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THE STAR, THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2021

HIGHER EDUCATION



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Fast-track career in applied science

UCSI University's Faculty of Applied Sciences' cell tissue growth lab.



UCSI University's Faculty of Applied Sciences houses the wet and dry aquatic lab with aquarium tanks containing jellyfish and seahorses – a facility with advanced imaging technology that enables researchers to visualise the cell growth and condition.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
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29 YEARS

of Nurturing Medical and Healthcare Professionals

Since 1992, IMU has been nurturing high caliber medical and healthcare professionals with a holistic approach and integration in education, research and healthcare in Malaysia. IMU is the first private medical university to receive MQA's self-accreditation status and awarded SETARA tier 6 status (outstanding) in 2017 and 2019.

ESTABLISHED in 1999, UCSI University's Faculty of Applied Sciences has distinguished itself as one of Malaysia's leading hubs of scientific study.

The faculty stands out for the quality of academic teaching and research in Biotechnology, Food Science, Nutrition and Aquatic Science.

The faculty is home to intelligent and ambitious individuals who target a fast-track career in food technology, food science, applied science and other related science courses.

This dynamic culture of scientific discovery is driven by the faculty's goal to develop effective biology-based technology for application in everyday life.

Nothing is ever taken for granted and each conjecture is thoroughly debated, assessed, tested and refined.

It is also making great strides in drug discovery, food and water safety, greater crop yield, and the cure of diseases, among others with no signs of stopping.

Meanwhile, research is a central theme at the faculty as most of the academics are PhD holders who stand out in their respective disciplines, being actively involved in publishing their work in international research journals while being fully committed to supervising their students.

Its students go beyond themselves in all endeavours and the faculty provides them with myriad avenues to shine.

The faculty enjoys an impressive haul of intervarsity awards and many undergraduate students steal a march on their postgraduate counterparts by publishing research findings in scientific journals.

Industry demands quality graduates

The bioscience industry in the state of Oregon, the United States, alone supplies over 47,000 direct and indirect employment.

Meanwhile, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have expressed intentions to develop "homegrown" Covid-19 vaccines – citing the sluggish rollout plan as a factor that deters efforts to contain the spread of the disease, these three countries are resolute to prevent the spread domestically.

This calls for the demand for quality graduates to advance science.

UCSI's faculty of applied sciences' philosophy aims to provide smarter solutions for a smarter planet.

The faculty offers programmes in biotechnology, aquatic science, forensic science, food science and nutrition, among others.

Cutting-edge facilities

The faculty's cutting-edge labs and facilities have played an integral part in research and in assisting students to make great strides in various scientific discoveries.



UCSI University's Faculty of Applied Sciences' biochemistry lab.

It houses the wet and dry aquatic labs with aquarium tanks to home jellyfish and seahorses – a facility with advanced imaging technology that enables researchers to visualise the cell growth and condition.

It also has a facility to analyse biochemical enzymes, as well as organic and inorganic molecules to identify and separate components within natural and artificial materials.

Distinguished alumni

BSc (Biotechnology) alumni Dr Kumar Veerapan today serves as Hail Support and Community Outreach manager in the United States.

"One of my greatest achievements was to obtain my PhD in human genetics from the University of Miami. It has always been a passion of mine since I was 14 years old to gain expertise in analysing genetic data.

"Through the training provided to me from UCSI and the University of Miami, I then secured my position at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and the Massachusetts General Hospital as a research fellow and outreach manager for Hail as a genomics analysis tool," said the 2009 alumnus.

A more recent graduate, BSc (Food Science and Nutrition) alumni Wong Lok Yee works as a Dutch Lady Milk Industries Bhd nutritional executive.

"UCSI is definitely a good platform to understand the working environment. The academics are experts in their own field with sufficient knowledge of the industry," said the 2019 alumnus.

