

StarSpecial

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HIGHER EDUCATION



Students have the option of completing part of their studies at the Reading UK campus, where the School of Law is located in the historic Foxhill House.



Students on a recent legal education trip had the opportunity to learn and gain hands-on knowledge about the legal profession.

Nurturing top-tier legal talent

THE School of Law at the University of Reading Malaysia (UoRM), the international branch campus of the University of Reading UK, celebrated its first batch of graduates in 2022.

The Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree offered by the School is the same as that offered by the University of Reading in the UK, but with the advantage that students can now pursue the full three-year degree closer to home in Malaysia and at a significantly more affordable cost.

UoRM's state-of-the-art campus located in EduCity Iskandar offers students some of the best facilities to be found in Malaysia.

The modern, spacious campus houses IT-enabled classrooms, a large lecture theatre, a moot court, a legal clinic, a learning resource centre and student social areas all conveniently under one roof.

Immersive law school experience

The School of Law places strong emphasis on developing core, transferable skills that will future-proof graduates and serve them well in whatever career path they take.

Assoc Prof Anne Chrisanthani Vergis, head of law, said: "The Reading Law programme places great importance on applied learning, aiming to develop the students' skills and experience to help them graduate with the best possible prospects."

Prof James Devenney, head of the Reading School of Law in the UK, said: "The University of Reading is known for producing law graduates who are well-rounded and highly adaptable, and therefore, able to rise quickly in their chosen legal or business career."

Professional development

The School of Law seeks to develop the next generation of legal talent who are well prepared for the legal profession. As well as classroom teaching, students gain exposure to the legal profession through field trips and visits.

For example, during a recent Legal Education trip, students had the opportunity to meet with honourable judges, senior counsels and other legal professionals.

The students visited the Communication and Digital Ministry, Palace of Justice, Thomas Philip (a legal firm) and Asian International Arbitration Centre, and met with members of the Inns of Court Malaysia.

Students also have ample opportunities to learn from a wide network of legal experts. Most recently, students met with Francis Goh, a prominent expert on advocacy and mediation, as part of the School's O2O Law Guest Speaker Series.

Emphasis on quality, not quantity

Cohort sizes in the law programme are kept low, typically no



UoRM's stunning state-of-the-art campus is located in EduCity, Iskandar Puteri, Johor.

larger than 40 students, to enable each student to receive a personalised learning experience that best supports their individual development.

The small class sizes also enable more interactive classroom sessions, which is seen as critical for developing legal skills. Each student is also assigned a personal tutor whom they can turn to if they need academic advice and guidance.

Option to experience the UK campus

Students can take advantage of the flexible option which allows them to spend one or even two years at the campus in Reading, UK. The School of Law there is situated in the historic Foxhill House on the main campus in Reading, which is set on 130ha of beautiful parkland and has won the Green Flag award 11 times in a row,

making it one of the UK's best green spaces.

The campus has everything a student could need, including sports facilities, a health centre, eateries, a supermarket and on-campus accommodation.

A virtual tour of the UK campus is available at <https://www.reading.ac.uk/virtual-experience/>

Reading town is conveniently only a 30-minute train ride from London, making it ideal for students seeking to make the most of their time in the UK.

Admissions

Students have the opportunity to join the university in April, July and September every year. Those with A-level, UEC or equivalent results can apply for direct entry to Year 1 of the law degree.

SPM, IGCSE and equivalent holders can enrol in the varsity's 12-month International Foundation

Programme which, upon successful progression, guarantees them a place on the degree programme.

A High Achievers Scholarship valued at up to RM33,840, or the equivalent of a 30% discount for the entire duration of study (subject to terms and conditions), is available for eligible students with excellent academic results.

■ For more information, visit UoRM's website at <http://www.reading.edu.my/law> or follow on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/uniofreadingmalaysia> or <https://www.instagram.com/uniofreadingmalaysia/>

For a one-on-one consultation or to organise a campus tour, call or WhatsApp Kristinah (016-206 4012) or Nishen (016-218 4012). You can also email my.enquiry@reading.edu.my or visit UoRM's campus at Persiaran Graduan, Kota Ilmu, EduCity, 79200 Iskandar Puteri, Johor, Malaysia.

