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POSTGRADUATE

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Keeping our learners safe

THE year 2021 has taken off on a challenging start.

With the Ministry of Health (MOH) projecting 8,000 new daily cases of Covid-19 by mid-March this year, this pandemic is proving to be an increasingly grave medical problem with long-term repercussions on the economy, education and other aspects of life.

Businesses continue to take a hit, employees are forced to continue working from home, while school children and university students are anxiously waiting to find out if and when they can return to their classrooms and campuses. Suffice to say the outlook for this year is unclear, not only for our country but globally as well.

However, there is good news ahead. Malaysians will begin receiving Covid-19 vaccinations not too long from now. According to credit ratings agency Fitch Solutions, this development will ease restrictions and help speed up economic recovery, so we can hope to see general improvements soon.

In the meantime, Open University Malaysia (OUM) will continue leveraging on e-learning so that teaching and learning can continue without disruption. What is important now is for learners to keep themselves and their families safe.

At OUM, all learning centres located in areas under the movement control order will be temporarily closed, but our staff and services are always reachable online.

When we open our doors again, learners can rest assured that the safety of our learning community remains our top priority. As such, we will do our level best to ensure that if and when necessary, our premises will be cleaned and disinfected according to MOH guidelines.

Members of the public can take comfort

By **PROF DATUK DR MANSOR FADZIL**



“As part of OUM’s initiative to encourage everyone to pursue their academic dreams, the university also grants scholarships to learners with outstanding results. This academic excellence scholarship rewards top performers with a tuition fee waiver in the subsequent semester of their studies.”

in the fact that all OUM offices strictly observe standard operating procedures to safeguard public health. Visitors are encouraged to make appointments before coming, but those wanting to register will be happy to know they can do so online. Virtual Open Days are held regularly on weekends, so you can get free consultation through your smartphone or laptop.

One silver lining from this pandemic is

that it allows us to offer a 10% discount on tuition fees every semester for the fully online mode. Alumni who return to study with us will receive an additional 5% discount. This will ease our learners’ financial burden and make their investment truly worthwhile.

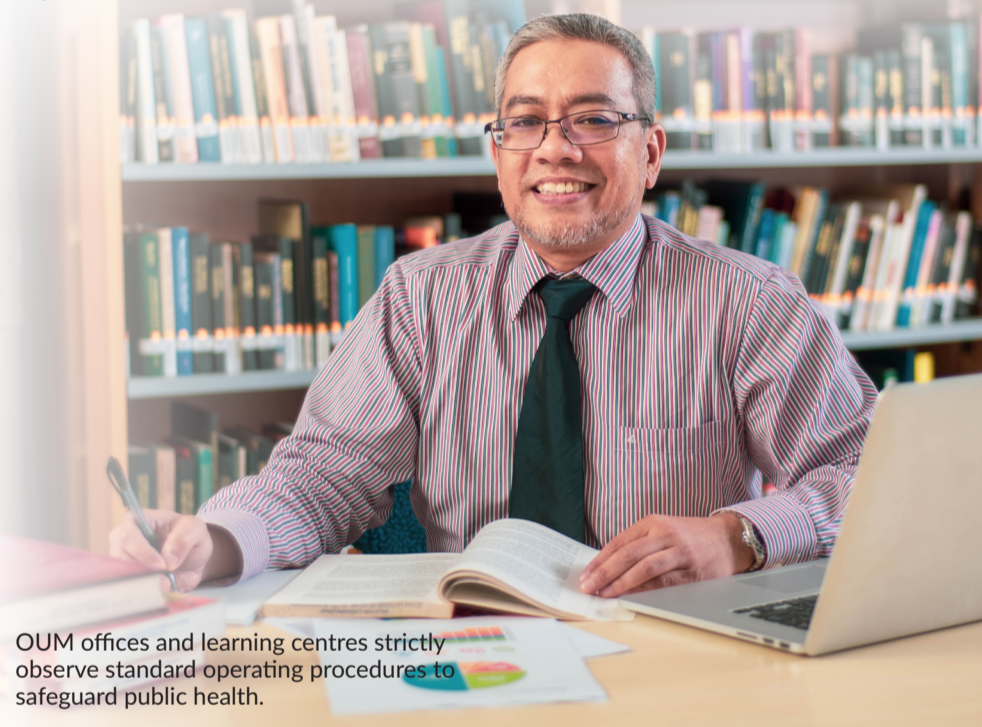
As part of OUM’s initiative to encourage everyone to pursue their academic dreams, the university also grants scholarships to learners with outstanding results. This academic excellence scholarship rewards top performers with a tuition fee waiver in the subsequent semester of their studies. All they have to do is work hard to maintain a

high GPA every semester.