■ For more information, log on to www.ucsiuniversity.com.my or call 03-9101 8882 or 011-3592 0893. The university will be hosting its eInfo Day from June 12-13.

CENTRE FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDIES

- Foundation in Science
KPT/JPT(R/0110/3/0186/09/2023 | MQA/FA3974
MAR | JUL | AUG

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- Medicine
KPT/JPT(R/2721/6/0033/09/2026 | MQA/FA6155
FEB | SEP
- Psychology
KPT/JPT(R/2311/6/0013/09/2022 | MQA/A8177
FEB | SEP
- Counselling (Master)
KPT/JPT(N/7627/0046/09/2026 | MQA/PA12002
SEP

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

- Dentistry
KPT/JPT(R/724/6/0010/01/2023 | MQA/FA7026
FEB
- Endodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0043/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12162
APR
- Implant Dentistry (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R/724/7/0019/06/2026 | MQA/SWA6111
INTAKE IN 2021
- Prosthodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0042/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12163
JUN

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
KPT/JPT(R/2442/6/0003/01/2023 | MQA/A8229
FEB | JUL | SEP
- Pharmacy
KPT/JPT(R/2727/6/0050/09/2026 | MQA/FA8374
JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Biomedical Science
KPT/JPT(R/2421/6/0011/09/2022 | MQA/A8230
JUL | SEP
- Diabetes Management and Education (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/726/7/0030/02/2023 | MQA/PA9086
MAR | JUL
- Dietetics with Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R/2726/6/0021/09/2022 | MQA/A8176
JUL | SEP
- Medical Biotechnology
KPT/JPT(R/2545/6/0014/09/2022 | MQA/A8228
JUL | SEP
- Nursing
KPT/JPT(R/723/6/0012/04/2027 | MQA/FA8944
SEP
- Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0011/06/2022 | MQA/FA1298
JUL | SEP

CENTRE FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

- Acupuncture (MSc)
KPT/JPT(N/721/7/0071/03/2022 | MQA/PA8570
SEP
- Chinese Medicine
KPT/JPT(R/721/6/0059/01/2027 | MQA/A10260
FEB | SEP
- Chiropractic
KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0054/08/2026 | MQA/A9294
FEB | SEP

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry[#] (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/2-CDL/A427/0001/01/2027 | MQA/FA1191
MAR | SEP
- Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N/3457/1082/9/2023 | MQA/PSA11354
KPT/JPT(N/3457/1090/12/2023 | MQA/PSA11355
KPT/JPT(N/3457/1085/10/2023 | MQA/PSA11353
MAR | SEP
- Health Professions Education (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(R/1457/0066/09/2025 | MQA/SWA05162
KPT/JPT(R/1457/0064/09/2025 | MQA/PA5163
KPT/JPT(R/1457/0070/09/2025 | MQA/SWA5164
MAR
- Health Informatics and Analytics (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0131/09/2025 | MQA/PSA13973
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0130/09/2025 | MQA/PSA13972
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0129/09/2025 | MQA/PSA13974
SEP
- Molecular Medicine[#] (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/5457/0078/07/2022 | MQA/FA1299
MAR | SEP
- Pharmacy Practice (Master)
KPT/JPT(R/727/7/0051/03/2024 | MQA/SWA02796
MAR | SEP
- Public Health[#] (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/720/7/0077/09/2025 | A10261
MAR | SEP
- Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD)
KPT/JPT(R/720/7/0049/06/2026 | A10618
KPT/JPT(R/721/8/0043/01/2027 | A3767
Throughout the year

[#] OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING (ODL) mode available



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reading.edu.my/foundation



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(R/KJP/00837)(07/2023)(R/KJP/00838)(07/2023)

Builds confidence in English communication and develops academic study skills

International Foundation Programme (IFP)

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(R/010/3/0173)(07/2023)(MQA/FA3723)

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(R/343/6/0214)(08/2028)(MQA/FA8518)

BSc Finance and Business Management

(R/340/6/0485)(11/2024)(MQA/FA5216)

