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MSU's graduating class of 2021 at the university's 27th convocation ceremony.

Becoming a pharmacist

AFTER a doctor issues a prescription, it is the pharmacist's job to fill it. This action may seem simple and straightforward, but it requires extensive knowledge of drug dosages, regulations, allergens and chemical reactions for the persons to whom the medicines have been prescribed.

Working together with patients, doctors and scientists alike, pharmacists shoulder a great responsibility in ensuring safe pharmacological practices.

Such responsibility comes with years of education in pharmaceutical knowledge and skills. Though various paths lead to a career as a pharmacist, all require a readiness to work hard, completion of clinical hours and passing of numerous exams.

A solid foundation in maths and the sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics) will prepare aspiring students well for further and more advanced pursuits in the field.

School-leavers who are keen on enrolling in Management and Science University's (MSU) Diploma in Pharmacy programme should have a pass in Mathematics and one Science subject (preferably Biology) at the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia level.

Good written and verbal communication skills are also essential – co-curricular involvement in community engagements and healthcare can help develop these skills.

For MSU's Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) programme, a 3.5 CGPA is required for entry via a Diploma in Pharmacy qualification. Applicants with a Diploma in Science, be it Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, must have a CGPA score of at least 3.75.

Entry into the pharmacy degree programme at MSU requires at least a B in Chemistry at the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) level or its GCE Advanced Level equivalent, as well as both SPM and Matriculation/ Pre-Pharmacy/Pre-Medicine / one-year Foundation in Science if the applicant has a pre-university qualification or its equivalent.

Career-wise, there seems to be more pharmacists working in drugstores or apothecaries than in hospitals, with an estimated two to one ratio between them.

A small percentage of them work in the food and beverage industry, and a smaller number in general merchandise stores.

The pharmacist's responsibilities in these settings include safe dispersal of medication, ensuring non-interference with a patient's allergies or other medicines and educating the patient on medication. As a hospital pharmacist, he or she also dispenses advice on medication options.

Whilst pharmacists may be actively involved with people's health and well-being, pharmaceutical scientists are the ones actively improving human health.

These experts in the chemistry, biology and biotechnology behind the design and development of modern medicines bring safe and effective products to the market



MSU's School of Pharmacy alumna of Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceuticals Technology (Hons), Sharifah Sabrina Al Bokhari Syed Yusuf Al Bokhari received the Industrial Award from NAZ Medical Supplies Sdn Bhd.

through their research on reliable, accessible and effective treatments.

To be considered for MSU's Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology (Honours) programme, applicants must have scored a 2.50 CGPA for a diploma in a related field. Alternatively, a C in Chemistry and Biology or Physics is accepted at the STPM, GCE Advanced Level, Matriculation, Pre-University, or Foundation level; as well as credit in five subjects at the SPM level, including any three from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and English.

As a top university in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability. So far, 98.7% of its graduates have successfully secured employment within six months of graduation, leading to MSU's ranking by the Ministry of Higher Education as Malaysia's No.1 for graduate employability.

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

Various skills enhancement programmes aimed at improving students' competitiveness are also offered. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competencies programme at MSU serves to improve students' soft skills.

■ For more details regarding the courses offered at MSU, contact the Engagement and Enrolment Department at 03-5521 6868 or log on to www.msu.edu.my

Helping hand for students

THE unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has unleashed an adverse financial impact on many Malaysians. Scores of school-leavers now face uncertainty over their higher education plans given their parents' financial constraints.

Realising the gravity of this situation, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) offers various kinds of financial aid for students.

TAR UC's Prihatin Flexi Payment Plan was introduced this year to provide greater flexibility in the first semester fees payment. Students only need to make an initial payment of RM263 to begin their tertiary education. The balance shall be paid by instalment up to week five or nine of study, depending on the intake.

This is offered to students who have received an offer of admission for TAR UC's foundation, diploma and bachelor degree programmes for the May/June/September/November intakes.

Foundation students of the May/September intakes have the flexibility to pay all semester fees in instalments as they are not eligible for PTPTN.

Underprivileged students can also obtain financial assistance via the TAR UC Student Loan Fund. To date, there are 42 interest-free revolving student loan funds for qualified students covering the entirety of the recipient's tuition fees.

Since its inception in 1979, a total of 13,293 loan awards amounting to nearly RM43mil have been disbursed through the TAR UC Student Loan Fund.

Apart from this, there are scholarships/



The financial aid provided by TAR UC enabled Lee to pursue his studies.

bursaries available for qualified students, including The Star Education Fund, Sin Chew Daily Education Fund, Nanyang Tertiary Education Fund, TAR UC – TAA Scholarship, TAR UC – TAA Scholarship (Top Glove), TAR UC Jinbodhi Bursary, TAR UC Sports Scholarship and Bursary for State/National Players.

There are also many other external scholarships and grants by corporations and philanthropic organisations.

High-achieving students can benefit from the TAR UC Merit Scholarship, which automatically awards a partial to full waiver of tuition fees based on academic merit.

Since 1997, 26,366 students have had been awarded the merit scholarship amounting to approximately RM138mil.

TAR UC also offers financial incentives such as the sibling discount. Students registering for the first time with sibling(s) who are full-fee-paying student(s) in the same semester may be eligible for a discount of RM1,000 off their first semester tuition fee.

Among the many recipients of TAR UC financial aid is Lee Rong Cherng, a Bachelor of Quantity Surveying (Hons) student from a single-parent family.

"My mum was the only breadwinner and besides me, there were two other siblings to look after. Seeing how difficult it was for her, I took up a part-time job while studying but then my mum passed away.

"When the TAR UC-Jinbodhi Bursary came along, I felt that I had been given a second chance in life," he shared.

Application for the May/June/September/November intakes is now open.