My advice during these uncertain times is simple: we must be vigilant, careful and self-disciplined in keeping ourselves healthy. At OUM, we are doing everything we can to ensure that our learning environment is conducive and safe for our learners.

The May intake is open for registration. For more information on OUM programmes, call or WhatsApp 012-303 9935/019-357 9074, e-mail enquiries@oum.edu.my, or visit www.oum.edu.my.

■ Prof Datuk Dr Mansor Fadzil is president and vice-chancellor of OUM.



OUM offices and learning centres strictly observe standard operating procedures to safeguard public health.

Expand career prospects with a Master’s in HIA

HEALTH Informatics and Analytics (HIA) is a discipline that combines healthcare, information technology and artificial intelligence.

Applications of HIA cover precision diagnosis, early detection of serious illnesses, assistance to cardiology, radiology or surgery, drug discovery and healthcare administration.

The technologies involved are related to data science/data analytics, artificial intelligence, image processing, wearables (smartwatches) and Internet of Things (IoT), robotics and augmented/virtual reality.

With this career gaining popularity, International Medical University (IMU) will be offering a Master in Health Informatics and Analytics (MHIA) with its first intake in September.

This programme will train the next generation of leading researchers and practitioners seeking to develop the most effective ways to organise, coordinate, manage, and deliver high-quality patient care and public health.

Students will become experts in linking and analysing large complex data sets, using techniques which are transforming medical research and creating exciting new commercial opportunities.

Upon graduation, the students will be able to:

- Serve as a subject matter expert in Healthcare Informatics and Analytics within a team.
- Develop structured processes to ensure data availability, usability, integrity



IMU will be offering a Master in Health Informatics and Analytics (MHIA) with its first intake in September 2021.

and security.

- Utilise a wide variety of methods and technologies to support decision making.
- Utilise innovation and systems thinking to move the organisation forward.

IMU’s one-year full-time MHIA programme – also available part-time – provides the perfect pathway for recent graduates or professionals from various areas who intend to move their career into this area of the healthcare sector.

This is also an ideal programme for current health and social care practitioners who are looking to gain additional knowledge and skills in digital innovation.

The programme will also lead on to opportunities for further studies (PhD).

How?

The MHIA programme is a 40-credit programme offered in three levels (postgraduate certificate, postgraduate

diploma and Master’s) allowing for multiple exit.

Students will enrol into the Master’s programme but they can exit at the postgraduate certificate and postgraduate diploma levels.

They can choose to complete all modules of the Master’s programme, within a year as a full-time student or within a maximum period of four years as a part-time student.

The programme offers accelerated, modular and blended learning to provide more flexibility to working professionals in the form of online study options.

To ensure a rounded understanding of the issues to formulate intervention and value creation strategies in class simulation or actual industry-based intervention, students will have to undergo a robust curriculum that involves lectures, tutorials, case studies, written assignments, group projects, presentations and discussion boards.

This programme is open to students with a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent through APEL) in any discipline / area. Students without a computing and/or statistical background will have to take the “Introduction to Computer Science and Programming” and/or “Statistics Thinking for Health Analytics” modules at the very beginning of the programme.

■ For more information about this or IMU’s other postgraduate programmes, call 03-2731 7272, e-mail postgraduate@imu.edu.my or visit www.imu.edu.my.

VC COLUMN

Behind every great business is a great accountant

EVEN during the current Covid pandemic the future of accounting is certainly strong with growth estimates from 6-10% in the job market for accountants over the next five to 10 years.

Also, recent research by AAT found that the accountancy and finance sector is seen as one of the most stable behind health and pharmacy.

As well as a buoyant job market, there are other advantages to a career in accounting. Qualified accountants earn salaries well above the median for all occupations and there is significant potential to increase salary level with experience, professional qualifications and also a higher advanced master's level degree.