BA Business and Management

(R/345/6/0827)(07/2025)(MQA/FA7579)

BSc Real Estate (R/341/6/0042)(07/2025)(MQA/FA7578)

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (N/380/6/0058)(06/2024)(MQA/PA12029)

BSc Psychology (R/311/6/0074)(07/2025)(MQA/FA6235)

BSc Psychology with Professional Placement

(N/311/6/0118)(03/2028)(MQA/PA14287)

BSc Quantity Surveying (R/526/6/0145)(07/2025)(MQA/FA7112)

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Alumnus leads the way

FOR the first time in its history, the International Medical University (IMU) Chiropractic Programme is being led by its alumnus.

On Jan 1, 2020 Dr Wong Yi Kai was appointed the IMU Chiropractic Programme director.

Dr Wong graduated from IMU as part of the pioneer cohort of chiropractic students in 2014 and completed his MSc in Public Health in 2019 at the same university.

He has been actively participating in the development of chiropractic in Malaysia by being involved in the Association of Chiropractic Malaysia, Federation of Complementary Natural Medical Association Malaysia, World Federation of Chiropractic, and Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division, Malaysian Ministry of Health.

He hopes more chiropractic practitioners in Malaysia will have the passion in this field and stand up to serve the profession.

Dr Wong has been practising chiropractic for seven years and worked at two chiropractic centres within Klang Valley prior to joining IMU in April 2015.

He started working at IMU Healthcare as a clinician and later transferred to be an academician in 2017. Although an academician, he still maintains his practice at IMU Healthcare.

He believes everyone could benefit from chiropractic care. Most people perceive chiropractic care as a treatment option for pain management, but in fact, chiropractic care is a holistic



Dr Wong believes everyone could benefit from chiropractic care.

approach for health maintenance and wellness care.

To improve public awareness on the restoration of natural spinal alignment, he often uses an analogy that describes the importance of regular car maintenance service to help the public relate better.

Apart from that, Dr Wong hopes to provide affordable and evidence-based chiropractic care to the community.

IMU is the first and only university to offer the complete chiropractic educational programme in Malaysia as well as in all of South-East Asia.

The IMU Chiropractic Programme is accredited by the prestigious Council on Chiropractic

Education Australasia (CCEA) and Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

The only chiropractic programme accredited in South-East Asia, the IMU Chiropractic Programme is a four-year programme including academic and clinical training.

Students have the option to complete the entire degree at IMU or study part of the programme here and then transfer to IMU partner universities, namely RMIT University in Australia, AECC University College or University of South Wales in the UK.

Currently, its alumni are practising in a few countries, including New Zealand, Australia,

Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

Chiropractic students are guided through the curriculum via a combination of lectures, discussions, practical laboratory sessions, as well as self-directed and simulated clinical settings.

From the first semester onwards, chiropractic students learn to enhance their sense of touch and develop manual skills to detect and correct problems with the joints of the body, especially those of the spine (neck, back and pelvis).

As students progress through the curriculum, these hands-on activities increase and ultimately, students are involved in the supervised diagnosis and management of actual patients. In the final stages of training, students manage real patients throughout their care programme in a supervised chiropractic clinic.

The next intake for this programme is in September. If you desire to be a healthcare professional in a field that is rapidly expanding throughout the world, apply now and start towards an exciting and highly rewarding career.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, the one-year IMU Foundation in Science is the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the university's local degree programmes.

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

Getting your homework done on time

A STUDY group is a great way to revise but putting one together can be tricky. Here's how to form one that will help you get the most out of communal learning.

Think outside your comfort zone

Your friends will talk to you anyway; get together a group of people you don't know so that you get new angles of perspective.

Keep it small

Instead of "the more, the merrier" think "too many chefs spoil the broth". Three is all right but a group of four is ideal as you can pair off. Six is about maximum; any more and you have too many opinions and not enough time for everyone.