■ For more details about the financial aid and programmes offered at TAR UC, log on to www.tarc.edu.my

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply online at www.tarc.edu.my. Those who submit their applications online by April 30 will receive a RM60 waiver of the processing fee. Alternatively, visit the Virtual Open Day happening every weekend from now to April 25 (10am to 5pm).

Get ready to conduct research

YOU have an assignment to work on, and you'll have to do some research to get started. So, where do you kick off?

Throwing a couple of keywords in Google is where most people start and although it may yield something juicy, leaving that as your only resource is limiting. To make the most of your research, try these steps.

List down what you need

The best place to start your list is to look at the rubric. It will tell you what information you need, and the marks assigned to each will tell you the depth you'll need to cover.

Check the course text

If you have one, this should lay out the parameters of your research. Make a list of the references and chase these down. Having read the original work will give you good leads to more resources.

Check the library

Look for textbooks and journals. If your university has an online database, check for academic and conference papers.

Check Google Scholar

The website <http://scholar.google.com> specialises in academic information, so throw your keywords in here.

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Sunway College is also pioneering Pre-U LEADS - a co-curricular programme to nurture students' holistic development by equipping them with necessary life skills beyond their academic achievements.

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UOW Malaysia KDU's campus in Batu Kawan, Penang, is the newest in the UOW Malaysia KDU network.



Located in Glenmarie, Selangor, UOW Malaysia KDU is equipped with state-of-art, industry-grade facilities.

THE largest vaccination campaign in global history has begun in earnest. Close to 500 million Covid-19 shots have been administered since December in 133 countries, according to Bloomberg's global tracker.

Though the worldwide average of 11 million vaccinations a day now is still deemed slow, health-care experts expect the rate to grow exponentially as logistics improve and more vaccines pass the gauntlet of clinical trials.

This matters most for youth who are eager to commence their overseas study experience. Seeing the need for youth to receive world-class education even as international travel remains heavily restricted, an Australian public university ranked in the top one per cent globally has harnessed its worldwide network of campuses to cater to the new normal – The University of Wollongong (UOW).

It is named after its home city, which locals affectionately call "The Gong". This is the third largest city in New South Wales after Sydney (just an hour's drive away) and Newcastle. Wollongong is home to about 37,000 UOW students.

A major appeal of UOW among international students is the privilege of being immersed in Australian culture while pursuing top-notch studies in a public university without the higher cost of living associated with Australia's larger cities.

Observing students' eagerness to pursue an international study experience, UOW is using its global network of campuses in Dubai, Hong Kong and Malaysia to enable students to commence their university-level studies within these international campuses before seamlessly proceeding to earn a bachelor degree at a top 200 globally ranked Australian public university.

Studying in Australia has taken on a special attraction because of how the country has managed the pandemic. Since January, Australia has experienced a low incidence of Covid-19, usually recording new daily cases in the single digits.

"With vaccination efforts in Malaysia stepping up, we expect both countries to be able to establish travel arrangements for Malaysian students to head to Australia soon.

"In the meantime, students can commence their studies at UOW Malaysia KDU and then transfer seamlessly to UOW Australia when it is safe to do so," said deputy vice-chancellor (engagement) Associate Professor Dr Brian Imrie.

He said UOW Malaysia KDU provides a number of pathways for



Students can complete their Dual Award Programmes uninterrupted as the pandemic comes to an end.

Malaysian students to be ready for when borders reopen.

School-leavers who join UOW Malaysia KDU for their foundation studies will receive a conditional offer, guaranteeing them placement in UOW Australia.

"They are guaranteed a spot in UOW Australia when they meet the very achievable minimum CGPA requirements upon completion of their foundation year here," explained Prof Imrie.

The same honour is accorded to UOW Malaysia KDU students who pick the diploma pathway; they too gain conditional acceptance of a

place at UOW Australia. In both cases, they will be granted a minimum 25% tuition fee waiver or a 30% merit scholarship for their UOW bachelor's degree programme.

Should travel restrictions remain stringent after students complete their foundation or diploma programme, another pathway will help them stay on course.

"Our UOW Dual Award Programmes ensure that not only will they be able to continue their overseas education uninterrupted as the pandemic comes to an end, but they will also be recognised for

their efforts with an additional degree certificate," said Prof Imrie.

Graduates will get a degree certificate from UOW Malaysia KDU and another from UOW Australia.

Under this programme, students spend the first one and a half years of the Business Management or Computer Science/Software Engineering bachelor's degree programme in UOW Malaysia KDU before heading to Wollongong for their remaining one and a half years of study.

"As UOW Malaysia KDU is part of the University of Wollongong Australia Global Network, the quality of the syllabus at UOW Malaysia KDU is tightly monitored by UOW Australia to ensure a seamless transition," Prof Imrie assured.

"Despite the obstacles, we are confident that Malaysia is on track to tackle the spread of infections and it is time for students to take the first steps in pursuing their international study dreams."

■ To speak with UOW Malaysia KDU's education counsellors about the Dual Award Programme, call 03-5565 0538 (Glenmarie, Shah Alam) or 04-238 6368 (Penang).

Making the most out of college

PASSING the course you've signed up for is one thing. However, there are other life lessons you can learn while at college. Here's how to make the most of them.

Making new friends

You've spent all those years at school with the same crowd and now you have time to expand your social circle.

If you're shy, you may be tempted to stick to the people from your old school, your home neighbourhood or even just the one person you sit next to on your first lecture day. Don't.

This is the time to reach out and meet people from all over the country – and possibly other countries.

Join clubs and rotate where you sit in class so you meet other students. If you meet lots of people, you'll be improving important soft skills. By the end of college you'll be able to communicate better, and you'll have cross-cultural skills too



The college years are the best time to expand your social circle and interests.

– something that your first employer will love.

Money management

How far you progress with this depends on whether you live at home during college years or whether you take your own flat and do your own cooking.

It may be sensible the first year to live in accommodation where food is provided so you can concentrate on your studies.

