

Future of transformative research

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) held the 16th edition of its International Medical, Pharmaceutical, Cosmeceutical and Health Science Symposium (iMPaCHS) virtually at its main campus in Shah Alam.

The bi-annual event organised by MSU's Medical and Health Sciences Cluster was hosted by MSU's International Medical School (IMS) with the theme "Transformative Research: from the New Normal to a New Future".

"The conference is a reflection of MSU's commitment to teaching, learning and research," said MSU president Prof Tan Sri Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid.

The perspective of teaching and learning is a priority, as regards the index for graduation on time (iGoT) at MSU.

With technology now widely connecting teaching to learning, he urged its adoption and adaptation, adding, "Move parallel with industry demands."

Officiated by Mohd Shukri, the iMPaCHS also featured guest speaker Dr Hani Mat Husin, the National Health Public Laboratory director who delivered a keynote address on the nation's journey amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, industry representative Dr Daniel Looi Qi Hao from CytoHealth spoke on regenerative medicine's role in the pandemic.

A total of 239 e-posters from the Medical and Health Sciences Cluster competed for prizes at iMPaCHS 16, with 172 from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS), 48 from the School of Pharmacy (SPH) and 19 from the International Medical School (IMS).

Three students from IMS, five from SPH and nine from FHLS



Prof Mohd Shukri delivering the opening remarks at iMPaCHS 16 at MSU's main campus in Shah Alam.

received iMPaCHS 16's Best Research e-Poster prizes.

The IMS winners were Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Hons) students Nur Aqila Syafiqah Salehuddin, Nuraishah Amirah Baharin and Siti Norliyana Che Mat Zubaidi.

From SPH were Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) students Sandrika Sangaran, Wong Shun Sun, Ng Chin Shin and Siti 'Amirah Zulkifli; and Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology (Hons) student Jeyasree Karunanithi.

FHLS presented three winners from the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (Hons) programme – Adriana Darwisya Najhan, Siti Nursyahirah Bakar and Nurul Farah Nadhirah Mohd Asri.

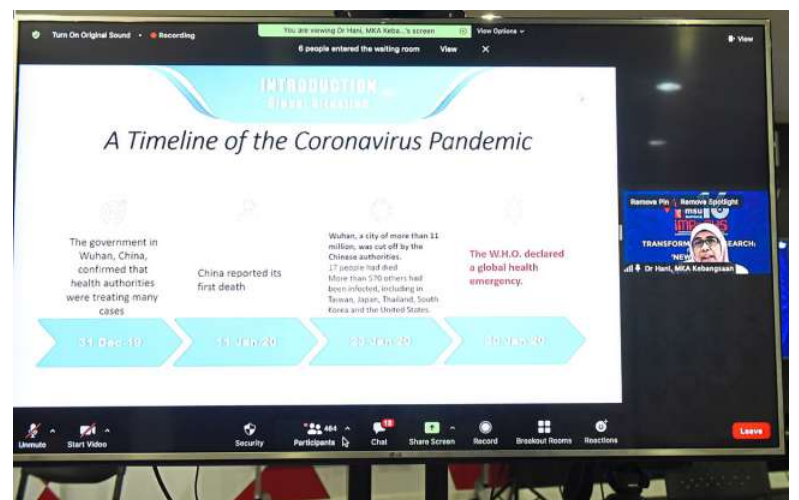
Two students from Universitas Airlangga won the Best Research

e-Poster (International) prizes – Fatqiatul Wulandari and Adamina Dinda Roseprilla.

MSU is a top 10 university in Malaysia and ranked among Asia's top 2%.

It recently received a QS 5-Star rating in nine categories including Overall – Teaching, Graduate Employability, Academic Development, Internationalisation, Online Learning, Social Responsibility, Inclusiveness, and Hospitality and Leisure Management.

IMS is the first to have received a full five-year accreditation from the Malaysian Medical Council for the MSU Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme, which is also offered at MSU's offshore campus in Bangalore, India.