Outline a plan of action

You've got a study guide, so plan your meetings accordingly. Decide how long each meeting will be, how much you will cover and who will be responsible for what. Tip: pick a regular time and don't make exceptions. It's too difficult to accommodate the needs of half a dozen people.

Pick a good place

Pick somewhere quiet so that you're not being blasted by music or interrupted by friends. An empty classroom or study room is ideal. A cafeteria is OK as long as you don't pick meal times when crowds will make it hard to concentrate.



Student satisfaction is top priority at MSU, in line with the University's objectives being for the betterment of its students. Employability would be your measure of success, as you hone soft skills around core competencies. Build it at MSU, Malaysia's top-ranked and world-ranked for graduate employability.

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A chance to learn coding

THE Faculty of Engineering and Science at Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) is introducing an online short course in coding this month exclusively for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) school-leavers.

The "Begin to Code with Python" short course is aimed at giving school-leavers waiting for their results the opportunity to learn coding using Python, and ultimately get interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and perhaps pursue further studies in those areas.

Python is a popular general-purpose coding language used across the world for a wide range of programming and software development. It is one of the simplest programming languages around and therefore ideal for beginners to learn the fundamentals of programming.

"If you are interested in coding, which is becoming increasingly popular among youngsters for all manner of digital projects, this course is a great way to get started," said Kamaroizan Mohamad, programme coordinator and Foundation Studies Department lecturer, who is facilitating the short course.

Kamaroizan added that basically anyone can learn to use Python and no prior experience is required.

In addition to acquiring basic programming skills for a variety of applications, those taking the short course will also gain the basic skills for further studies in computing.

The short course will involve two-and-a-half hour lessons each week. In the first five lessons, participants will learn Python basics, flow control, list comprehension, function and file processing, and in the final lesson, build a simple application with Python.

"Essentially, the participants will familiarise themselves with programming syntax by



Curtin Malaysia is offering SPM school-leavers the opportunity to learn coding using Python.

customising various Python components to acquire and format data into meaningful on-screen results. They will also be able to incorporate control structures and user-defined functions for the purpose of enhancing their programmes. Using simple but intuitive instruction and practical examples, they will be able to build on their understanding step-by-step in each lesson," said Kamaroizan.

Meanwhile, Dr Raymond Chiong Choo Wee, Engineering First Year (EFY) and Foundation Studies Departments head at the Faculty, said Curtin Malaysia is offering those who complete the short course a full course

fee reimbursement if they successfully enrol in its Foundation in Engineering and Science programme later in the year.

■ For more information on the "Begin to Code with Python" short course, visit <https://bit.ly/CurtinPython>. Those interested to join can also register on the website.

For more details on the Foundation in Engineering and Science programme at Curtin Malaysia, visit courses.curtin.edu.my

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

Tips on pulling off an all-nighter

YOU forgot about that assignment or there's a snap quiz that's going to make or break your grade point average. In an emergency when you have to pull an all-nighter, there are several nasty consequences to deal with including being tired and stressed on the actual day you have to perform. Here are some ideas on how to make it work better.

Set specific study goals

When you're in a panic, you might think that simply putting in the hours guarantees success. It doesn't. You need to be very focused so that all your effort goes to reaching your goal. Look at what you need to know to complete the assignment, quiz or exam. This means formulating a list of all the spots you need to hit. Once you know what you need to do, you can work out a sensible approach to get it all done efficiently. Make a timetable that assigns how long you can spend on each goal.

Kick everyone out

Studying in a group is not useful at this point. You'll just end up moaning about your work and not getting ahead. Go to your room, lock the door, switch off your phone and do not look at any social media. Be a hermit. Focus on the work.

Schedule breaks

Your brain won't work full tilt all night, so you need to be sensible and have breaks. There is no hard and fast rule to how often and how you should take a break. Best thing is to work with your body rhythms.