Importantly, according to a recent report by *Accountancy Age*, many of these roles are for newly qualified graduates. But a key question is, are the skills required for the accountant of the future still the same as in the past?

The answer is no, with the industry rapidly evolving with the implementation of new, cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

Many of the more mundane or lower level accountancy tasks done by people may in the near future be done by intelligent technology.

As these systems deal with this more

By
**PROF
SAMUEL
KINGMAN**



competitive work, this frees people to be more strategic and focus on analysis and planning and interpreting the data to enhance and improve business performance.

Given this rapidly changing job market then it is more important than ever that graduates are skilled in the latest developments and innovations, and that could mean undertaking an innovative undergraduate degree or possibly upskilling through a master's programme.

Designed directly to support graduate ambitions to develop the most up-to-date skill set, University of Nottingham Malaysia has developed an MSc in Finance and Investment programme, which is a specialist programme designed to develop exactly the analytical mindset required by future business.

Students learn and master in-depth and practical knowledge in core financial elements based around the three main classes of capital investment activity: equity



The University of Nottingham Malaysia offers the MSc in Finance and Investment programme, which is recognised by CFA under the University Affiliation Programme.

markets, fixed interest markets, and derivative markets. These courses enhance skills in finance-based competencies and prepare them for careers in Accountancy, Auditing, Business Development, Financial Advice, Investment Management, Mergers and Acquisitions, Research, Risk Assurance, Tax Consultancy, and Trading.

The MSc Finance and Investment is recognised by CFA under the University Affiliation Programme, which means the relevant courses and contents prepare students to sit for equivalent CFA professional papers.

Hence, the degree not only cultivates analytical competencies in finance and investment but also develops character and capability to embrace constant change in the business environment.

With these unique skill sets and expertise in capital investment activity, students graduating from this course would be considered highly by prospective employers.

■ Prof Sam Kingman is interim provost and chief executive officer of University of Nottingham Malaysia and pro-vice chancellor of University of Nottingham, UK

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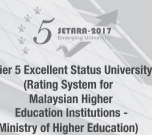
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Talk to us!
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Explore your creativity with a degree in digital media design

OPEN University Malaysia (OUM) is re-introducing the Bachelor of Digital Media Design (BDMD) programme that allows learners to master the intricacies of digital media technology that is highly relevant in this digital era.

Offered in fully online mode, this accredited programme incorporates multidisciplinary courses including art, design knowledge, communication, interactive content and digital media technology.

"The fully online mode is great for adult learners who wish to pursue their studies while working simultaneously. What's more, the open source approach is ideal in an online learning platform, thus making learning easier for learners," says programme director Nurul Fizah Mohamad Nusran.

The programme structure integrates both practice and theory in media design, which will help learners master the elements of digital media technology with transferable knowledge in design, development and management of digital media, especially in web, multimedia and mobile technology. Learners will also acquire skills in visualisation, presentation, writing and technology, which are transferable across industries.

"Modules are up-to-date and follow the standards for Creative Multimedia outlined by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). The modules and study guides also cover both open source and commercial software. Also, more than 50% of the subjects of the BDMD programme are hands-on with full coursework, which means learners won't have to sit for final exams," adds Nurul.

The re-launched programme is part



Offered in fully online mode, the Bachelor of Digital Media Design incorporates multidisciplinary courses including art, design knowledge, communication, interactive content and digital media technology.

of OUM's long-term aim to provide high quality and in-demand programme offerings to learners.

Nurul says, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the demand for creative and digital content is increasing as many people prefer to do their activities online, such as watching movies, learning, shopping, advertising and more. All these changes and innovations will drive the growth of content development. So, the BDMD programme is here to cater to increasing demands in the industry."

The university is committed to developing learners' full potential and mould them into sought-after employees with the help of

updated curriculum, experienced lecturers and tutors as well as high-quality learning facilities and infrastructure for the best online learning environment and experience.

"For those looking to advance their careers, this programme is a stepping stone, especially for individuals who are working in the creative field such as graphic designers, videographers, photographers, content developers, multimedia designers, web developers, video editors and many others," Nurul explains.

As an institution that champions lifelong learning, OUM aspires to make higher education a reality for everyone by providing

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flexible entry requirements through the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) for those who wish to pursue their academic dreams.