Guest speaker Dr Hani, the National Health Public Laboratory director, delivered a keynote address on the nation's journey amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

As one of the country's top teaching and learning universities, MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability. Its highly qualified academics and international visiting professors support a holistic curricular framework that delivers compelling learning experiences.

Blending technical vocational education and training with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internships, community and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure – empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness sought by employers.

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

internships abroad.

MSU houses the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies, Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering, International Medical School, School of Pharmacy, School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Hospitality and Creative Arts, School of Graduate Studies, Graduate School of Management and Centre for Fundamental Studies.

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, with the aim of "Transforming Lives and Enriching Future".

■ For details, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.

Ongoing mid-year intake for foundation programmes

SPM SCHOOL-leavers keen on foundation studies at Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) can apply for its current July (Semester 2) intake before the commencement of classes on July 19.

Upon start of the semester, students will head straight into online classes following a week-long orientation from July 13 to 16 (July 12 for international students) online.

Curtin Malaysia's foundation programmes feed directly into its undergraduate courses, which are identical to those at Curtin University's main campus in Perth but at affordable Malaysian fees.

Many of the courses are world-ranked in global subject rankings, while Curtin is currently ranked among the top 200 universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings (QSWUR) 2022 and is only one of three universities in Australia to achieve the QS Five Stars Plus rating.

Degrees earned at Curtin Malaysia are awarded directly by the main campus, and undergraduate students can transfer to Curtin Perth or the university's other global campuses in Singapore,

Dubai and Mauritius at any time for short-term study or to complete their degrees.

To provide relevant information, Curtin Malaysia is running an ongoing 'Virtual Info Day' at <https://futurestudents.curtin.edu.my/virtual-info-day/>

Students can also make enquiries at <https://futurestudents.curtin.edu.my/enquiry/> or email enquiries@curtin.edu.my

The foundation programmes are designed to provide school-leavers a smooth transition to tertiary study and recognised by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

Students who pass the Foundation Studies in Arts can enter the Bachelor of Communications programme, while those completing the Foundation Studies in Commerce course can enter the Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce (both single and double majors), as well as Bachelor of Communications.

The Foundation Studies in Engineering and Science (Engineering Stream) leads to the Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor



Curtin Malaysia's July foundation intake is now open to local and international students.

of Technology, Bachelor of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science programmes. Students are also eligible to enrol for the Bachelor of Communications, Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce.

Other than the foundation programmes, undergraduate programmes at Curtin Malaysia

are scheduled to start their second semester on July 26.

Students with outstanding results in the SPM, STPM, O-Level, A-Level and UEC examinations can take advantage of Curtin Malaysia Merit Scholarships. There is a separate Merit Scholarship scheme for international students.

Financial aid such as PTPTN

loans, EPF Withdrawal Scheme for Education and SOCSO Education Loans are also available for Malaysian students.

In addition, Sarawakian students can apply for Yayasan Sarawak study loans and the Yayasan Sarawak BP40 Bursary Scheme is available to Sarawakian Bumiputra students specifically.

Financial aid for higher education in private institutions of higher learning for those in the BP40 group from Majlis Agama Islam Negeri and Pusat Zakat Negeri are also available. Details can be found at <https://scholarships.curtin.edu.my>

Curtin Malaysia is Curtin University's largest international campus and global hub in Asia, providing world-recognised Curtin degrees and an international and cross-cultural learning experience to over 4,000 students from over 50 different countries. International staff from over 15 countries further strengthens its global focus.

■ For more details on Curtin Malaysia, visit curtin.edu.my, or look for Curtin Malaysia on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, or LinkedIn.

Honing soft skills and leadership

IN this digital and pandemic era, the need for technology has increased demand for a workforce skilled in computer networking.

For two decades, the Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT) has been offering a Diploma of Engineering Technology (Computer & Networking) (DCNET).

While honing technical skills is important, sharpening soft skills and leadership qualities is also vital.

Muhammad Ezra Muhammad Ismail, one of the programme's pioneers and alumnus, is currently serving his alma mater as a systems and network lecturer.