But if you can, move to your own place after so you learn to shop, cook and pay the bills.

Living with others

If you study close to home, this won't be very easy but do try to stay at least one semester with other students.

Living with others teaches you tolerance, negotiation, patience and communication.

If you're unlucky and have dreadful housemates, you'll also learn important conflict survival and resolution skills.

It doesn't sound good, perhaps, however, learning this at college rather than in your first job when it is part of your record is truly worth it.

How to be more focused

DO you have that awful sense of "Where did the time go?" in the middle of a semester?

Organising your time is important but before you get there, it's worth checking out if you are unintentionally sabotaging your productivity.

Here are some common ways we can become distracted from our study goals.

Being overly concerned about small matters

It's nice to do well on everything but if you are limited in time, it makes more sense to put the most effort into the assignments that carry the most weight in terms of marks.

Work out at the beginning of the semester what you need to do and how much each piece of work counts towards your end grade.

It is important to focus your best energy on the things that really matter.

Taking on too many extra curricular activities

While it's definitely vital to have fun and learn soft skills from activities like the debate team, it's not

good if you're so overloaded with commitments that you're impinging on your study time.

Take a look at your non-essential activities and be ruthless about cutting out time eaters that don't contribute positively to your learning goals.

Not setting your study scene

To get good work done, you need to have a quiet space with all the resources you need and enough time to really get into what you're doing.

If you're trying to get things done in the coffee shop, you'll be distracted by friends, noise and other factors.

So create your workspace, gather the tools you need, switch off your phone and make studying a naturally productive activity.

Not getting enough rest

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

You need a good night's sleep every night to keep your brain buzzing along efficiently.

Engineering accreditation

STAFF of the Faculty of Engineering and Science of Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia), as well as participants from other universities and industry recently attended a one-day webinar on "Engineering Accreditation Principles and Requirements" hosted by the faculty. It was aimed at updating the latest Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC) standards introduced in 2020.

During the webinar, Ir Dr Siti Hawa Hamzah and Ir Dr Liew Chia Pao – the director and associate director respectively of the Engineering Accreditation Department of the EAC – presented the criteria for accreditation of engineering degree programmes and the major changes in the latest EAC standards.

The EAC is delegated by the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) as the only recognised accrediting body for engineering degree programmes offered in Malaysia; it currently accredits 190 programmes at 26 institutions of higher learning nationwide.

The EAC is also instrumental in ensuring that Malaysia's accredited engineering programmes are substantially equivalent to the engineering degrees of other signatories of the Washington Accord, which establishes and benchmarks the standard for professional engineering education across the 20 signatory countries.

The EAC administration has been strengthened with the setting up of the Engineering Accreditation Department, which is supported by several active committees addressing a variety of issues, including training, the accreditation management system, strategic planning and finance.



Participants of the 'Engineering Accreditation Principles and Requirements' webinar.

Prof Vu Tuong Thuy, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Science, said Curtin Malaysia has undergone numerous accreditations by the EAC through the years and all the engineering programmes it offers have the advantage of being double-accredited by the EAC and Engineers Australia, the accreditation authority for tertiary engineering education in Australia.

"Accreditation provides assurance to potential employers and the public at large on the quality of the graduates and programmes. As all graduate engineers must register with the BEM to practise engineering in Malaysia, having an EAC-accredited engineering degree is the prerequisite for

registration," said Prof Vu.

Curtin Malaysia's Faculty of Engineering and Science offers programmes in chemical, civil and construction, electrical and electronic, environmental, mechanical and petroleum engineering, as well related applied sciences such as applied geology, health, safety and environment and construction management. It also offers programmes in computing (software engineering and cyber security) and computer systems and networking.

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

How to get through a difficult course

DO you have days when you wonder why on earth you ever decided to sign up for a course? When times are tough, there are several things you can do to help you through.

First, try and build a vision of what it will be like when you complete your studies.

For example, work out what it will be like to finally get that job as a doctor and heal people, or as an architect and design houses that people love to live in. Whatever you're looking forward to, the feel-good factor of that image will then help energise you.

Second, instead of looking at the difficulties, think about your strengths. You've made it this far, so you should have plenty on your side. Maybe you're good at seeing the big picture or industrious about chasing little details.

Third, talk with a fellow student. As long as you keep it short and don't make it a constant thing that has you depressed all the time, a bit of a whimper can help you unload all the stress. Have a lovely cup of hot chocolate or an ice cream while doing this.

Fourth, go out, have some fun and forget about work for 24 hours. If you're burned out from working too hard, your brain slows down and it becomes very difficult to get anything useful done.

Recharge, re-energise and give yourself a bit of time. When you do hit the books again, you'll be all rested and efficient.

Above all, remember all the other times you thought you'd never make it and you did. You can do it.

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Cambridge University
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Exploring early childhood education

CONVERSATIONS about the importance of early childhood care and education (ECCE) have been circulating for quite some time. Even educators and parents have become active participants in these discussions as they search for the best educational opportunities for the new generation, including those with special needs.

Catering to special needs students

As the current trend of improving access to education for children with special needs has provided better awareness of the importance of early childhood care and education (ECCE), special needs education (SNE) is now more in demand.

This awareness has resulted in more inclusive education for students with special needs, giving every child an opportunity to receive individualised services at their local schools accompanied by learning approaches that provide enough support for them to reach their full potential.

Adopting the Zero Reject Policy, which states that no child should be rejected from a school, is a significant step forward. Under this policy, children with special needs and undocumented children can gain access to education and receive proper care.

With this effort to support inclusivity in the classroom, there is now strong demand for teachers who are trained in special needs education.

A major focus in inclusive special education is to effectively educate as many children as possible in mainstream schools.

In order to achieve this, it is essential that mainstream schoolteachers have sufficient knowledge regarding the different types of students considered to be Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and the practical teaching strategies needed to teach them effectively in mainstream classrooms.