For example, you may find you work best long haul in which case you'd work 50 minutes and break for 10. Or you may be better at short flashes, in which case you'd work 20 minutes and break for five minutes. Most importantly, seeing you're working all night, try to add in a good nap at the end.



#inspirepossibilities



Admissions Open 2021

● Foundation in Science

R2/010/3/0022; 8/2026; JPT/BPP(U)1000-801/129 Jld.2(10)

● Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

R2/721/6/0057; 12/2027; JPT/BPP(K)1000-600/M411 Jld.6(11)

● Bachelor of Dental Surgery

R2/724/6/0018; 11/2025; JPT/BPP(K)1000-600/M411 Jld.7(08)

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Solid head start to tertiary studies

AFTER completing their SPM, students have to make a decision on their pre-university studies.

Whether or not to select a foundation programme, A-Level, or a diploma programme to start one's tertiary studies might be best answered by an analogy on learning how to bake a cake.

Which is better? Spending four weeks learning to bake a cake or two weeks?

"If you have already decided on pursuing a degree, it is advisable to go through the foundation route," said UOW Malaysia KDU computing and creative media head Prof Dr Tan Chin Ike.

The difference is in the learning, he explained.

"As a diploma programme prepares you for work, it has to quickly delve into the specifics of that discipline, and because of its duration, the fundamentals are sometimes not covered in depth," he said.

To illustrate his point, Dr Tan used the example of learning computer science.

"If it is computer science, then the fundamentals are probably mathematics, algorithms and logic. These fundamentals are more important than the work of programming itself.

"In a two-year diploma, it is most likely that the fundamentals would be covered during six months of the programme while the remaining time would be utilised to equip you with the right skills to get the job done," he said.

The focus in any diploma programme, Dr Tan said, is to get a person trained and qualified for a particular job.



UOW Malaysia KDU Communication students experience holistic learning such as hands-on media production and broadcasting instead of fully examination-based learning and theories.

It is different in a foundation programme, which typically lasts a year.

"That year is focused on getting the fundamentals in place together with other aspects of tertiary education. After that, you will have around three years to learn all the required knowledge, attributes and skills to get ready for the job market," he said.

Dr Tan said the institution's foundation programmes provide the most flexible pathway of all pre-university options.

"Most foundation programmes are geared towards specific degree programmes, but our foundation programmes offer the flexibility of choosing from a wide range of subjects.

"This enables students who are uncertain about which specific discipline to pursue for their bachelor's degree programme the flexibility to commence university study without being locked in to

a discipline.

"These foundation programmes are based on holistic learning, where students of many disciplines learn from each other," he said.

Another edge that the foundation students would possess is that they are conditionally guaranteed a place in University of Wollongong (UOW), Australia.

Ranked among the top 1% of universities worldwide, UOW in New South Wales is located in a seaside city which is an hour's drive from Sydney and offers an exemplary overseas study experience for tens of thousands of students from around the world.

But Dr Tan pointed out that the diploma programmes are still favourite choices for those who want to enter the workforce early.

They have a lower entrance requirement with a minimum of three credits in SPM or O-Level, and unlike most foundation programmes, are eligible for National



Diploma students at UOW Malaysia KDU are able to learn the fundamentals in detail and not just jump into the specifics of the discipline too quickly.

Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) loans.

Those who move on to bachelor's degree programmes after getting diplomas will enjoy a shorter duration to earn their degrees.

There are other routes, such as the Cambridge A-Level.

Tan said while this is accepted by many universities worldwide, it is geared towards those who are academically inclined and prefer 100% exam-based assessments.

"It is markedly different from foundation programmes, which tend to be combinations of project-based assessments and internal semester exams, which are similar to many degree programmes," he added.

There is also the option of the Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) which has the obvious financial advantage of being government-funded.

Dr Tan said STPM gives flexibility for students to enter most public

and private universities in Malaysia, but points out that it is entirely examination-based and is 18 months long.

