

Star Special

THE STAR, THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024

EDUCATION GUIDE

Pathway to a creative career

GRAPHIC design is the art and practice of planning and projecting ideas and experiences using visual and textual content. In other words, graphic design conveys ideas or messages visually.

These visuals can be artistic advertisements, eye-catching graphics on websites, or beautifully arranged spreads in magazines.

Graphic design is one of the fastest-growing creative disciplines and is always in high demand. Recognising the potential, MSU College's School of Science and Technology (SST) offers a Diploma in Graphic Design for students to explore the wonders of developing skills in graphic design creatively and becoming the next generation of highly skilled creative and innovative workers.

The programme is comprehensively designed to provide the necessary skills for acquiring knowledge, conducting research and designing solutions



for industry-related projects.

The programme includes a variety of subjects that have been chosen wisely to prepare students to be industry-ready graduates such as visual communication, typography, communication skills, advertising design and

interactive multimedia.

Those who complete the programme will be able to work as technical illustrators, layout artists, creative directors, or graphic designers in a variety of commercial positions in both print and digital media.

Their job scopes may include

or be related to advertising and promotion, art direction, branding, corporate identity, instructional design, packaging, signage, mobile apps, software interfaces and website layouts.



This two-and-a-half-year diploma programme requires a pass in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia

(SPM) or its equivalent, with three credits in any subject, or an MSU College certificate in a relevant field with passes in all subjects.

Upon completion of the diploma, credit transfer is also available to those who choose to pursue the second-year Bachelor programme at Management and Science University (MSU) through the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE).

MSU College is also MSU APEL Centre for potential candidates to take the APEL Aptitude Test as the non-conventional pre-qualification for entry into higher studies, in which MSU currently offers APEL A and APEL C at T-3 (certificate), T-4 (diploma), T-6 (bachelor's degree, and T-7 (master's degree) levels.

■ For more information on programmes offered, call the college's team at 03-5521 6868 or email enquiry@msucollege.my or by visiting www.msucollege.edu.my

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Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.



Navigating the complex cybersecurity landscape

IN today's world, our daily lives are intricately woven with "digital fabric". From online banking and shopping to connecting with others and accessing information, technology has become an indispensable part of our daily lives. However, this interconnectedness comes with a hidden vulnerability – cybersecurity.

The importance of cybersecurity increases by the day, more so in this day and age where scamming and hacking are becoming rampant and causing havoc in people's lives.

"Nowadays, our online activities generate a vast amount of data, which some organisations collect and utilise without our full knowledge or consent," says Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) graduate Yap Li Qing.

"This raises concerns about privacy infringement and potential misuse of personal data. As a cybersecurity professional, I have to be mindful in adopting proactive measures to significantly minimise the risks associated with cybersecurity threats," she says.

Yap completed her Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) in Information Security and now works as a cybersecurity professional in a financial institution.

Having graduated in 2021, she recalls how challenging it was when she first began her degree programme.

"I was initially overwhelmed as I lacked a foundational understanding of IT and cybersecurity concepts, although I have the passion to pursue IT.

"Nevertheless, this deepened my passion and motivated me to put in the extra effort to understand what I was learning," says Yap.

"I spent sleepless nights alongside my coursemates, debugging complex issues and overcoming obstacles in our cybersecurity projects.

"It was like a never-ending loop of challenges, but I am grateful that my team and I not only succeeded in completing our projects but also in deepening our understanding of cybersecurity and its importance," says Yap.

She also highlighted how TAR UMT's strong network with industries has helped her gain valuable knowledge and experience.

"On top of theoretical knowledge, working on practical projects involving industries was also very important in my learning process," she says.

"What I learned in theory, I put into practice for these industry projects – and this helped me inculcate valuable skills.

"My favourite subjects were Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing. Although they were difficult subjects to understand, the ability to understand them was a fulfilling experience that gave me great motivation."

She also recalled how far she has come since graduating from TAR UMT.

"After graduating, I was worried about securing employment. But, with my degree qualification and the experience gained from my six-month internship, I secured a job without much difficulty," says Yap.

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MSU's Village Vibe programme aims to empower international students through cultural exposure activities as well as integrate them with the local society.

Local culture experience for international students

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) through its Global Affairs Department has organised the "MSU Village Vibe" programme at Sabak Bernam, Selangor.

This programme is a part of the university's efforts to assist international students in adapting to the local way of life and experiencing rural living.

For those who wish to experience a relaxed environment and get a closer look at the local way of life and surroundings, Sabak Bernam is the perfect place.

A total of 70 students from 24 countries took part in this programme, including students from countries such as Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkiye, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

MSU is currently home to students hailing from more than 65 nations all over the globe.

commitment to fostering outstanding achievement and accomplishment in its graduates and has put in place several specific initiatives to accomplish these objectives.

