at Management and Science University (MSU), is a beacon of excellence in the realm of academia and recently clinched the National Accounting Student Excellence Award 2022 from the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA), presented at the MIA International Conference 2022.

"I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to have received the National Accounting Student Excellence Award 2022.

"It is an indescribable feeling of joy and pride to be recognised for my dedication and hard work in the field of accounting.

"This award serves as a validation of my efforts and motivates me to continue striving for excellence in everything I do."

She shares, "This award holds immense significance to me because it symbolises the recognition of my passion and commitment to accounting.

"It reinforces my belief in my abilities and affirms that I am on the right path in my academic and professional journey.

"The award also serves as a source of inspiration and encouragement to keep pushing my boundaries and reaching for greater heights in my career."

It takes much patience, perpetual hard work, and resilience to achieve greater heights in life. A student's life has its own struggles too. A student of this day and age is deemed to juggle many responsibilities of life, some with a side hustle and some even having to look after their ailing parents. Likewise, it was no easy feat for Nurul Adrianna to have received such accolades.

"To be eligible for this esteemed award, it required a combination of dedication, hard work, and a commitment to excelling in both academics and extracurricular activities. Throughout my academic journey, I made it a priority to stay focused on my studies and maintain a good CGPA.

"I actively participated in a range of extracurricular activities, which not only helped me grow as an individual but also provided me with opportunities to enhance my leadership and teamwork skills.

"Notably, I had the privilege of serving as a committee member for the Young Accountants Club (YAC) for two terms. This experience allowed me to engage with like-minded peers, organise events, and contribute to the professional development of fellow accounting students. I believed in the importance of holistic development and involvement in various extracurricular activities."

She explains: "In addition to these engagements, I had the opportunity to be interviewed by MIA before receiving the award, where they asked questions regarding my knowledge and passion for the accounting field, my internship experience, and what made me the person I am today.

"This session provided me with a platform to discuss my aspirations, experiences, and perspectives, allowing me to demonstrate my commitment to the accounting profession," she elaborates.

The roots of Nurul Adrianna's remarkable achievement can be traced back to her time at MSU. The varsity's sterling accounting programme, coupled with its rich tapestry of opportunities and a faculty fervently dedicated to nurturing young minds, galvanised her towards this triumph.

She acknowledges, "MSU instilled in me the acumen and drive needed for this honour. The support and encouragement I received from the MSU family propelled



"This award holds immense significance to me because it symbolises the recognition of my passion and commitment to accounting," Nurul Adrianna shares.

me forward with unwavering determination."

As Nurul Adrianna stands on this podium of success, she unfurls a tapestry of gratitude. Her family and friends take centre stage in her narrative, their unwavering belief and ceaseless support fuelling her ascent.

Equally instrumental are her dedicated lecturers at MSU, who, with their teaching prowess and commitment, have sculpted her academic and professional voyage.

She records her heartfelt appreciation for her mentors, Iylia Dayana and YAC advisor Faris Dania. They guided her through challenges, pushing her beyond her limits and consistently nudging her towards the pinnacle of excellence.

Her journey is an ode to perseverance and passion, a story that resonates with aspiring students, igniting within them the fire to conquer their dreams. As she continues her odyssey, the echoes of her achievement will reverberate, inspiring countless others to reach for the stars.

MSU is a Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), global multi-ranked institution focused on building holistic human capital.

Its highly qualified academics and international visiting professors support a holistic curricular framework that delivers compelling learning experiences.

Blending technical vocational education and training (TVET) with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internship, community, and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure; empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness desired and sought after by employers.

Further, various skills enhancement programmes which are aimed at improving students' competitiveness are offered to students.

The Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme at MSU serves to improve the students' soft skills.

Extensive partnerships and collaborations with over 300 institutions in more than 40 countries worldwide provide comprehensive mobility opportunities for all MSU students, enhancing their graduate employability through global exposures by studies and internships abroad.

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 at Transforming Lives and Enriching Futures.

Motivating yourself to read more

YOU know the benefits of reading: better vocabulary, improved general knowledge, greater focus, and by extension you also learn to write more fluently. However, if you didn't grow up reading, cultivating the habit takes a bit of planning. Here's how to get started.

Read stuff that you like

It's common sense: if reading equals work, then you're more likely to goof off and do something else. Read whatever suits your taste by making it a pleasure. If you don't know what you like, go to a bookshop or a library and flip through books from different genres.

Always have a book with you

There are all sorts of blank spaces in your day when you can soak up a page or two. Like when you're waiting for a bus,

having a coffee alone or if you're five minutes early for a class. If you've got your read handy, you'll be amazed how those minutes add up.