There are other pre-university options ranging from matriculation to American degree transfers, Canadian pre-university programmes and a few more.

"Ask yourself this," said Dr Tan, "where do you intend to study and what are your preferred learning styles?"

He stressed that students must see pre-university programmes as helping them adapt to university life – making the transition from secondary education to tertiary.

"Choose a programme that focuses on increasing your academic knowledge and study skills as well as improving your soft skills," he said.

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

Nurturing graduate employability

IN today's dynamic and competitive business world being equipped with the latest digital and business knowledge and skills are essential.

Furthermore, an excellent grasp of soft skills like leadership, communication and interpersonal skills, flexibility, value diversity, problem-solving, decision making and an entrepreneurial mindset would set any employee apart from the rest.

To that end, the academic team of the Faculty of Business and Management (FBM) at AIMST University strives to nurture the students in all required soft skills, which promotes a high rate of employability among graduates.

FBM offers four undergraduate programmes namely Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Management Information Systems, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Finance and Management, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Business and Marketing, and Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Accounting and Finance.

As an added value, the university has obtained accreditation from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and is a member of the Institute of Marketing Malaysia (IMM).

This would contribute to its graduates in pursuing professional qualification.

In dealing with students' teaching and learning activities, the faculty has taken steps beyond the formal classroom settings which includes organising various value-added programmes such as



AIMST University strives to nurture students in all required soft skills, which promote a high rate of employability among graduates.

workshops, seminars, industrial visits and webinars to expose the students and faculty members to the latest updates on finance, accounting, marketing and information systems.

Students are also given opportunities to realise the business activities in practical sessions through sales week activity.

They would be given opportunities to pitch their related business ideas to promote their soft skills and expose them to the latest market development.

"I have attained confidence, analytical, and good team player skills to exhibit at my workplace. The knowledge and experiences gained while doing my degree programme have been tremendous assets that I can use daily," said Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Finance and Management alumni Eliezra Renuka Letchmanan.

Sharing the same sentiment, fellow Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Finance and Management

alumni Tan Yee Hang, said: "Enrolling at AIMST University was one of the best decisions I've made. AIMST University has provided me with an excellent platform to learn and grow.

"I had a very memorable experience studying at AIMST University and it has equipped me with what it takes to excel in the world of finance."

Furthermore, the undergraduate students are required to complete three months of industrial training and the university's students have managed to secure placements at various industries like Plexus Manufacturing, Smart Modular Technologies, B Braun Medical Industries, Green Precision, Renesas Semiconductor (Malaysia), OCBC Bank and Celestica Malaysia.

The faculty provides opportunities with mobility programmes to Kanagawa University in Japan and the global immersion programmes.

Both these programmes aim to provide international business

exposure as well as diversity in business.

Besides nurturing students from the aspects of the curriculum, FBM continuously encourages the students to participate in extra-curricular activities such as futsal competition, bizlympics sports activities and organising Malaysian festive celebrations such as Hari Raya, Chinese New Year and Deepavali.

In the past, students have actively participated in the World Mental Arithmetic competition, PNB investment quiz competition, CIMB Stock Challenge, and Leadership Camps.

"My journey in AIMST University has been a complete life journey changing in terms of academics and also personally.

"In terms of extra-curricular activities, there were plenty of opportunities for anyone to participate and engage in. As a whole, any person who wishes to enrol will not have any regrets," said Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Business and Marketing alumni Muhammad Fadli bin Rahiman.

A stepping stone to a business degree programme at FBM is through its foundation in business, which is offered by the School of General and Foundation Studies or those with Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) or diploma from other recognised colleges.

■ For more information about the university and its undergraduate programmes, visit www.aimst.edu.my. Alternatively, visit the AIMST University campus in Semeling, Kedah or call 012-549 8108.

Benefits of learning a foreign language

DID you know that learning a foreign language can boost your brain in terms of problem solving abilities and creativity? Learning any foreign language has all kinds of useful effects, including these three vital areas that will help you boost your personal success.