Applicants with relevant qualifications can enrol through normal admission subject to certain requirements. However, if they lack or do not have academic qualifications such as a diploma, STPM, foundation, or A-Level, they can still apply through APEL using their work experience in a related field.

The BDMD programme is currently open for registration for the May intake.

■ For more information on BDMD and other programmes, call or WhatsApp 012-303 9935/019-357 9074, e-mail enquiries@oum.edu.my, or visit www.oum.edu.my.

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Five sexy reasons to get a postgraduate accounting qualification

HAVE you been applying for jobs and realising that your phone never rings? Or perhaps your applications never seem to attract the right companies?

It may be a good time to consider a postgraduate qualification in accounting so that you will be more attractive to employers. Here are five sexy reasons to help you make that decision:

Get your resume in shape

Much like obtaining a healthier body, your resume also requires a workout. One of the ways to strengthen your resume is to add a master's degree or professional certificate in accounting.

During the initial screening of job applications, companies come across many applicants with an undergraduate degree. As such, it is important that your resume stand out among the rest.

Personality traits and abilities such as being detail-oriented and hardworking are not strong points to entice employers as

there is no evidence to support these claims.

However, listing a master's degree or professional certificate in accounting speaks for itself. Companies can be confident that the applicant is adequately trained to pay attention to the little details and to perform the many tasks required of the role.

It guarantees the company that you have the skill sets that it is looking for.

Career progression

By equipping yourself with accounting skill sets and knowledge such as assets management, corporate reports or credit management, you solidify your standing for higher management positions.

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have adequate on-the-job training that would prepare them for managerial positions. Even if a company is known to promote internal staff, there may also be a long list of potential candidates lined up before you.

» TURN TO PAGE 6



Top student grateful for university experience

“THE opportunity to pursue my postgraduate studies under the President’s Scholarship at the Management & Science University (MSU) was a fruitful and meaningful experience for me.

“In addition, the main reason for pursuing postgraduate studies is to fulfil my parents’ dream of holding a master’s degree in hand,” explains Arivananthan Kanakasundar, 27.

The Klang lad is currently pursuing the Master in Science Food Service Technology degree at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). As an alumnus of MSU’s Bachelor in Biomedical Science (Hons) and being among the top students, he has been on the Dean’s List five times and thrice on the President’s List.

Arivananthan was also a recipient of the Chancellor’s Gold Medal Award at MSU’s 23rd convocation ceremony in 2018.

“The experiences I had at MSU

also shaped my decision to apply for postgraduate studies in MSU. I believe MSU, as one of the top universities in Malaysia, will help me with the necessary knowledge and skills to support my future professional career.”

Arivananthan is currently a research and special officer to Senator Datuk Dr Ananthan Somasundaram, deputy chairman of the Skills Development Fund Corporation, a statutory body under the Human Resources Ministry.

Arivananthan says his passion for research was what drove him to take up postgraduate studies.

“What came to my mind first was research, not career advancement,” he explains.

Arivananthan also has some advice for young students.

“I think it is best to pursue postgraduate studies early because you are young and have fewer commitments. A postgraduate course will give you in-depth knowledge. So, I will say continue your postgraduate studies right after your Bachelor’s. Doing my postgraduate study in a flexible learning mode while keeping my full-time job demands greater commitment. I have to balance my time between work and postgraduate studies. But again, thanks

“

The experiences I had at MSU also shaped my decision to apply for postgraduate studies in MSU. I believe MSU, as one of the top universities in Malaysia, will help me with the necessary knowledge and skills to support my future professional career.

”

to my supervisors and course mates at MSU, I face no issues so far,” he says.

With interest sparked from his final-year project during his undergraduate studies, Arivananthan’s Master’s research will focus on “Isolation and Molecular Characterisation of Endophytes from Peels of Psidium Guajava and Citrus Limon”.

“I’m curious about the potential of endophytes isolated from the peels for antibiotic, anticancer, antiviral as well as antitumour products. I hope that through this



Arivananthan (third from left) handing out a memento of appreciation to MSU president Prof Tan Sri Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid at a Deepavali celebration organised by the MSU Indian Cultural Club.

research, I can identify new species of endophytes that hold the potential to help mankind in the medical field,” says Arivananthan.

Postgraduate programmes at MSU offer advanced degrees at MBA, MSc and PhD levels, covering wide areas in Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, Information Sciences, Education and Social Sciences, Business Management and Professional Studies, and Hospitality and Culinary Arts.