All these proactive initiatives are to meet the Malaysian Education Blueprint's target of 75% of children with special needs in inclusive education programmes by 2025.

Moreover, the government has specified that ECCE teachers should possess at least a diploma qualification to raise the standards of ECCE in Malaysia.

This has encouraged many experienced teachers who have yet to attain a diploma in early childhood education to pursue one.

Flexible study options

To address these current

needs and trends, SEGi is offering the Diploma in Early Childhood Education (DECE) programme in two different ways – a conventional mode and an online mode to cater to the various needs of current teachers, including in-service teachers who have tight working schedules.

The DECE programme offers flexibility as it is conducted on weekends via online platforms.

SEGi is also offering a Bachelor of Education (Hons) across four majors:

- 1) Early childhood education (ECE)
- 2) Special needs education (SNE)
- 3) Teaching English as a second language (TESL)
- 4) Guidance and counselling

This degree programme is for teachers who wish to further their studies after obtaining a diploma.

It is essential that teachers equip themselves with both ECCE and SNE skills if they are going to work with children with special needs, as they will then have the knowledge to give the best teaching support and accommodation to address the educational needs of these children.

This is because in certain learning disabilities, children only start exhibiting symptoms at the age of three or four, and experienced ECCE teachers will be able to identify these symptoms.

Pioneer of ECCE programmes

SEGi is known as a pioneer and a trusted provider of early childhood care and educational programmes. Since 1988, they have produced thousands of highly qualified early childhood caregivers and educators.

SEGi was appointed as a champion for ECCE training by Pemandu in 2010, for the National Key Economic Area Entry Point Project 2.

SEGi also received the first batch of sponsored students from the Education Ministry, who went on to pursue their Bachelor of Education (Hons) TESL Primary Education programmes at SEGi.

In fact, an alumna with both bachelor and master degrees is now currently a respected lecturer in SEGi.

■ For further information on SEGi's ECCE programme, call 03-6145 1777 or WhatsApp 011-1210 6389 to get in touch with SEGi's counsellors.

Alternatively, log on to www.segi.edu.my

Honouring research online

THE 11th Malaysian e-Symposium of Biomedical Science (Mysymbios), a national-level undergraduate symposium, took place on March 6 and 7 via Zoom. This year, the International Medical University (IMU) was conferred the honour of hosting the annual symposium with the aim of providing a platform for final-year students, researchers and intellectual figures in biomedical science across Malaysia to present their research.

Despite a hiatus in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's event was a novel and exciting experience for many.

The highly successful event congregated more than 400 biomedical science undergraduate students and faculty from 17 private and public universities across Malaysia.

Participation was also extended to graduates so they could share their research findings due to the postponement of the event last year. To accommodate the diverse nature of biomedical research, the scope of participation ranged from hands-on laboratory-based studies to bioinformatics, meta-analyses and systematic reviews.

Biomedical science is a constantly evolving field that is rife with rapid developments and new discoveries. As such, the theme for the 2021 symposium of "Honouring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future" was apt.

The gathering of minds provided an opportunity for researchers to reflect upon past achievements and discuss emerging advances in



Thiviya giving a speech during the 11th Mysymbiosus as she is the chairperson of the organising committee consisting of 32 IMU Biomedical Science undergraduates from various cohorts.



health science research and diagnostics worldwide.

A student-driven programme, the organising committee consisted of 32 IMU Biomedical Science undergraduates led by chairperson Thiviya. Biomedical Science Faculty from participating universities, including UM, UPM, UKM, USM, UCSI, UTAR and Taylor's University were invited to judge the 40 oral and 30 poster presentations.

Outstanding presenters received a certificate of achievement and cash prizes of up to RM300.

Winners of the individual categories included the following awardees from IMU:

- Nur Adania Shaibie (BM117), first prize (Oral Presentation, Oncology Category)
- Pravin Kumran Nyanasegran (BM117), second prize (Oral

Presentation, Non-Communicable Disease Category)

- Ooi Li Ting (BM118), second prize (Poster Presentation, Wet-Lab Category)

The IMU BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science is a three-year programme and one of the few in Malaysia accredited by the IBMS, the leading professional body for scientists and students in the field of biomedical science globally.

Having completed a curriculum mapped to international standards, all graduates with an IBMS-accredited degree can apply for registration as a biomedical scientist with the Health and Care Professions Council in the UK upon completing the IBMS Certificate of Competence training portfolio.

Students may choose to obtain a biomedical science degree at the

IMU, or select a credit transfer track to complete their studies at one of three partner universities – University of Newcastle (Australia), University of Otago (New Zealand), or the University of Strathclyde (Scotland).

The next commencement dates are in July and September. If you have pre-university qualifications and have an interest in biomedical science, apply online now.

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

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

Become the best in your field

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

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

They may not live in the same environment, but you can learn to avoid common errors and see what really matters.

Second, be prepared to work hard. If it were easy to be good at something, everyone would be a genius. As the American inventor Thomas Edison said, "Genius is one per cent inspiration, 99% perspiration."

This means that your education should come first. Plan to study between lectures, and don't expect a constant stream of holidays and long weekends. Those come when you've hit the top.

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

This will make learning more efficient – and less of a strain.



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Skills for a fast-paced era

GRADUATES are a vital part of a country's workforce. They are part of the core of innovation that contributes to the well-being of the economy. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) is expected to change how we live, work and communicate. It is also likely to change the things we value and the way we value them in the future. Presently, we can already see changing business models and employment trends.

So, what does this mean for students today? In a *World Economic Forum* report, the 10 skills students would need for IR4.0 include complex problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management, coordinating with others, emotional intelligence, judgement and decision making, service orientation, negotiation and cognitive flexibility.

Moreover, the terms "reskilling" and

"upskilling" are frequently read and heard in mass media. They are sometimes used interchangeably. Previously, the terms were applicable to the industrial sector, where upskilling primarily focuses on helping employees become more skilled and relevant in their current position. On the other hand, reskilling focuses on making employees capable of taking on different jobs within an organisation.