MSU's Village Vibe programmes are initiatives of the university towards empowering international students through cultural exposure activities as well as integrating them with the local society.

This exposure serves to complete the students' development into competent and employable graduates.

MSU is currently listed among the world's top universities by QS, holding the 580th spot in the QS World University Rankings 2025.

It is also listed in the QS Top 100 for the world's best young universities, the QS Top 200 for Asia's best universities, the QS Top 40 for South-East Asia's best universities and the QS Top 301+ for Graduate Employability Ranking.

In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025, MSU is a new addition in the 801-1,000 band. It also ranks among the world's top 301-400 band on the THE University Impact Rankings 2024.

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

All in all, as an applied, enterprise, holistic and international university, MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, post-graduate and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates admission of students from all walks of life, where it aims to adhere to its tagline of "Transforming Lives and Enriching Future".

Promoting diversity and cultural exchange

The programme is aimed at fostering cultural awareness, community building, promoting diversity, interactive learning, providing a relaxing atmosphere and highlighting sustainable living.

Participants engaged in traditional village activities, such as performing the traditional kuda kepang dance, making roti canai, batik colouring, kite-making and fish-catching in the paddy fields.

In addition to highlighting sustainable living, the programme seeks to encourage diversity, community building, cultural understanding, and interactive education in a casual environment.

Producing graduates who are knowledgeable, well-rounded and of high quality is MSU's main goal.

The university is well known for its

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INFO DAY BY APPOINTMENT

SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2024 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Fun and Learning Activities

Farmers Market ■ Sumo Wrestling Robotic Competition ■ TinkerCAD Course
Petting Zoo ■ Interclass Sports Carnival (Football, Netball, Basketball, etc.)



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Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur established the Education and Learning Support Academy (ELSA) to cater to the needs of special education.

Embracing diverse learning needs

CHILDREN of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

Every nation in the world frets over the proper education programme to develop their young infused with the requisite knowledge, skills and aptitude to shoulder the challenges of the future.

The debates never cease on the education direction and approach that a nation should adopt.

Every so often, many preach that they have in hand the breakthrough policies that will develop the exact skills the nation so requires.

But any one nation differs from another in a multitude of aspects and therefore the approach should equally differ from one to another.

Gone were the days when the 3Rs were the paramount focus and a one-size-fits-all education system was no longer applicable.

Societies have become much more discerning and categorisation of students based on abilities as well as other aspects has become a yardstick to begin with.

This leaves policymakers in a quandary as to ensure equal and fair educational opportunities for every child, the curriculum, pedagogy and training of educators must be altered and be specific to the target group.

The challenges are many and the criticisms shall persist no matter how thorough the policy that has been set forth.

This then begs the question of how do education institutions cater to the divergent levels of students based on a particular curriculum it has adopted.

The curriculum is always very comprehensive but the implementation of the curriculum is where the challenge lies.

One particular category of students that need special attention is those with certain specific learning and perhaps behavioural needs.

These students require additional and specialised support. When grouped together in a mainstream class their needs are only sparingly met and their progress impeded.

Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur had faced this situation since its formation some almost 30 years ago.

At about the halfway mark of its establishment, the school set up the Education and Learning Support Academy (ELSA) to help cater to the needs in special education. Trained and experienced teachers in this field were recruited to develop and conduct the programme.

Exclusive and inclusive ELSA assistance was devised and now after almost 10 years of providing the special needs support, the programme and enquiries to enrol have grown by leaps and bounds.

However, due to the tight student-to-teacher ratio, enrolments are rather controlled due to capacity and space.

Having said that the experience gained providing these services has helped faculty members keep a keen eye on detecting students who have yet to be diagnosed and categorised but are struggling to cope nevertheless and parents have just brushed it off as behavioural or discipline issues when in actual fact it stems from a deep-seated struggle the child is unable to overcome by herself or himself.

Once an issue is identified and diagnosed, the right intervention program begins, helping the child feel more at ease as they grow and develop—something both parents and the community want for them.

Supporting students with specialised needs, such as dyslexia, autism, or learning disabilities, within a real school setting offers many benefits for both these students and their peers in mainstream classes.

Acceptance levels of contrasting types of human beings other than themselves are in itself an education in a real-world scenario.

What better way to learn tolerance and acceptance than at school right from a very young age?

For the child who is learning to cope with his or her struggles in learning, in behavioural self-

control or in a social setting, the simple fact that they are in a school environment surrounded by hundreds if not a thousand odd students is itself a learning experience as it is hard to live a life in isolation and gregarious living has always been the norm since time immemorial.

Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur, known for its focus on STEM, Inquiry-Based Science (IBSE), ECO, and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), offers students constant opportunities to explore STEM, robotics, ECO & ESD and science through inquiry. Special needs students also have unique talents in these areas, often excelling in ways that even surpass mainstream students.