"The DCNET programme provides students with first-hand knowledge and hands-on experience in creating, managing and maintaining computer network-related technologies," he said.

"Bear in mind, however, that excellent technical skills can only take you so far. Communication skills and leadership qualities are an added value, so be prepared."

He is also an Academy Council Member of Cisco Malaysia and a Cisco Certified

Instructor Trainer who actively contributes to activities such as UniKL Open Days, official visits, training and workshops.

According to fellow DCNET alumni Syakirah Syahrulnizam, who signed up for UniKL MIIT Edu-Tourism Programme Buddy back in 2015, life has never been the same.

"As an international buddy, I met and organised various activities for students from South Korea, France, Kazakhstan and many other countries.

"Besides enhancing my soft skills, the experience took me out of my comfort zone and helped me build a global network. I also found that such international involvement increases your employability rate," she said.

Mohammad Ikhwan Shafiq Rushdan, a DCNET alumni who later pursued a bachelor's degree in Networking Systems, landed himself an IT executive post with a global oil and gas company before graduation.

He helped coordinate and organise various corporate social responsibility projects such as Knowing Sharing Sessions with vocational and technical students, and also managed and conducted outdoor activities



'As an international buddy, I met and organised various activities for students from South Korea, France, Kazakhstan and many other countries,' said Syakirah (second from right).

for Kelab Rekreasi UniKL MIIT.

Ikhwan also represented Malaysia in the traditional martial arts silat, participating in competitions abroad while pursuing his studies.

The DCNET Programme is embedded with professional certifications such as Cisco IT Essentials and Cisco Certified Network Associate Academy.

Its career paths include network system integrator, network designer, programmer and server administrator. Without these

positions, companies might run the risk of losing their vital Internet connection.

The university also offers technical programmes such as the Foundation in Science and Technology for Korean University (Pre-Korea), Foundation in Computer Technology and Diploma in Information Technology for its July 2021 Intake.

■ For more information, visit and apply online at www.admission.unikl.edu.my or call 012-266 0774 (Radziana Abdul Rahman).

Boost your energy and attention span

EVERYONE goofs off sometimes but when playing on YouTube instead of studying becomes a habit, you might waste so much time that you start failing. So if you have trouble maintaining a decent attention span, here are some tips.

Get seven to eight hours of sleep every night

Sleep deprivation is a torture. After a day without it, you become clumsy and can't make rational decisions, after a couple of days you will begin to hallucinate.

Don't torture yourself: you need a good night's sleep every night in order to keep your brain buzzing along efficiently.

Write a to-do list

You need to set yourself clear goals so that you can track how you're doing and to help you focus on what must get done. Also, it feels really, really good to cross things off.

Electronic is okay but paper and pen can be even more satisfying when it comes to crossing items off.

Work in downtimes

When you're waiting for the bus, you can read a chapter of your book. When you're walking to class, you can visualise that presentation you'll be graded on. When you make that list, work out what you can do while you're busy doing nothing.

Switch off your phone

It's nice to see who's doing what on WhatsApp but unless someone is in hospital or in an emergency situation, you can live without it. So switch it off and concentrate on what you're doing.

Reward yourself

If you plan your time well during the day, you will have ample time to do what you love most. So block time in your schedule that is your own time.

Tip: try for five-minute refreshers here and there in a busy day, and at least one big chunk of time during the week where you can do something substantial like hiking or playing football.



A good night's sleep will keep your brain buzzing along efficiently.

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Sim (far left, seated) and Tan (far right, seated) and their engineering students holding copies of their TRIZ programme.



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KPT/JPT(R/345/7/1085)10/2023 | MQA/PSA11353
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KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0066)09/2025 | MQA/PSA05162
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KPT/JPT(R/2/720/7/0130)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13972
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SEP
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MAR | SEP
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MAR | SEP
- Public Health* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/2/720/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261
MAR | SEP
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For students with a penchant for problem-solving

THE old Russian problem-solving method known as theory of inventive problem-solving or TRIZ in short extols innovative thinking among its practitioners.