Gives you a new perspective

Learning a language isn't simply translating. For example, in English we speak of people as "he" or "she" but objects are "it" whereas in Malay "dia" can mean all three but in German, Frau ("woman") is feminine and Man ("man") is masculine. One knock-on effect is that forcing your mind into new ways of thinking boosts your creativity and your problem solving.

Better multi-cultural skills

A language mirrors the culture of the people that created it, so learning it gives you an insight into how other communities think. This process means you gain a more profound understanding of your own culture too.

Boosts character

We tend to forget what a struggle we had as tiny tots to get others to understand us. When you learn a foreign language, it's like being a kid again. Practising new ways of getting your message across is frustrating but it can be a lot of fun too.



Danish (fourth from right) with his coursemates from the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE).

In the fellowship of the dragon

TRUST is what makes the world work, so says Disney Animation Studio's Sisu from the animated fantasy flick *Raya and the Last Dragon*. Curating the fictional character's confidence is Management and Science University's (MSU) own Bachelor in Creative Multimedia (Hons) graduate Danish Haikal Asman.

A two-time recipient of the President Award, with the second time at the recently concluded 27th Convocation Ceremony of Management and Science University (MSU), Danish is breaking ground with his dream career.

He had progressed into the creative multimedia degree programme at MSU from a successful two and a half years in Diploma in Multimedia at the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE).

Danish is the only son of a real estate agent and homemaker. He grew up with frugality as his first language. His parents understood the importance of education in breaking the chain of poverty – much material comfort had to make way for the family's two children to have a good international education. Danish's sister, alumna Nuraishah Nazura Asman, who graduated with a Bachelor in Human Capital Management (Hons), is now pursuing a Master in Business Administration (MBA) majoring in Project Management.

Being presented with the President Award at the 21st Convocation Ceremony in August 2017 was the first among Danish's many proud moments. Having maintained a 4.0 CGPA for six consecutive semesters out of seven, he also made the Dean's List four times and the President's List twice.

He was ranked Top 10 in the Adobe Certification Association (ACA) Championship Malaysia 2018 – a national competition with over a hundred universities and colleges in Malaysia participating.

An active member of FISE's Creative Art Club (CAC), Danish next won the Gold Medal Award at FISE's iReX, for his virtual reality human life simulation project on an advanced method of sustainable development. The final-year project caught the attention of many in the creative multimedia industry, one of which made him their CGI/VFX Artist before his internship ended.

Six months into the job at Light Up 7, he was appointed head/manager of the company's CGI, VFX, and Motion Department.

To have made headway into his Disney dream is huge for Danish, as is being part of something that celebrates everything beautiful about South-East Asian culture.

"Times are changing – there will be space for everyone from any corner of the world to shine. I'd like to be as good as the top players in the industry, to be able to inspire and give

hope through the use of technology and my art," he says.

Given the global situation, the takeaway from *Raya and the Last Dragon* could not have been more pertinent with the inspiration being it's never one magical act that fixes everything but one of people pulling together – not apart.

Even if it doesn't work out or you were betrayed, trying and trying again is a must, as is hanging on and reaching out so we all make it through. As quoted from the movie's inspired soundtrack, "Believe and we'll be stronger, together greater".

MSU has become synonymous with quality education that is both transformative and enriching. Making an impact in Malaysia, Asia as well as globally, MSU focuses on developing and delivering quality human capital in critical-need areas; among these are Medicine, Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Information Sciences and Engineering, as well as Business Management and Professional Studies, Education and Social Sciences, Hospitality and Culinary, and Music and Fashion.

The university's award-winning academic programmes meet stringent standards of local and international bodies. MSU accreditors include the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), United Kingdom's Accreditation Services for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (ASIC), Japan's Alliance on Business Education and Scholarship for Tomorrow (ABEST21) and Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities (ACEEU).

MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability.

With 98.7% of its graduates successfully securing employment within six months of graduation, MSU is ranked by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) as Malaysia's No.1 for graduate employability.

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.

Various skill enhancement programmes aimed to improve students' competitiveness are offered. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme serves to improve the students' soft skills.

■ For further details regarding the courses offered at MSU, communicate with the Engagement and Enrolment Department at 03-5521 6868. Additional information can also be obtained at www.msu.edu.my

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A dream still worth pursuing

IT is very common for a young child to exclaim, "One day, I am going to be a doctor."

Doctors have always been familiar characters in each person's life – at one time or another, everyone regardless of background, would have had to visit a physician.

It is no wonder that today, medicine is still the career of choice for young Malaysians leaving high school.

In the changing face of the world and community today, the medical profession has evolved from the traditional role of "rescuer from pain" to a partner-personality, with whom one should work closely to live healthily.

Qualifying with an MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine-Bachelor of Surgery) is merely the first step as it is no longer a fixed road of being a practising clinician.

According to Prof Dr Adinegara Lutfi Abas, Manipal University College Malaysia's Faculty of Medicine dean, "Students have multiple pathways these days upon qualifying as a doctor. They can choose to remain in practice, advance into research, go into corporate organisations by becoming a hospital manager or administrator or occupational health specialist, or choose to serve the community by being in public health."

The practitioner

The world will never have too many physicians. With the growing population, the doctor practitioner is still much needed in all sectors of society. While the hours may seem long and un-family friendly, it comes back to the individual. As the saying goes, "Do what you love, and you would never feel as if you've worked a day."

"Furthermore, medicine is one of the fields which caters for a varied range of interests, in terms of specialisations," added



The future frontliners – Manipal University College Malaysia's MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine-Bachelor of Surgery) graduates.

Prof Dr Adinegara.

In a future where technology dictates, those skills that are distinctly human will be among the most valuable, and it is these skills that are enriched through postgraduate study. Considering how vital this is, Manipal University College Malaysia organises workshops for USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination), PLAB (Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board), and various Royal College Fellowship/Membership exam prep courses at its campus in Melaka, so students can prepare for them before graduation with minimal travel involved.

The researcher

For the doctor who is constantly intrigued

by how things start and how things can be resolved, or diseases cured, becoming a researcher would be a good choice.

As the world shrinks with ease of travel, so looms larger the threat of infectious diseases.

Research work is also more structured today, whereby evidence collected is based on a cross-section of causes.

With the advent of the systematic review, the physician research is now part of a larger multidisciplinary team, as the study must incorporate a complete, exhaustive summary of current evidence relevant to the subject matter.

The community adviser

If it has always been your dream to treat

communities as opposed to individual patients, the role of a doctor as a community adviser by way of being in public health would then be the right path for you.

Strong love of medicine coupled with mathematics and statistics are the core ingredients in excelling in this pathway.

By being able to read into trends and form analytical solutions, a public health physician would be better able to formulate strategic preventive measures.

The right place to do your MBBS

With over three dozen medical schools in Malaysia to choose from, Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM), formerly known as Melaka-Manipal Medical College, is miles ahead as a top medical school.

Since its inception, over 6,000 medical and over 400 dental surgeons have been delivered to both the Malaysian and overseas international health systems, with many alumni progressing successfully into specialist careers of their choosing.

As a university college, MUCM's twinning programmes will evolve into fully Malaysian home-grown programmes.

Students are guided to find their true paths before graduation as they are continuously exposed to the real lives of doctors, researchers, and public health individuals through the college's annual Postgraduate Fair and monthly seminars and exhibitions.

Fulfil your dream

The pursuit of medicine is a marathon, not a sprint. As such, parents and students are invited to visit Manipal University College Malaysia and personally experience life as a future Manipalite.

■ For more details on the programme, call 1700 811 662 or visit www.manipal.edu.my

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