An all-rounder in excellence

BECOMING a speaker and doing a presentation in front of a massive crowd at the tender age of 10 may sound far-fetched to some people. But that is exactly what Marshall Neo Petal did at that age.

Born and raised in Sandakan, Sabah, he is the third of four siblings. He professes to be the most talkative among them and comes across as a humorous person who can make anyone's stomach hurt with his dad jokes.

"That's just how I am. I enjoy making people around me smile and laugh their hearts out," he said.

Ever since he was in primary school, Marshall began joining major events such as international camps and conferences that were usually attended by the people who were much older than him.

"I was once given a book titled *Birds of Borneo* for my talk about the birds of Sepilok, Sabah, that was signed by the author himself, Quentin Philips," Marshall said.

Since then, he has been giving talks and presentations while continuously garnering more achievements.

Graduating with a Diploma in Leisure Outdoor and Adventure Management from the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts, Marshall said his years at MSU were the most unforgettable of his life.

"I enjoyed every bit of my time there, from semester one until my internship programme. I wasn't a top scorer in my high school, but I have always enjoyed being outdoors and participating in adventurous activities. That is why I chose MSU, along with the fact that it offered the course that suited me best.

"My parents are the greatest inspiration in my life. They gave me their full support throughout my diploma years. Without their help, I would have not made it to the graduation ceremony," he recalled.

In terms of hobbies, most youth would say



For Marshall, the years spent studying at MSU were the most unforgettable years of his life.



Marshall credits his parents as his greatest inspiration and support throughout his studies.

they like reading, cycling or gaming. But Marshall loves to birdwatch.

"My mum and dad have taught me how to spot birds and identify them just by the chirping sound they make.

"I enjoy birdwatching with my friends back in Sabah. We formed a group of birders called Babulus as a joke but now it is well-known among birders in Sabah," he said.

When talking about success, Marshall said he does not have any tips for being successful. His mindset is that success depends on what it means to each individual.

"Having a big house and a lot of money is a success to someone. Receiving an award is a success to someone. Even submitting assignments could be considered a success. For me, I just want to enjoy the things that I love to do and have fun working on them.

"If I had to give a tip for being a successful person, it would be to do what you love to do,

not what you are told to do. That is the only way you can find success in life," he said.

Management and Science University (MSU) is a Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), global multi-ranked institution focused on building holistic human capital. Envisioning a better, more sustainable future for all, MSU champions equality by providing a level playing field across extensive efforts in transforming lives, enriching future.

As one of the top universities in the country and making an impact locally and Asia as well as globally, 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.

MSU currently ranks in the QS Top 100 among the world's top young universities; QS Top 200 among Asia's best universities;

QS Top 30 among South-East Asia's best universities; QS Top 301+ for Graduate Employability Ranking; QS Top 601+ of the world's best universities in the QS World University Rankings (WUR) 2023 and Times Higher Education Top 401+ for University Impact Rankings 2022.

As one of the Top 5 in Malaysia as well as at the World Top 101-150 institutions of higher education offering hospitality and leisure management programmes, MSU's School of Hospitality and Creative Arts is offering areas of specialisation including Hospitality and Tourism Management, Event Management, Outdoor Recreation Management and Airlines Services Management.

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



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#RUMC



A little stress can be good for you, but too much clouds the mind and hurts the body.

Signs you need a study break

IT can be tough to complete a study programme, especially if you're working on the side or enrolled in an all day intensive programme.

A little stress can be good for you, focusing the mind and giving you a little frisson that keeps you sharp and bright. However, too much isn't good for you.

Overdoing stress clouds the mind and hurts the body. So how do you know which side of the line you're on?

You can't switch off

Your brain is working, even when the rest of you is trying to sleep, read a relaxing book or cook something inspired for dinner.