Large conglomerates such as Samsung found success using the methodology, which aided in the brand saving millions in its first few projects and was later dubbed the bedrock of innovation at Samsung. ⁽¹⁾

That said, having a strong foundation is a successful problem-solving methodology would be highly beneficial.

Engineering students at UOW Malaysia KDU are trained using TRIZ.

“We train all our engineering students in TRIZ,” said UOW Malaysia KDU, Penang School-Engineering, Computing and Built Environment head Dr Yeap Gik Hong.

But how does TRIZ aid in the development of engineering students?

According to the study entitled Effect of TRIZ on the creativity of engineering students, the authors found that this theory has a positive impact on students, threefold. ⁽²⁾

The study, which zeroed in on the creativity of 121 university freshmen studying engineering, noted that the theory has a strong positive effect on a student’s ability to analyse problems, and to generate, select and execute a strategy.

It also increased the creativity of students when it came to designed products, including their ability to develop and implement novel ideas. Furthermore, the study found that TRIZ has a positive effect on engineering students’ creative performance.

“Engineers are inherently problem-solvers. There isn’t a single problem in the world that engineers won’t try and solve.”

“Utilising TRIZ, we not only instil within our engineering students the technical knowledge they need, but we also transform their thinking capabilities to become creative problem-solvers,” said UOW Malaysia KDU deputy vice chancellor and associate professor Dr Brian Imrie.

The institute has nine bachelor’s degree and diploma courses in engineering, specialising in the varying engineering fields of electrical and electronics, mechanical or mechatronics.

Leading the way in helping UOW Malaysia KDU engineering students assimilate with the methodology is Dr Yeap, who is a certified International TRIZ Association (MATRIZ) level three practitioner and a Malaysia TRIZ Innovation Association (MyTRIZ) level three practitioner and level two instructor.

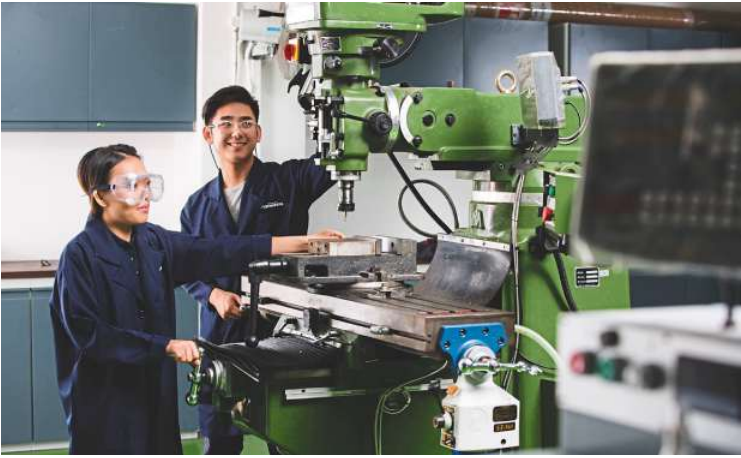
Also lending a helping hand are department head Dr Sim Hock Kheng, Head of Department and Department of Engineering senior lecturer Tan Mei Hooi. Both of them are MyTRIZ-certified level three practitioners and level two instructors.

■ For details, log on to www.uowmkdu.edu.my or call 03-5565 0538 or 04-238 6368.

Reference

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/haydnshaughnessy/2013/03/07/why-is-samsung-such-an-innovative-company/?sh=6cc6c89b2ad7>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1871187115300298>



UOW Malaysia KDU offers nine bachelor’s degree and diploma courses in engineering, preparing students to become effective problem-solvers.

Easy steps for better learning

HAVE you ever thought about how learning works? If you’re just hitting the books, you may be missing out, even if you have an excellent memory for text. Here are a few tips for holistic learning.

helps to “fix” information in your long-term memory. If you have a highlighter and the book is your own, highlight important sections. This will boost your visual memory.