Tip: avoid reading on your phone as you will be tempted to fiddle with TikTok, Instagram and WhatsApp. A paperback is best.

Find an ideal reading spot

A hobby reader picks up a book and walks into another world. However, if that's not you, it's sometimes easier to read when you're in a conducive atmosphere.

A good book shop will have a reading corner. If there isn't one near you, think if a place where you can relax. By the lake maybe? A park? Your favourite cafe? Wherever it is, go and spend an hour there and read.



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
KPT/JPT(R2/010/3/0186)09/2028 | MQA/FA3974
APR | JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- Clinical Psychology (Master) **NEW**
KPT/JPT(N0313/7/0001)07/2027 | MQA/PSA15641
SEP
- Counselling (Master)
KPT/JPT(N762/7/0046)09/2026 | MQA/FA12002
SEP
- Digital Health
KPT/JPT(N482/6/0209)03/2028 | MQA/PSA14380
JUL | SEP
- Medicine
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0033)09/2026 | MQA/FA6155
FEB | SEP
- Psychology
KPT/JPT(R3/311/6/0013)09/2027 | MQA/AB177
FEB | SEP

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

- Dentistry
KPT/JPT(R3/724/6/0010)01/2030 | MQA/FA7026
FEB
- Endodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R0911/7/0003)05/2029 | MQA/SWA12162
MAY
- Implant Dentistry (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R724/7/0019)06/2026 | MQA/SWA6111
OCT
- Prosthodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R0911/7/0002)05/2029 | MQA/SWA12163
NOV

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
KPT/JPT(R3/442/6/0003)01/2028 | MQA/AB229
FEB | MAY | JUL | SEP
- Pharmacy
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0005)09/2026 | MQA/FA8374
JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Biomedical Science
KPT/JPT(R3/421/6/0011)12/2027 | MQA/AB230
JUL | SEP
- Diabetes Management and Education* (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R726/7/0030)01/2028 | MQA/SWA9086
KPT/JPT(N-DL0915/7/0004)11/2027 | MQA/PSA16046
MAR | JUL | OCT (ODL)
- Dietetics with Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R345/7/1082)09/2028 | MQA/PSA11354
JUL | SEP
- Medical Biotechnology
KPT/JPT(R2/545/6/0014)09/2027 | MQA/FA15505
JUL | SEP
- Nursing
KPT/JPT(R723/6/0125)04/2027 | MQA/FA8944
SEP
- Nursing**
KPT/JPT(N-DL0913/6/0001)09/2029 | MQA/PA14397
FEB | SEP
*Available to registered nurses only
- Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0011)06/2027 | MQA/FA1298
JUL | SEP

CENTRE FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

- Acupuncture (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R721/7/0007)03/2027 | MQA/SWA8570
SEP
- Chinese Medicine
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0009)01/2027 | MQA/FA10260
SEP
- Chiropractic
KPT/JPT(R726/6/0004)08/2026 | MQA/IA9294
MAR | SEP

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2-CDL442/7/0001)01/2027 | MQA/FA1191
KPT/JPT(N-DL442/7/0022)02/2026 | MQA/PSA11367
MAR | SEP
- Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(R345/7/1082)09/2028 | MQA/PSA11354
KPT/JPT(R345/7/1090)12/2028 | MQA/SWA11355
KPT/JPT(R345/7/1085)10/2028 | MQA/SWA11353
MAR | SEP | OCT
- Health Professions Education (PG Cert* / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N-DL145/7/0120)02/2026 | MQA/SWA14379
KPT/JPT(N-DL145/7/0066)09/2025 | MQA/SWA05162
KPT/JPT(R145/7/0064)09/2025 | MQA/PA5163
KPT/JPT(R145/7/0070)09/2025 | MQA/SWA5164
MAR | SEP | NOV (ODL)
- Health Informatics and Analytics (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N720/7/0131)09/2025 | MQA/SWA13973
KPT/JPT(N720/7/0130)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13972
KPT/JPT(N720/7/0129)09/2025 | MQA/SWA13974
SEP
- Molecular Medicine* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(N-DL145/7/0120)02/2026 | MQA/FA1299
KPT/JPT(N-DL145/7/0101)09/2025 | MQA/SWA11357
MAR | SEP | NOV (ODL)
- Pharmacy Practice (Master)
KPT/JPT(R20916/7/001)03/2029 | MQA/SWA02796
MAR | SEP
- Public Health* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2/720/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261
KPT/JPT(N-DL720/7/0101)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(R2/721/8/0004)03/11/2027 | A3767
Throughout the year

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



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