In this fast-changing world, there is a strong need to prepare students to face the challenging future. To help students make the correct choice, HELP University has designed a concise one-year Foundation programme with a broad range of teaching goals and aspirations for students' learning that extend well beyond academic learning and into the fields of social and emotional well-being.

There are two interesting and challenging foundation courses offered at the HELP Matriculation Centre (HMC). The Foundation in Arts is specifically tailored for students who have successfully completed the SPM/O-Level examinations.

The aim of the course is to equip students with the qualifications required for entry into tertiary institutions to pursue academic disciplines such as business, economics, law, psychology, mass communication and other arts-related courses.

Similarly, the Foundation in Science enables students to obtain a strong science background before embarking on disciplines such as engineering, pharmacy, medicine and actuarial science.

Students enrolling in the Foundation in Arts or Foundation in Science are required to successfully complete a wide range of core and elective subjects. The core subjects such as English, Mathematics, and Critical Thinking prepare them for their undergraduate study.

The electives offered vary and provide students with the opportunity to experiment by studying different subjects in various disciplines at the foundation level before embarking on the most suitable discipline based on their individual strengths and interests.

According to the Faculty of University Foundation Studies dean Dhanesh Balakrishnan, this is critical in enabling students to make a more informed choice.

Dhanesh strongly feels that students should take their time to choose the right profession.

"In current times, both reskilling and upskilling have become important in the higher education sector. Students today live in the IR4.0 era which pushes for advancements in artificial intelligence and automation, which revolutionises and disrupts well-established roles and professions at an unprecedented level.

"As a Premier Digital Tech Institution, HELP's Foundation Programme not only provides sound preparation for university admittance, but also fosters characteristics of an analytical mindset, personal responsibility, perseverance and leadership that will serve the students throughout



'Foundation students balance rigorous academic study with co-curricular opportunities in sports, the arts, community service and leadership,' says Dhanesh.

professional life."

Dhanesh added that currently, online class sizes ensure that students participate actively in the learning process, receive numerous opportunities to demonstrate their learning and gain invaluable feedback on their work.

"Experienced lecturers look to engage, motivate and push the students by utilising digital tools to help them lock down their understanding of key concepts and reach their academic potential.

"Students are also encouraged to balance the rigorous academic demands with numerous co-curricular opportunities in sports, the arts, community service and leadership."

HELP Foundation students hold fast to the motto "Non Nobis Solum" (Not for Ourselves Alone) to heart. Students are encouraged to embrace the values of citizenship, leadership and service as they prepare to take their place in the global community.

The Foundation Programme at the HELP Faculty of Foundation Studies is an internationally recognised foundation as it is accepted as an entry qualification to prestigious universities in Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and many other countries.

■ For more information, call 03-2716 2000, email marketing@help.edu.my or visit www.help.edu.my



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- Psychology
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FEB | SEP
- Counselling (Master)
KPT/JPT(N/762/7/0046)/09/2026 | MQA/PA12002
SEP

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

- Dentistry
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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/PSA6111
INTAKE IN 2021
- Prosthodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0042)/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12163
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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

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FEB | JUL | SEP
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JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Biomedical Science
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JUL | SEP
- Diabetes Management and Education (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/726/7/0030)/02/2023 | MQA/PA9086
MAR | JUL
- Dietetics with Nutrition
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JUL | SEP
- Medical Biotechnology
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MAR | SEP
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KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1082)/09/2023 | MQA/PSA11354
KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1090)/12/2023 | MQA/PSA11355
KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1085)/10/2023 | MQA/PSA11353
MAR | SEP
- Health Professions Education (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0066)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA05162
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0064)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA5163
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0070)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA5164
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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/545/7/0078)/07/2022 | MQA/FA1299
MAR | SEP
- Pharmacy Practice (Master)
KPT/JPT(R/727/7/0051)/03/2024 | MQA/PSA02796
MAR | SEP
- Public Health# (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/727/7/0077)/09/2025 | A10261
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Choosing the right career path

WHEN you're choosing a basic degree, you have a career path in mind. When you do this, are you looking at starting salaries and the first few jobs you take, or are you thinking about what you think you will want when you're 30, 40 and 50 years old?

Weigh your choices carefully

Some people have a driving passion that's lifelong. For example, a person who adores the law will be diving in and out of the theories of justice and courts all their lives and they will be happy.

But supposing you just work to earn a living. In that case, what do you want to happen to your career if you plan to have kids? Start up your own business? Or do you want to retire early?

Look ahead


When you choose a basic degree, it's useful to look way beyond the first few years after you have graduated.

The question to ask is not just "What makes me happy now?" but "What do I think will make me happy when I'm older?" Then ask, "will this degree allow me to do this? If it doesn't, how difficult would it be for me to retrain?"

Explore your study options

In the past it was common for people to have a single career path but nowadays, many of us have two or even three changes of course.

As such, many universities offer degrees that have wriggle room. What you need to look at is the types of specialised units you



When choosing a basic degree, it's useful to look beyond the first few years after you have graduated.

can take. There may be an entrepreneur unit in case you want to go it alone or language unit in case you want to travel.

Ask questions

Make a list of what you want and ask the lecturers, graduates and experienced industry leaders what they think. It also helps to read job advertisements. Explore and use what you find to make the decisions that suit you best.

Drones as the new flying IoT

DRONES have become increasingly popular. Created initially as remotely guided aerial missile deployers for the military, these unmanned aerial vehicles now have a much wider range of applications.

Equipped with high-quality cameras, they are able to capture incredible aerial view photos of landscapes and are revolutionising the way films are made.

Not only have they become a tool for filmmakers, but they are also used to deliver goods, monitor climate change and aid in search and rescue missions.

A person can easily control these miniature pilotless aircraft from the ground or via a computer programme to reach remote areas with minimum effort and time.