All are offered under the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Graduate School of Management (GSM).

■ For the full range of courses and more information, contact the Engagement & Enrolment department at 03-5521 6868 or email enquiry@msu.edu.my. Alternatively, visit the School of Graduate Studies or the Graduate School of Management webpages at www.msu.edu.my.



Arivananthan Kanakasundar



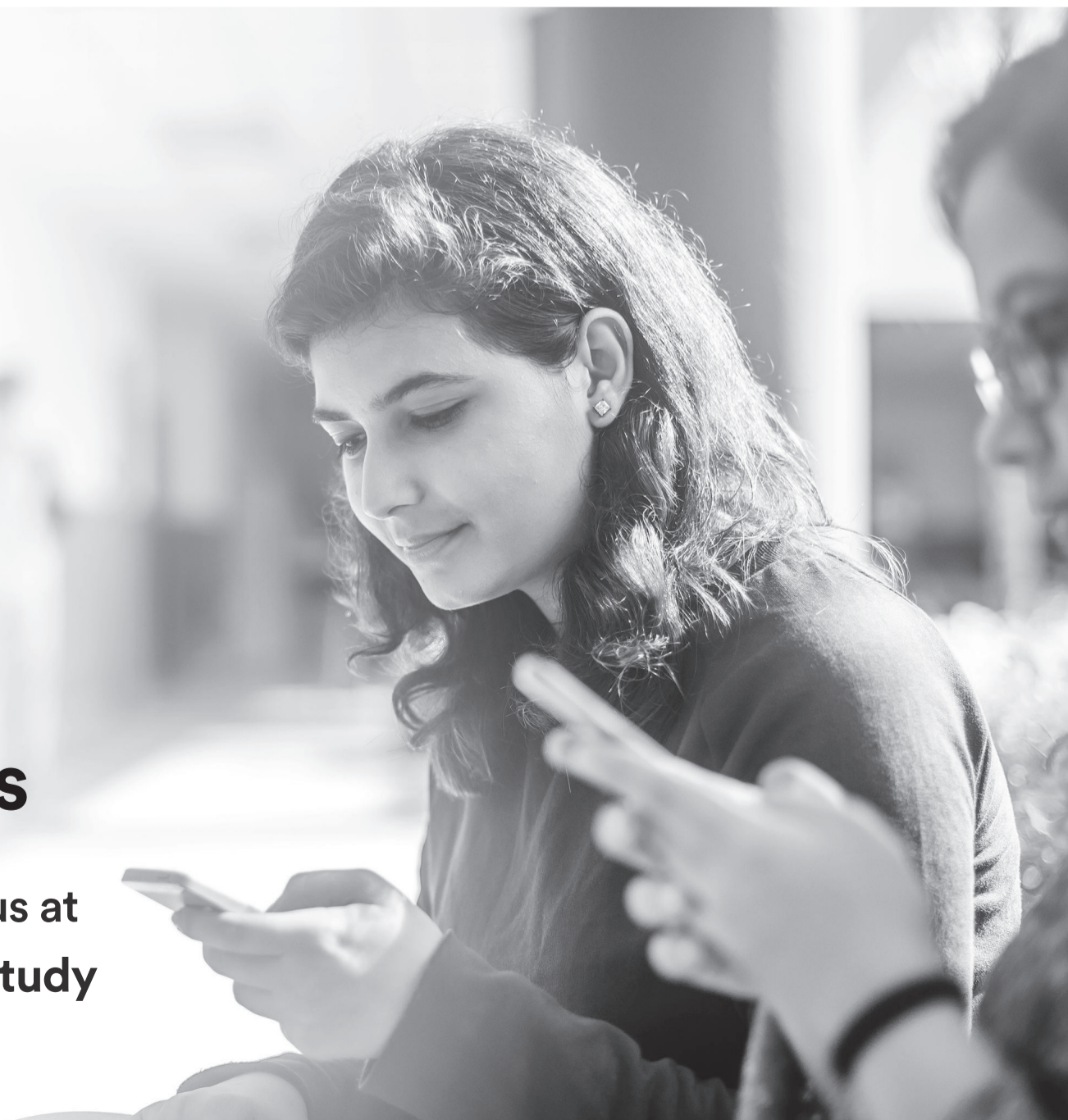
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Courses designed to meet market demand

AS ambitious working adults continue to further empower themselves by going back to university and enrolling in postgraduate programmes, Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) ensures its postgraduate offerings are consistently in line with market demands.