Therefore, we remain very hopeful in the development and progress of all our students irrespective of where one begins as the educational journey is a long way ahead and as long as we provide them the proper teaching, assistance, support and opportunities students will by themselves find their calling and excel beyond our wildest imagination.

Our school has been in collaboration with the Yokohama Board of Education, Japan the past 10 years and in particular the Konandai Hino Tokubetsushien Gakkao, a special needs school under the tutelage of Prof Dr Tomohiro Suwa and teacher exchange programmes and training are regularly conducted.

This month, a team from the school will be visiting Konandai Hino Tokubetsushien Gakkao in Yokohama for a study tour of their centre and training for the benefit of the ELSA programme and her students. — **By Dr Steven Baptist, principal of Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur**

■ Join Sri Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur's Info Day on Saturday, Nov 23, from 9am to 1pm (by appointment). Call 03-6275 5888 or log on to www.sribestari.edu.my for more information.



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9am-5pm (Kampar/Sungai Long campus)

16 Nov	Sat	Info Day & Guided Campus Tour
23 Nov	Sat	
7-8 Dec	Sat & Sun	Open Day
14-15 Dec	Sat & Sun	

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Bright career prospects in cybersecurity

FROM PAGE 8

"The fundamentals of cybersecurity, networking and programming have become a stepping stone in my job, as the knowledge I have gained applies to the company I work for. This relieves my supervisor from having to guide me step-by-step to carry out my duties," adds Yap.

Exciting career opportunities

TAR UMT is recognised as one of the country's Premier Digital Tech Institutions by the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) for the university's consistency in fostering awareness among students about the promising career prospects in

cybersecurity, among others.

As the demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to grow, institutions such as TAR UMT play a crucial role in equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to combat cyber threats.

■ For more information about TAR UMT's computing and information technology programmes, or to apply online, visit www.tarc.edu.my or call 011-1075 8554. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are available for qualified students.

Yap (right) during her graduation, ready to take on the challenges of the cybersecurity field.



Unlock a world of opportunities in finance

THE global banking and finance industry is evolving rapidly, creating a surge in demand for skilled professionals.

The Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) Banking and Finance programme at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF) offers an ideal starting point for those looking to enter this dynamic field.

The programme delves into the management of money, financial instruments and institutions within an economy, covering key areas such as banking operations, investments and financial asset management.

The curriculum equips students with a strong foundation in finance, accounting and management, with a particular focus on modern banking and financial practices.

Students also gain hands-on experience with industry-standard tools like the Refinitiv Financial Terminal, enhancing their ability to navigate the complexities of the global financial landscape.

Additionally, the curriculum integrates advanced skills such as AI, Industry 4.0, machine learning and business analytics, featuring courses like Financial Technology and Advanced Financial Prediction using Python.

UTAR is also part of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute University Affiliation Programme.

The programme's curriculum, which is closely aligned with the CFA Programme curriculum topics, prepares students better for its examination.

The programme also collaborates with Alibaba Group to offer training in digital transformation and entrepreneurship through the Alibaba Global Digital Talent (GDT) initiative.

The Banking and Finance programme at UTAR is recognised by leading professional bodies, including the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the Financial Planning Association of Malaysia (FPAM), the Malaysian Association of Company Secretaries (MACS) and the Malaysian Financial Planning Council (MFPC).

This broad recognition enhances the employability of graduates, with many securing jobs even before graduation.

Furthermore, students benefit from industry exposure through visits and talks from financial experts at companies like

Malayan Banking Bhd, Public Bank Bhd, Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd, OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd, AmBank (M) Bhd and Bursa Malaysia.

This real-world insight helps students stay up-to-date with trends and challenges in the financial services sector.

In addition, the graduates of the Banking and Finance programme pursue careers in various roles such as corporate governance managers, bank credit analysts, personal financial planners and hedge fund managers.

With the finance sector constantly evolving, the programme's strong focus on professional certifications and industry integration ensures that graduates are well-positioned to lead in their fields.

UTAR's Banking and Finance students consistently excel in national competitions.

In the Jelajah Bijak Wang 2023/2024 competition, 45 students were finalists, with six teams placed in the Top 20, including a second-place win.

The UTAR team also emerged as the champion of the National Financial Instruments Trading (NFIT) Competition 2024, showcasing their strategic trading skills.

The Banking and Finance programme at UTAR empowers students with the knowledge and skills to excel in the financial services industry, providing a strong foundation in both theory and practice.

UTAR offers undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in areas including Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Applied Mathematics, Arts, Chinese Studies, Malaysia Studies, Business and Economics, Biotechnology, Engineering and Build Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences, Media and Journalism, Education and General Studies, as well as Agriculture and Food Science.