Drone technology has flourished in the last few years and is often used in the form of small quadcopters and octocopters. Being small in size but high in speed gives drones the advantage over helicopters and small aeroplanes to perform remarkably without the need to engage pilots to fly them.

Unfortunately, remarkable creations do come with issues. Imagine seeing a drone hover near your window or while you are lounging by the poolside.

A kid may be testing out his newly purchased drone making the scenario harmless. But with issues such as remote monitoring and surveillance becoming more common these days, drones are



DroGatLight can detect objects with frequency using existing street light, IoT systems, computer vision and mobile apps.

also being looked upon as an invasion of privacy.

With Beyond Visual Line of Sight being an important feature in the drone industry, drones are able to fly beyond the normal visual range without human interference.

Though they are mostly used to track large tracts of farmland, a lot of companies are embracing this technique for more reliable drone functioning, making it crucial to track these drones.

With this in mind, Monash University School of Engineering

lecturer Dr Joanne Lim Mun Yee and her team are focused on creating a power gating technology for Internet of Things (IoT) devices capable of tracking drones and other devices with frequency signals within a designated area.

Dr Lim and undergraduate students Tay Liang Yu, Lim Teik Aun, Soh Owen and Kok Yuan Ting have invented a drone tracking system using the IoT Streetlight with computer vision known as DroGatLight.

DroGatLight can detect objects with frequency using existing



Dr Lim says DroGatLight costs considerably less than other existing technologies to date.

street light, IoT systems, computer vision and mobile apps.

DroGatLight is at its final lab scale with system prototype demonstration in an operational environment.

According to Dr Lim, the IoT technology also comes at a considerably lower cost than other existing technologies to date.

"We are currently working on further development towards object tracking, with low power usage and comprehensive signal coverage to enhance the capabilities of DroGatLight

further," Dr Lim said.

Its IoT and UAV researchers, led by Dr Lim, have been actively working on the different proof of concept and further development of IoT and drone technology for four years.

The research has created hope for providing a safe environment, especially in areas where drones may fly within the vicinity without passerby knowledge.

Drones are gaining momentum, especially in this era where delivery, monitoring and surveillance are autonomously carried out. In this context, DroGatLight is useful for UAV traffic monitoring and controlling, even as a security system for homes.

DroGatLight won a gold medal at the 31st International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition 2020, Malaysia, and has a patent pending with three copyrights.

The Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia's statement on the Asean 2040 vision mentions that digital transformation and Industry 4.0 offer many opportunities to improve resource management through drones, remote sensing and artificial intelligence that allow better monitoring of resources with the use of remote sensing, ICT and big data analytics, which is in line with the invention of DroGatLight.

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

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Raising the bar in music education

UCSI University's Institute of Music (IMus) has achieved another milestone as it is now ranked in the Top 50 in the world and was named Malaysia's best music school in the performing arts category by the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021.

This achievement came right after the institute was ranked in the Top 100 in the world for three consecutive years (2018, 2019 and 2020) in the same category.

Its director Prof Dr P'ng Tean Hwa said they were humbled to see how IMus has been recognised globally.

Dr P'ng also said IMus has been consistently focused on raising the standards of its music education.

"I would like to take this recognition as a motivation to continue improving our music education and contributing to the richness of Malaysia's cultures by actively responding to current issues or scenarios in terms of our curriculum to stay relevant," he said.

Noting that the realisation of the recognition was a collective effort with industry partners, Dr P'ng also extended his appreciation to his faculty members, students and members of the music education community that have helped IMus' endeavour so far.

"I am thankful to those who have supported us through sponsorships, continuous feedback for improvement and project collaborations. With our staff being active in conducting research and creative output



UCSI University



QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

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TOP 50 PERFORMING ARTS	TOP 100 HOSPITALITY & LEISURE MANAGEMENT	TOP 150 PETROLEUM ENGINEERING	TOP 300 BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT STUDIES
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BY SUBJECT 2021

related to music, I believe we are moving in the right direction to reach greater heights," he added.

In addition to the staff, Dr P'ng indicated that the active participation of students in competitions organised worldwide was also one of the factors that made IMus stand out from the rest.

"Our students have been actively participating in local and international competitions. Aside from that, our students are also motivated by goals to realise their true potential.

"More importantly, our students are able to secure good careers in the industry right after they graduate. This is indeed



IMus director Prof Dr P'ng Tean Hwa.

gratifying," Dr P'ng remarked.

He hopes that IMus will continue to work together with industry partners to ensure that its graduates are well equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge.

He said IMus has a clear vision and mission to be a leading music institute and develop a strong music community that cares for each other, as well as drive the standards of the higher education system to greater heights.

"The aim is to create a music community through collaborations with industry partners that will reflect each other's good values.

"Over the past three decades, IMus has been producing graduates for the industry. Some of our students were also able to enter prestigious conservatories or top music schools globally with a full scholarship. Some of them are even full professors working in renowned universities today.

"I believe we have achieved a lot. Essentially, our mission is not only to be a true leader in presenting holistic music education in the region, but to also ensure that the cultural life in Malaysia is recognised globally," he remarked.

When asked about IMus' future plans, Dr P'ng said it will focus on smaller goals before attempting to attain the larger ones.

"In future, what we are trying to do is to take one step at a time to ensure that we are doing things correctly and living up to the public's expectations. Only then will we be able to achieve greater heights.

"Additionally, we aim to introduce more industry-relevant programmes, better facilities to develop our students' potential and conduct more community engagement activities to increase the quality and standard of our music education," he said.

■ For more details, visit www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my or contact 03-9101 8882/011-3592 0893.

The university will be hosting its eOpen Day and Open Day on April 10-11 and 17-18.

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Pointers for effective speed-reading

WHEN you need to read a pile of papers very quickly, speed-reading can be a handy skill to have. Speed-reading is where you skim over a text, picking up the essential points. It's not very useful for learning, although it can help refresh your memory if you're going over something you've studied before.