As you try to get your mind off work, you find that inner voice worrying about an assignment, a paper you're reading or a list you're trying to memorise.

If that's the case, you're overdoing it. Try for a longer break or do something totally different: like skydiving for instance. Once you're in the air, you won't be thinking

about school.

Losing interest

You've lost interest in all your favourite hobbies and your friends say they've forgotten what you look like. All work makes Jill a dull girl, the saying goes, and there's a lot of truth in that.

Dedication is admirable but obsession is a problem. Also, too much focus makes you tired and therefore less efficient. For this, listen to your friends and take time to care for yourself.

Not absorbing

You're not taking it in, even when you read it twice. When you're tired, you don't learn as efficiently. It's ironic really but if you continue to push, you'll get worse and worse results.

The only way to get your brain working again is to recharge – and that means taking a break.

Henley Business School

Top 10 UK Business School

1) Financial Times European Business Schools Ranking 2022

School of Law

Top 25 in the UK for Law²

2) For Course Satisfaction in Guardian League Table 2022

School of Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences

Top 150 in the world for Psychology³

3) Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking by Subject 2022

School of the Built Environment

Top 6 in the UK⁴

4) The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022

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The many hats of Dr Gan

MOTHER, doctor, cafe owner, senior home manager and resident doctor are among the many caps International Medical University (IMU) medicine alumna Dr Gan Chia Ying wears every day.

While her journey to becoming a doctor was relatively straightforward, the path she has been on has been anything but ordinary. A glimpse into her life truly proved that she is a true-blue go-getter.

Her involvement with her cafe Eggxtra came about after she left government service and was contemplating the amount of money she was spending on coffee along with the fact that at that point of time in Melaka, there were few options for coffee enthusiasts to get their fix.

Despite hardly having any experience running a cafe, Dr Gan jumped right into the business and endured many challenges that came along.

While completing her gazettement at Hospital Melaka, she noticed the lack of eatery options available and pitched the idea of opening a second cafe near the hospital she was attached to at the time.

This was how Eggxcite came to be. It has since established itself as a cafe known for its bubble teas and healthy meals.

Aside from that, Dr Gan manages and is also the resident doctor at Senior Garden Elderly Care Centre. Currently, it is running at full capacity and recently opened its second branch.

Dr Gan shares that her senior home is run with detailed attention to the needs of its residents, who are encouraged to interact with each other and have dedicated activities to keep them active physically and mentally.

Careful attention is also given to the health of its residents, who benefit from Dr Gan's proactive attitude and are constantly monitored to ensure their optimal health.

The year 2023 is set to be an exciting one



Dr Gan (right) tirelessly juggles her many responsibilities with spirit and dedication, making her the epitome of the IMU Young Alumnus Award: Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

as Dr Gan will be launching The Big Tree, a medical centre which will provide nursing care. It is set to be a 100-bed centre with facilities such as a dialysis centre, physiotherapy centre, traditional Chinese medicine centre and its own pharmacy.

Dr Gan is now completing her hospital attachment and will be overseeing the dialysis centre to ensure that her patients get the best care.

As she tirelessly juggles her many responsibilities, IMU is proud to recognise Dr Gan's spirit and dedication to her work, making her the epitome of the IMU Young Alumnus Award: Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

At IMU, students who are studying medicine 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 more than 20 partner universities in Australia, New Zealand, the UK or Ireland

for completion of the medical programme.

These international partnerships mean that the IMU curriculum has been developed to meet these universities' high international standards.

The next commencement date for this programme kicked off in February. If you have pre-university qualifications and have an interest in medicine, apply online now and join the university in the pursuit of a promising and rewarding career.

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 direct route for entry into any of the university's degree programmes.

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

Differentiating between memorising and learning

DO you ever look at an assignment or exam question and have no idea what's needed, even though you've actually done the work? If yes, it is possible that you're memorising instead of learning.