Talk to someone about the subject

Discussion aids memory, especially if it promotes understanding. It will also help you work through different approaches and to bring in background information that may be pertinent. Ideally, this discussion should be with someone who’s getting slightly better grades than you so that you get can a bit of an extra tutorial.

Test yourself

You can test yourself by pretending to write an answer to an exam question. You may or may not want to write it out. For some people, walking through it verbally is enough to pinpoint areas where you’re still a bit shaky about the subject.

Listen in class

We remember what we hear but to be honest, aural memory for most people isn’t perfect, especially if you’re not sure of the subject or the lecture goes on for too long. The trick is to look at the learning guide before you go in, and to focus on listening to the most important part of the lecture. If you’re not sure, ask your teacher to always present a “what you should take away from this class” section at the end of class.

Read the book

Read over the material as soon as you can after the class. Even if it’s a quick read, it will still reinforce what you’ve just heard. This

Excellence in accounting

THE Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) celebrated prize winners and graduates of its professional qualification on June 10.

The first virtual Excellence Awards 2019/2020 ceremony saw some 219 graduates who had fulfilled the requirements of the MICPA Programme, leading to memberships with two professional bodies: MICPA and Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (CAANZ) with the title Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia, or CPA (M) for short; and Chartered Accountant, Australia & New Zealand, or CA (ANZ).

Graduates can also gain access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), providing recognition and support from local bodies around the world.

The most prestigious honour of the night – The Most Outstanding CPA Student Award – was awarded to Sohan Akaash Singh for 2019 and Rachel Cheok Sue Lynn for 2020.

They were nominated by their respective employers for being exemplary role models for the next generation of young professionals, and also for excelling in the Micpa programme.

When asked how he coped with working, pursuing a professional qualification and juggling his other activities, Sohan said: “The MICPA Programme offered the flexibility of self-study rather than requiring students to attend classes. I’ve always been the kind of person who enjoys studying at my own pace and on my own schedule rather than being forced to attend classes.

“Having a study schedule is necessary, otherwise you risk falling behind in your studies.”

Sohan chose the programme as he wanted to qualify as a member of both MICPA and CAANZ, and it could be completed quickly – he finished it in two and a half years.

“The MICPA Programme provided me with



‘Having a study schedule is necessary, otherwise you risk falling behind in your studies,’ said Sohan.

the latest updates in the profession and in accounting standards, which was transferable to my professional career pathway.

“The structure of the MICPA Programme was also useful in developing critical thinking and public speaking skills, especially through the Capstone module, which required us to showcase the application of those skills and knowledge gained from the other modules,” Sohan added.

Cheok said: “Getting the job done whilst juggling other interests and responsibilities has been a constant struggle but I believe that when you learn to set boundaries and know how to prioritise, that’s when you can truly be at your best.”

On her decision to enrol in the MICPA Programme, she said: “I chose the programme because of its unique proposition of delivering a dual qualification. I also appreciated that it was flexible and I could self-study for the exams. The modules are not



‘When you learn to set boundaries and prioritise, that’s when you can truly be at your best,’ said Cheok.

only exam-based but also consist of collaborative learning within the cohort.

“I believe that developing problem-solving skills as a team is useful in the working world and has improved my skills as a problem-solver.”

Cheong added that the MICPA programme helped in paving her professional pathway as she managed to build connections within the programme, especially during the Capstone module, which allowed her to work with other candidates from various walks of life.

■ For details, visit www.micpa.com.my or email info@micpa.com.my.

What to do before applying for jobs

YOU have great grades and it’s time to suit up for work. Before you start filling out application forms, here are a few things to do first.

Clean up online

Those pictures where you do that amazing thing with the lampshade will not impress potential employers. Recruiters now routinely check social media as part of the recruitment phase, so clean up your online act.

Check for opportunities

See what opportunities they have for you in two, five and 10 years’ time. If the career you’re keen on is not their core business, do you really want to be with them? If the answer is yes, you need a game plan.

Check their reputation

Some companies are successful but treat their staff horribly. Do research online and ask people privately for gossip. If the news isn’t good, what are you willing to put up with in return for your compensation package?