Speed-reading is useful for the following reasons:

- To give you a bit of quick insight into a topic.
- For seeing what sort of information is where.
- For distinguishing between valuable resources and less valuable ones.
- For eliminating duplicate sources.

Typically, this is a skill you will use when getting ready to write an assignment or to work out your exam notes.

If you're not used to speed-reading, this is how you can build up this skill:



Speed-reading can help refresh your memory during a revision session.

Find a peaceful spot

You need silence or white noise because distractions will hamper your concentration.

Know what you're looking for

If you want information on

dominance in chickens, you can skip all the chapters that cover dominance in apes and humans.

Sort into piles

Start by sorting into "keep" and "discard" piles then sort the "keep" into topic or order of importance.

Don't reread

If you're learning, you tend to move backwards and forwards in a text to make sure you get it. Speed-reading isn't about learning so don't do this. To help you, cut a three sentence shaped hole in a piece of

paper. Drag it over the page – and don't go back.

Spot patterns

You're sorting things out, so think of the big picture. Look for key ideas, bold print and repeated tag-words.

Keep calm

Speed-reading is a skill and a useful tool but it's just one of the many you will use in learning so if you don't immediately get it, just relax and keep at it. And if after a few tries you really loathe it, drop it and find a system that works for you.

Making their way to Oxbridge



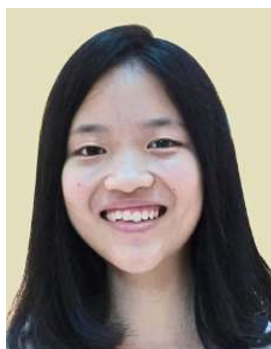
Vanness Lai Wye Junn, from Perak, said Sunway College is the go-to higher learning choice in his hometown.



Teoh Khai Yang received a conditional offer to study Computer Science at the University of Cambridge.



Jarell Cheong Tze Wen thanked his lecturers at Sunway College for boosting his 'mathematical maturity'.



Natalie Tan Wen Hui was comforted by her English Literature lecturer and mentor's help when she applied to Cambridge.



Hor Ye Heng shared that the Sunway College's A-Level provides a 'motivating environment to work hard'.



Ethan Sip Zi Cheng said Sunway College's extensive resources and lecturers aided his thirst for knowledge.



For Eng Yi Jun, sitting for his A-Level was a natural step after taking the IGCSE as he wanted to study in the UK.

DESPITE the Covid-19 pandemic, Sunway College's A-Level students once again achieved a 100% passing rate in the November examination sittings, with a number of them gaining placement in the University of Cambridge and University of Oxford, or Oxbridge for short.

At Sunway College, the A-Level programme is a golden ticket to top UK universities such as Oxbridge, as well as other prestigious international institutions.

Following in his siblings' footsteps, Vanness Lai Wye Junn from Taiping, Perak, enrolled in Sunway College, which he described as the go-to higher learning institution in his hometown.

"The environment at Sunway College is different from high school. People here are more certain of their future and the lecturers have great knowledge of their respective field of studies," he said.

Lai added that his mentor and physics lecturer, Ng Chee Beng, shared invaluable knowledge on future career prospects and the best universities to apply for, and helped perfect his personal statement to a conditional offer from the University of Cambridge to study Natural Science majoring in Physics.

For Eng Yi Jun, sitting for his A-Level was a natural step after completing IGCSE, especially since he had every intention to further his education in the UK.

The budding doctor is still in disbelief after receiving a conditional offer to read Medicine at the University of Oxford.

"I am thankful for the help of my mentor and biology lecturer Dr Khor Shy Cien. I still remember her taking time to chat and reassure me when I was worried about my University Clinical Aptitude Test," he said.

Eng also expressed his gratitude to the International Office University Placement at Sunway College for its support and advice on his university application.

With a burning passion to be an electrical engineer, Hor Ye Heng shared that the A-Level at Sunway College provided a "motivating environment to work hard".

Hor received a conditional offer to pursue Electrical Engineering at the University of Cambridge and received invaluable advice from his mentor and chemistry lecturer Chan Hui Ting and physics lecturer Chan Wai Tuck.

Teoh Khai Yang received a conditional offer to study Computer Science at the

University of Cambridge. He expressed his gratitude to his lecturers, describing them as the "best group of teachers" he ever had.

"My experience at Sunway College – the events, friends and lecturers – helped me achieved many goals and I am grateful to all of them," he said.

Meanwhile, Jarell Cheong Tze Wen reminisced about a trip he took to Sunway College while in secondary school and recalled falling in love with its library.

After enrolling, Cheong discovered Sunway College had the best A-Level further mathematics faculty in Malaysia. The 20-year-old said his lecturers boosted his "mathematical maturity".

His pure mathematics lecturer inspired him to further pursue mathematics.

"It was the way he explained concepts. I not only understood, I was curious and wanted to learn more," he said, adding that he "screamed until I lost my voice" upon receiving his conditional offer to study Mathematics at the University of Cambridge.

Cheong also represented Malaysia in the Dancesports Events in the 2019 SEA Games.

Sharing the same sentiment, Natalie Tan Wen Hui shared, "When I read the words 'Congratulations' on my conditional offer letter, I immediately screamed and ran to my mother."

She will be reading Law at the University of Cambridge.

The application process to Cambridge was stressful, but Tan found comfort in the help she received from her English Literature lecturer and mentor.

With a passion for chemistry, Ethan Sip Zi Cheng found that Sunway College's extensive library, online journal collection and lecturers aided his thirst for knowledge.

"The lecturers guided me through my doubts even if my questions were not in the syllabus. They welcome and are open to questions," he said.

The budding academic, who will be studying Biochemistry at the University of Oxford, is certain that "Sunway College helped me realise this was possible".