Memorisation is enough to get you through basic school but it's not enough to get you through tertiary education, where you are expected to know the facts and apply them intelligently to various scenarios.

You can tell if you're memorising instead of learning by looking at the learning objectives, imagining an exam question and seeing if you can figure out the answers. Or, take a shortcut and look at a past exam paper.

If you have problems, think about changing your study game. The main shift is to move from learning the words to learning the meaning. That means paying attention to the ultimate significance of the material.

For this purpose, read the text. Then, read up on the same topic somewhere else: your library should have a variety of textbooks.

Make sure you pick books written by different authors so that you can get different perspectives. When you have several different takes, try explaining the material to yourself while you go for a walk. Don't just repeat information: pretend you're explaining it to a student who's six months behind you.

When you can do that, take another look at the past papers, and pinpoint questions your new knowledge is relevant to.

See how you do answering them – without looking at your notes. Repeat until you've got it.

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UniKL Page



Planning like a pro is vital to keep on top of all your assignments and exams.

How to avoid missing deadlines

THE start of a brand new semester is when you have plenty of time stretching ahead of you. You're on top of things, and exams are a shadowy memory belonging to last term. Then suddenly, it's 24 hours till your first essay has to be in and you haven't even cracked the textbook.

Here's how you can plan like a pro and keep everything straight.

First, forget pen and paper. For good time management, you need a calendar like the one that comes with your iPad, Android tablet or smartphone. If you don't have a device that's got a nice large screen, set up a Google or Yahoo account and use their free calendar.

Why do you need to go digital? Because you can drag and drop items, have yourself pinged with urgent tasks and make automatic To Do lists.

Second, put in your classes. If you have to travel huge distances, block the period to and from in a different colour so you know when you have reading time.

Third, put in every deadline for this semester. Make these all day events so they're easy to spot. Put in an alert that tells you a few days before that these are creeping up on you.

Deconstruct what needs to be done for each deadline. You may want to do your reading a week or two before, and then devote three days straight to nothing else but

the assignment.

Or, you may go for the "salami" approach where you do it piece by piece. For example, you may want to divide a paper into research (during your travel time), writing the introduction, writing the literature review, writing your argument, writing your conclusion, organising your references and printing. However you approach it, put each task into your calendar, blocking the appropriate amount of time.

Now take a moment to breathe because it will look like chaos. It's okay, you can do it.

Next, the trick is to know how to poke yourself to keep to the schedule. Decide if you want to just go day by day or if you need timely reminders.

If you need reminders, you have to set these carefully so that you're not jolted out of a class by a notice that says you have to do something the next day. This bit is something you have to learn as you go along.

Tip: give yourself study reminders 10 minutes before you're supposed to sit down. That gives you time to excuse yourself from whatever you're up to and to get down to the books. Turn off all class reminders – you'll remember those anyway.

Finally, get into the habit of reading when you're in a bus, in a queue or having a coffee by yourself. You'll be amazed how much you can get read in just 15 minutes three times a week.

The best of both worlds



RUMC students are guaranteed a spot to study at RCSI or UCD, Ireland's top medical universities, during their pre-clinical education.



RUMC graduates receive medical degrees conferred by the National University of Ireland, a globally recognised qualification.

ARE you a parent whose child is considering pursuing medical education abroad? It can be a daunting decision, but we have some exciting news for you.

Did you know that RCSI and UCD Malaysia Campus (RUMC) in Malaysia provides a pathway for medical students interested to study in Ireland, which offers one of the best medical courses worldwide?

The Times Higher Education (2023) ranked the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Dublin (UCD) in the top one percent of medical universities, which means a RUMC degree is incredibly valuable.

Not only can your child continue their medical practice nationally in Malaysia, but they can also practise in most countries, including Ireland, Australia, Canada, New

Zealand, the UK and the US.

Here's what your child can expect: they will begin their pre-clinical studies at RCSI or UCD, where they will receive high-quality biomedical science training and traditional learning in modern facilities. This type of education sets RUMC students apart as clinically distinguished, competent and confident graduates.