Current coursework offerings include a graduate certificate and graduate diploma leading to a Master of Science in Project Management, and a Master of Policy Sciences. Both courses are available in both on-campus and online study mode.

New courses introduced this year are a graduate certificate and graduate diploma leading to a Master of Public Health, and a

Master of Science in Sustainable Aquaculture. Soon to be launched in the second half of the year will be a Master of International Business.

Other research-based degrees at Curtin Malaysia include the Master of Philosophy (also known as the Master by Research) in fields such as accounting, economics, finance, management, engineering, geology, and media, culture and creative arts. Doctoral degrees (PhDs) are awarded in the fields of engineering, science and business. Candidates may enrol in a master's or doctoral programme either full-time or part-time.

"A postgraduate course deepens

Curtin Malaysia ensures its postgraduate offerings are consistently in line with market demands.

knowledge and perspective while expanding an individual's options for advancement. Employers also seek to hire the best, especially for mid-level and senior roles, so demand is shifting to candidates who bring to the table postgraduate qualifications and working experience," comments Curtin Malaysia's pro vice-chancellor, president and chief executive Prof Simon Leunig.


"Aside from the paper qualification, a working adult who has shown the initiative to return to school demonstrates that he has discipline, creativity and is well organised. These are qualities any employer desires."

Prof Leunig adds that as so many companies are operating across international boundaries these days, employers worldwide are placing increasing value on graduates with international outlook or experience when assessing graduate job applications, and

thus, Curtin's postgraduate qualifications are most appropriate.

As the largest of Curtin University's international campuses and its global hub in Asia, Curtin Malaysia shares the strong commitment of its Australian parent to globalisation and international engagement. Of the more than 4,000 students studying at the campus, close to a quarter come from countries other than Malaysia, hailing from over 50 countries worldwide and making it a truly international student community. This cultural diversity adds a rich and valuable dimension to its campus atmosphere, preparing all graduates to live and work effectively in an increasingly global environment.

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



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KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0129)09/2025 | MQA/PSA13974
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MAR | SEP

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KPT/JPT(R/271/7/0051)03/2024 | MQA/PSA02796
MAR | SEP

- Public Health* (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/272/7/0077)09/2025 | A10261
MAR | SEP

- Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD by Research)
KPT/JPT(R/272/7/0049)06/2026 | A10618
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Become a highly sought-after candidate

> FROM PAGE 4

A postgraduate qualification will certainly put you higher up for consideration.

Expand your arsenal

Even if you had previously studied a non-accounting degree, check the prerequisites of university courses as many postgraduate diploma or master's degree programmes allow non-accounting degree holders to enrol.

By acquiring accounting skill sets, you turn yourself into an adaptable all-rounder. This will again be looked upon favourably by employers, as in addition to your previous specialty, you now boast qualities that include attention to detail, excellent deadline management, and ability to provide critical analysis.

Job versatility

The great thing about the field of accounting is that it is a necessity in any industry. By having the right qualifications, you can switch careers into the world of accounting. You will also find more opportunities if you become a qualified professional accountant and registered with an accounting body.

Equipping yourself with an accounting postgraduate degree also improves your

quality as an employee, providing more reason for employers to want you in their company. You will be in-demand by companies, especially if you have an undergraduate degree that is suitable with the company's work field.

If you have your eyes fixed on becoming a public accountant, you will need to pass the CPA exam. Passing the CPA exam comes with benefits, such as career development, career security, higher-salary, and evidence of expertise in accounting.

Become the master of your personal finance

Studying accounting does not only affect your career, it also helps improve your daily financial decisions.

Beside taxes, you will also be alert on your personal finance. The knowledge in financial management can help you avoid making rash financial decisions should you decide to start your own business.

Financial management can be challenging for anyone, which is why big businesses hire a company accountant to manage their funds.

Handling your personal finance with the right skills can improve your life quality significantly, liberating up more funds to start a personal side business, if you intend to start one.

Having a postgraduate degree in accounting opens doors to new career and life opportunities.



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