The university also engages in the provision and conduct of research, consultation, management and leadership training and other related educational services at its Sungai Long and Kampar campuses in Malaysia.

Visit UTAR Info Day and Guided Campus Tour on Nov 16 and 23 and UTAR Open Day on Dec 7-8 and Dec 14-15 from 9am to 5pm at both Kampar and Sungai Long campuses.

■ For more information, visit www.utar.edu.my or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar campus), 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long campus).



The Banking and Finance programme at UTAR is recognised by several leading professional bodies, enhancing graduates' employability and enabling many to secure jobs even before graduation.

IMU University enters a new chapter where we go beyond medical and health sciences into the realms of business, technology and social sciences to shape tomorrow's global leaders. Unlock your potential with us today.

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



A group photo featuring the six finalist teams from UTAR in the Jelajah Bijak Wang 2023/2024 competition.

Flexible programmes for all

THE pursuit of advanced education often requires significant sacrifices and dedication.

For Sun Yi Jo and Parvinpal Kaur, the path to a Master of Science (MSc) in Molecular Medicine was no exception. However, their decision to enrol in the open distance learning (ODL) programme at International Medical University (IMU) proved to be a strategic choice that allowed them to balance their academic aspirations with their professional commitments.

Sun, a seasoned community pharmacist, sought to deepen her understanding of the scientific principles underlying disease and therapeutic interventions.

The MSc in Molecular Medicine programme offered her the opportunity to explore the complexities of molecular biology, genetics and drug development.

Despite the challenges of balancing a full-time pharmacy job with demanding coursework, Sun's determination and effective time management skills enabled her to excel.

"There were times when the pressure seemed overwhelming. But the support from my professors and classmates, coupled with the flexibility of online learning, made it possible," she said.

As she progressed through the programme, Sun transitioned to



IMU's MSc in Molecular Medicine programme offered Sun the opportunity to explore the complexities of molecular biology, genetics and drug development.

part-time work to focus on her research project on pancreatic cancer cells. Her dedication and hard work culminated in the successful completion of her master's degree.

Parvinpal, a cytogenetics scientist, also recognised the value of an online master's degree in Molecular Medicine.

The ODL format offered her the flexibility to continue working while pursuing her advanced education. She realised that online learning required a different approach to studying.

"Self-discipline, meticulous time management and prioritisation were essential," she explained.

"I had to adapt to the new learning environment and develop effective study habits."



IMU's MSc in Molecular Medicine ODL format offered Parvinpal the flexibility to continue working while pursuing her advanced education.

Her dedication to her studies and strong work ethic allowed her to thrive in the ODL programme.

One of the most significant challenges for both Sun and Parvinpal was balancing their coursework with their research projects.

Sun, who had limited prior experience in laboratory work, had to quickly adapt to the hands-on nature of research. Parvinpal, on the other hand, faced the logistical challenges of coordinating her ODL studies with in-person laboratory experiments during her third semester.

Fortunately, both of them had the support and guidance of their supervisors, who provided invaluable mentorship and guidance.

Their supervisors helped them

navigate the challenges of research, provided feedback on their work and offered encouragement throughout their academic journey.

In addition to their academic achievements, they also gained valuable skills that will benefit them in their future careers.

The MSc in Molecular Medicine programme equipped them with advanced knowledge in cellular and molecular biology, genetics and drug development. They also developed strong research skills, including experimental design, data analysis and scientific writing.

The success of Sun and Parvinpal demonstrates the potential of ODL to provide students with high-quality education and career opportunities.

By leveraging the flexibility and accessibility of ODL programmes, students can pursue advanced degrees while balancing their professional and personal commitments.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the demand for highly skilled professionals with advanced knowledge in molecular medicine is increasing.

The experiences of Sun and Parvinpal offer inspiration and encouragement to those who are considering pursuing a master's degree in this field.

By embracing the opportunities presented by online learning,

students can position themselves for success in the rapidly changing world of healthcare.

Taken together, the field of molecular medicine is a cornerstone for advancements in synthetic biology and personalised medicine.

As scientists continue to engineer biological systems and tailor treatments to individual patients, a deep understanding of molecular processes is essential.

By studying molecular biology, genetics and drug development, students can equip themselves with the knowledge and skills to contribute to groundbreaking research in these areas.

The ODL format of the MSc in Molecular Medicine programme offers a personalised learning experience, allowing students to tailor their studies to their specific interests and career goals.

This flexibility is particularly valuable for those seeking to specialise in fields like synthetic biology or personalised medicine, where a tailored education can provide a competitive edge.

The next commencement of this programme is in November.

If you are interested in joining this programme, make an online application today.

■ For more information on this or our other postgraduate programmes, visit www.imu.edu.my or email postgraduate@imu.edu.my, or call 03-2731 7272.



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