After completing the first two and a half years in Dublin, your child will return to Malaysia, where they will undertake a clinical training programme for the final two and a half years in Penang.

This arrangement enables a smooth transition to housemanship, as your child will be well-versed in the running of the Malaysian hospital system. They will interact with patients at Penang General Hospital,

Seberang Jaya Hospital, Taiping Hospital and several government health clinics.

Upon completing their medical education, your child will receive a National University of Ireland degree, a globally recognised medical education certificate.

Additionally, they will be industry-ready due to the immersive clinical years and the benefits of a best-of-both-worlds experience.

Overall, pursuing a medical degree at RUMC can provide your child with a valuable education that is globally recognised. They can return to Malaysia to practice or choose to explore the world and practice in numerous countries.

So, if your child has been dreaming of pursuing tertiary education abroad, RUMC is an excellent choice to consider.

Painting pictures with words

WHEN your tutor tells you to come up with a bit of creative writing, don't panic.

Creative writing is an art, but there are technical elements that you can master easily and that work well for short projects.

Be the character

Resist the tendency to stand back from the scene and describe how your character feels. Let the reader be the character by appealing to the five senses: touch, taste, smell, hearing and vision.

Rather than say, "Suzy ate the soup. She thought it was delicious", write "Suzy ate the soup. It was deep red with a fresh, delicate scent. When she tasted it, its rich, tangy flavour burst in her mouth."

Dress up your vocabulary

Keeping people's attention is increasingly hard in today's era of fast information. Start by saying what you want and then fancy it up a bit. Adjectives are perfect for this. Replace dull ones with unusual terms and add in a bit of description.

"She wore a red dress and black shoes" is more interesting if you say, "She wore a scarlet dress and shining, black shoes." Caution: adjectives are like salt, use sparingly.

Use emotional language

Describe action with verbs implying emotion so that readers can visualise the scene. Turn "Lee was bored. He sat down, picked up a book and started reading it" into "Bored, Lee collapsed into his favourite chair, picked up a book and began leafing through it."

TOP 05

AMONG MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES IN HOSPITALITY & LEISURE MANAGEMENT



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Muhammad Nafis says studying at UniKL gave him a deep understanding of robotics, which has helped him succeed in his career.



Muhammad Hafizudin says UniKL's hands-on training has helped him make a positive impact on the community through his work.

Breaking the stereotype

ACADEMIC success is often seen as the only path to a successful life, but this view ignores the many other skills individuals possess. Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), wholly owned by Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara), challenges this stereotype by offering hands-on education in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes, proving that students who may not excel in academics can still have a bright future.

UniKL's TVET programmes are designed to equip students with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing job market. They are tailored to the needs of industry and include courses in industrial refrigeration and air-conditioning, automotive, robotics, welding, manufacturing and water engineering.

The programmes are often more flexible than traditional academic programmes, so students can study at their own pace and choose courses relevant to their career goals.

UniKL is proud to have produced many alumni who have gone on to achieve great things in their personal and professional lives. Here are just a few examples:

Mohd Hasnizam Ab Halim, a graduate of UniKL's Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering Technology programme, is now a manager at one of the largest refrigeration and air-conditioning companies in the state. He attributes his success to his hands-on training and practical education at UniKL.

Muhammad Nafis Hisham, a graduate of UniKL's Mechatronics Engineering Technology programme, is now an engineer at a leading robotics company. He credits UniKL with giving him a deep understanding of the theory and practical applications

of robotics.

Muhammad Hafizudin Azri Ahmad Saad, a graduate of UniKL's Welding and Quality Inspection Engineering programme, is now a QA/QC engineer at a leading oil and gas firm. Muhammad Hafizudin says that the hands-on training has helped him make a positive impact on the community through his work.

Zikriah Zakaria, a graduate of UniKL's Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering Technology programme, is now a lecturer at a well-known polytechnic. She says she is grateful to have learned the skills she needed to achieve excellence from her time at UniKL.