With a knack for preparing students with their university applications, Sunway College also provides additional guidance and support through outreach programmes conducted in collaboration with Cambridge University Malaysia Society (CUMaS) and Oxford University Malaysia Club (OUMC).

The programme has also aided students in developing soft skills like leadership qualities through participation in the Sunway College A-Level Student Council.

Sunway College is also pioneering

Sunway Pre-U LEADS, a co-curricular programme to nurture students' holistic development for personal growth and success by equipping them with necessary life skills beyond their

academic achievements.

■ For more information on the programmes offered at Sunway College, log on to college.sunway.edu.my or email info@sunway.edu.my.



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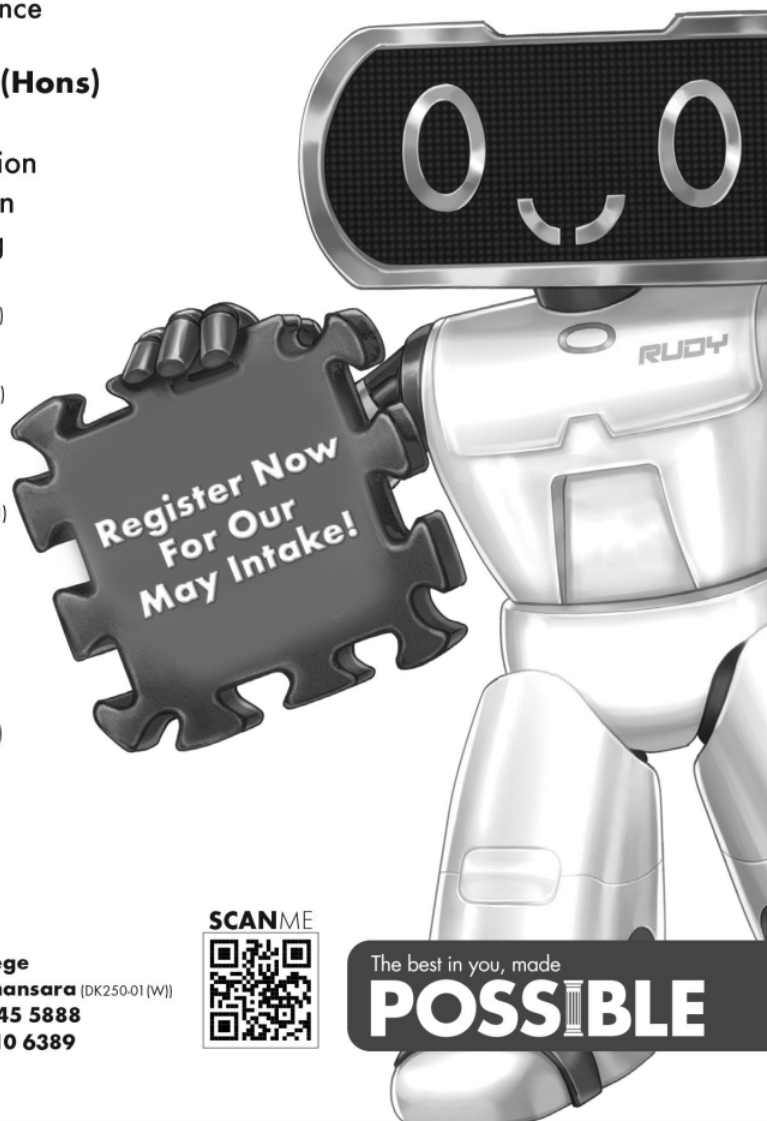
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THE medical profession emphasises integrity and caring for people when they are most vulnerable.

"The science of medicine is fascinating. As a doctor, I'm able to advocate evidence-based intervention and impact my patients positively, which really inspires me," shared Dr Edmund L.C. Ong, Honorary Professor of Medicine at Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed).

Dr Ong has vast experience in infectious diseases and general internal medicine, a field in which he has garnered many years of practice in the UK.

He believes that successful medical students need to be able to assimilate, understand and apply a wide knowledge base within a clinical setting.

"They should be compassionate and have good communication and organisational skills," he added.

In its commitment to delivering high-quality medical education, NUMed plays an essential role in shaping doctors of the future and

preparing them for the world of medicine.

"For one, NUMed's academics consist of skilled and trained lecturers from diverse backgrounds, with a number of them seconded from the UK campus.

"Secondly, NUMed uses an integrated case-led teaching approach that focuses on looking at patients holistically," said Dr Ong.

The first two years of the university's five-year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme are focused on key areas such as clinical skills and medical sciences as well as ethics and professionalism.

While the teaching mainly happens on campus, students are already provided with opportunities for patient contact in hospitals and community centres. In fact, they can expect a mixture of online and in-person on- and off-campus teaching, including laboratories, tutorials and workshops.

From Year 3 onwards, students attend various placements across the state of Johor.



As part of its commitment to delivering high-quality medical education, NUMed plays an essential role in shaping doctors of the future and preparing them for the world of medicine.

"Rotations include small-group clinical bedside teaching. Furthermore, to develop the students' specialist knowledge and skills, they are placed in hospitals and community-based clinics (such as the government clinics)," Dr Ong elaborated.

"A career in medicine is a life-long commitment of keeping up-to-date with relevant knowledge and skills, as well as professionalism. You need to be open and honest, and act with integrity so that patients and colleagues are able to maintain trust in you," said Dr Ong.

As a founding member of the Russell Group, Newcastle

University, UK, is recognised as a world-class, research-intensive university. As its fully owned international campus, NUMed provides its students with top-notch British-style education, with the same UK curricula and qualifications as what is offered at its parent university.

NUMed offers a pre-undergraduate programme – Foundation in Biological and Biomedical Sciences – and two undergraduate programmes: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences (BMS).

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

"NUMed's academics consist of skilled and trained lecturers from diverse backgrounds, with a number of them seconded from the UK campus."

Dr Ong



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