Prepare ahead of time

If you get an interview, discover what your job would require and how your department fits into the overall organisation. Make sure this homework comes through during the interview. Showing intelligent interest will give you an edge.

CHANGE IS HERE. JOIN US.

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Engaging with the community

DURING the final semester of International Medical University's (IMU) Foundation in Science (FiS) programme, students carry out community engagement projects for their Cross Boundary Studies (CBS) module – a two-credit hour module that teaches creative problem-solving skills, project management and teamwork.

The projects usually include tutoring students from national schools and the urban poor community. However, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that these physical engagements had to be halted.

This did not dampen the spirits of the FiS students. As schools nationwide closed and transitioned to online learning, they assisted SK Bandar Baru Seri Petaling 1 (SKBBSP1) teachers in creating online learning materials.

The FiS students created PowerPoint presentations, videos, quizzes and online worksheets for Mathematics, Science, English and Design and Technology for primary pupils.

It was an eye-opening experience for the FiS students as they mulled the best method to prepare online lessons for children of various age groups.

Prashwin Singh Tejpal Singh, from FS220 says, "The CBS project was an enriching experience and I feel euphoric knowing that our effort has somehow made a difference in the community. It truly is a privilege to serve them."

Martha Then Xin Yi, who completed her foundation studies



IMU's one-year FiS programme provides an early start to life as a degree student.

in April and is currently pursuing her Dentistry degree in IMU, said, "It helped me understand online projects better while working with teammates and learning social skills. It also helped my undergraduate studies as we were required to submit a project for the MPU module."

Veronica Lim Ying Hui enrolled in the FiS programme in July 2020. However, due to the pandemic, classes were conducted online for almost the entire year with little interaction with her classmates.

"To me, the CBS project actually enabled me to make new friends

because I didn't get to meet all the members in my group in the earlier semesters. Through this project, we learnt to communicate and help each other," said Lim.

SKBBSP1 principal Norzila Otoh was recently asked to give an update to the District Education Office and the Federal Territory Education Department on the school's coping mechanisms for online learning.

Norzila presented the initiatives from IMU's FiS students, which were well received by the departments.

All in all, the changes and

challenges brought about by the pandemic to the FiS students' learning experience didn't hinder them from engaging with and serving the community.

IMU's one-year FiS programme provides an early start to life as a degree student. Being offered and conducted in the same facilities and environment as the degree programmes, FiS students adapt at a much earlier stage.

IMU's current FiS team consists of carefully selected, qualified and experienced staff with specific skill sets that make them ideal pre-university level academicians.

The team has a clear understanding of subsequent undergraduate degree programme requirements and is assisted in this regard by degree-level academics, who also advise the students on their available undergraduate pathways while in the foundation stage.

Undergraduate lecturers and professors also advise on the design and content of FiS lectures, tutorials and assessments.

IMU's FiS programme has three intakes a year – March, July and August. These convenient start dates will enable a smooth transition to students' preferred degree courses upon successful completion of the programme.

■ Get more information or make an online application today via www.imu.edu.my. You can also email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.

How to be the best in your field

WHEN you choose a career path, do you look to becoming the best in your field? If so, here are some ideas to help you on your journey.

First, read a book by an expert on what it takes to be super successful. There are tonnes of self-help and biographies about so if you want to become a pilot, lawyer or photographer, pick up a book by a professional that discusses how they did it.

They may not live in the same environment, but you can learn to avoid common errors and to see what really matters by looking at how others reach the top.

Second, be prepared to do a lot of work. If it were simple to be fantastic at something, everyone would be a genius. As the American inventor Edison pointed out, "Genius is one per cent inspiration, 99% perspiration."

This means that your education should come first. Don't expect a constant stream of holidays and long weekends. Those come when you've hit the top.

Third, when you're learning, you might focus just on the goal but with most complex tasks, it's a process. If you learn to analyse the process and recognise the separate parts, you can find ways to improve speed and quality.

For example, if you know your note taking isn't great, get some tips on how to improve this skill. It will save you time over the years.



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