One of UniKL's key strengths is its high employability rate, which is a testament to the quality and impact of its programmes. This is due in part to the strong support from industry and alumni, who play a critical role in shaping the curriculum and providing students with real-world experience and networking opportunities. UniKL also offers a range of other programmes, including medical, information technology and business.

UniKL also offers a range of other services and resources to support students. They get access to career services, including job search assistance, resume building and interview preparation to help them find meaningful and rewarding careers after graduation. The university also has a strong commitment to student wellness, offering a range of programmes and services to support physical, mental and emotional well-being. — **By DR SITI NORHAFIZA ABDUL RAZAK, senior lecturer at UniKL Malaysia France Institute**

■ For more details, contact Dr Siti Norhafiza Abdul Razak at sitnorhafiza@unikl.edu.my



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KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0054)08/2026 | MQA/A9294
MAR | SEP

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- Analytical and
Pharmaceutical Chemistry*
(MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2-CDU/442/7/0001)01/2027 | MQA/FA1191
KPT/JPT(N-DU/442/7/0022)02/2026 | MQA/PSA11367
MAR | SEP
- Business Administration
in Healthcare Management
(PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(R3/45/7/1082)09/2028 | MQA/PSA11354
KPT/JPT(R3/45/7/1090)12/2028 | MQA/SA11355
KPT/JPT(R3/45/7/1085)10/2028 | MQA/SA11353
MAR | SEP
- Health Professions
Education
(PG Cert* / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N-DU/145/7/0120)02/2026 | MQA/SA14379
KPT/JPT(R1/45/7/0066)09/2025 | MQA/SA05162
KPT/JPT(R1/45/7/0064)09/2025 | MQA/PSA163
KPT/JPT(R1/45/7/0070)09/2025 | MQA/SA164
MAR | SEP
- Health Informatics and
Analytics
(PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N7/20/7/0131)09/2025 | MQA/SA13973
KPT/JPT(N7/20/7/0130)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13972
KPT/JPT(N7/20/7/0129)09/2025 | MQA/SA13974
SEP

- Molecular Medicine*
(MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2/545/7/0078)07/2027 | MQA/FA1299
KPT/JPT(N-DU/545/7/0101)09/2025 | MQA/SA11357
MAR | SEP
- Pharmacy Practice
(Master)
KPT/JPT(R7/27/7/0051)03/2024 | MQA/SA02796
MAR | SEP
- Public Health*
(MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2/720/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261
KPT/JPT(R-DU/720/7/0811)09/2028 | MQA/SA11356
MAR | SEP
- 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

OPEN AND DISTANCE
LEARNING (ODL)
mode available



If you want to make a major course switch, ask yourself what type of qualifications you need for your dream job.

Switching to another course

THERE is a big leap between the sort of things we study in school and in college.

If you're lucky, you know what you want to do, you pick the right kind of training and you fit it all together seamlessly.

However, sometimes you end up in the wrong course. The question is: should you change it?

Generally speaking, if you want to switch courses with the same faculty and you are still within your first year, you can probably switch without too much pain and bother.

Most faculties have what they call a core system whereby everyone studies roughly the same things in the first year.

For example, the School of Business and Management may offer the same basic introductions to accounting, computing, marketing and general business principles for Human Resources Management, Marketing Management and Business Management degrees. So if you switch early, you don't lose any credits.

However, switching between faculties usually means that some or all of what you have already done will not count towards your final degree. The result is that you will need to study longer and pay more tuition fees.

Once you decide you're unhappy, go to the student advisory centre and talk to the person in charge to see what your options are.

If it's a major switch, then you should be asking what type of qualifications you need to get into your dream job.

Don't be too quick to think that you always need a relevant degree. Some employers look at a basic degree simply as a way of seeing if you have discipline and can learn.

If you did well, they may be happy to take you as you are and train you up. This is why sometimes, you can get sales managers with a degree in art history.

So, find out more about the courses and ask as many questions as possible before making a decision.



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