

StarSpecial

THE STAR, THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2021

HIGHER EDUCATION



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Take the first step of your journey to success today, beginning with this pull-out for awesome ideas and tips.

Keeping up with your deadlines

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

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

First, forget pen and paper. For good time management, you need a calendar, like the one that comes with your tablet or smartphone. If

you don't have a device that's got a nice large screen, set up a Google account and use its free calendar.

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

Second, put in the deadlines for the entire semester. Make these all-day events so that they're easy to spot. Put in an alert that tells you a few days before that these deadlines are creeping up on you.

Deconstruct what needs to be

done for each deadline. You may also want to do your reading a week or two before, and then devote three days to nothing else but the assignment.

Alternatively, you may go for the "salami" approach where you do it piece by piece.

For example, you may want to divide a paper into research, writing the introduction, writing the literature review, writing your argument, writing your conclusion, organising your references and printing.

However you approach it, put each task into your calendar, blocking the right amount of time.

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

The trick is to know how to push yourself to stick to the schedule. Decide if you want to go day by day or if you need timely reminders.





If you need reminders, you have to set them carefully so that you're not jolted out of a class by a notice that says you have to do something the next day.

This is something you have to learn as you go along.


Tip: give yourself study reminders 10 minutes before you're supposed to sit down. That gives you time to stop whatever you're up to and get down to the books.

Finally, get into the habit of reading during downtimes like when you're using any public transport, in a queue or having a coffee by yourself.

You'll be amazed at how much you can read in just 15 minutes, three times a week.

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Music graduate scores for Nintendo

UCSI University's Bachelor of Contemporary Music (Hons) alumnus Elmer Ho Lok Zhan is a music composer, producer, educator and entrepreneur who has made a hit in the international gaming industry where he worked alongside the producer on the music and audio for *Ageless* on Nintendo Switch.

Ageless is a puzzle platformer game that was launched in May 2020, developed by One More Dream Studios and published by Team17, the same publisher that produced the games *Worms* and *Overcooked*.

"We were so overjoyed when it was premiered at Pax East 2020 earlier this year. My team, which includes some interns from UCSI University, have worked really hard to make this into a reality.

"For us, it's about creating amazing things for people to enjoy and for me, achieving this recognition was something that we accumulated over the years. UCSI does provide a good musical foundation, however, for a person to make it in the industry, it would take a very specific combination of knowledge and experience to break through," he said.

"Arranging the music score and designing the audio was a lengthy process as we needed to be together with the game producers from the very beginning to know about their direction. With the help of everyone, this was a success," he highlighted. Prior to his achievement, Elmer started as a freelance composer and worked in post-production when a window of opportunity opened up to him to pursue a dream he wished for all along.

Without hesitation, he used up all his savings, flew to Tokyo and joined the anime/game industry as well as worked in the local music industry.

He then worked with Dagmusic, a company that produced audio, music and voice overs (VOs) for anime games while doing gigs, judging competitions and even working together with various Youtubers.

"My life in Tokyo was beyond imagination but I believed that, there, I could find what I was looking for. Few years after, I came back to Malaysia and became a part of the company called Soundtrec, a Boston and Malaysian-based music production company for games, films and anime where we did music production for various projects internationally and locally, notably the music for Level Up KL and several other projects such as *Lazy Fish*, *Kings League 2* and *Dragon Marked for Death*.

"It was also during this time when



Elmer (left) as the music director and Yans Lee (right) as the project manager for 'Ageless' for Nintendo Switch.

"For us, it's about creating amazing things for people to enjoy and for me, achieving this recognition was something that we accumulated over the years."

Elmer Ho Lok Zhan

I went on a mission to spread the news of production, pushing different projects in the industry while giving talks at various events, TEDx, universities and working alongside various entities to provide workshops for those needing specialised skills. To develop young talents and breach a new market, we gathered the interns under an umbrella called Medibeats," he said.

"I chose to study contemporary music because I'd like to move

towards the arrangement of the music. It is more like a perspective kind of thing where I can express what I want, not being limited by various factors," he stated when asked on why he chose to further his studies in contemporary music.

As Elmer put it, "The food you do not eat today, gets less fresh every day until either someone eats it or it spoils. Such are your dreams and ideas."

The music score was fully produced by Elmer and mastered by Yans Lee as the project manager together with their team which included a few interns, namely Tan You Jia, Richard Siaw, Phan Sin Zou and Charles Dan from UCSI University and several other team members mentioned in the credits of the game.

UCSI's Institute of Music (IMus) is among the world's top 50 for performing arts. It offers a variety of music programmes from foundation up to postgraduate level providing budding musicians with promising careers.

■ For more information, visit www.ucsiuniversity.com.my or call 03-9101 8882/011-3592 0893. The university will be hosting its Info and eInfo day from November to December 2021.



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Management and Science University (MSU) focuses on developing and delivering quality human capital in critical-need areas.

Transforming lives, enriching future

MAKING an impact in Malaysia, Asia, as well as globally, Management and Science University (MSU) focuses on developing and delivering quality human capital in critical-need areas.

Among these are Medicine, Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Information Sciences, and Engineering, besides Business Management & Professional Studies, Education & Social Sciences, Hospitality & Culinary, and Music & Fashion.

The university's award-winning academic programmes meet stringent standards of local and international bodies.

MSU accreditors include the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the United Kingdom's Accreditation Services for International Schools, Colleges & Universities (ASIC), the Japan's Alliance on Business Education and Scholarship for Tomorrow (ABEST21), the Netherland's Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial & Engaged Universities (ACEEU), the United Kingdom's Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) as well as Sri Lanka's University Grant Commission (UGC).

MSU currently ranks in the Top 100 among the world's top young universities, Top 150 among Asia's best universities, Top 301+ for Graduate Employability Ranking and Top 601+ for University Impact.

Ranked by both Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE), MSU's world rankings place it in the Top 47% of the world's best universities in the QS WUR 2022 and Top 200 for impact on gender equality and no poverty in THE University Impact Rankings 2021.

In recent QS WUR by Subject 2021, MSU has emerged Malaysia #1 for Subject's Art and Design category, at World Top 151-200 list.

QS WUR by Subject 2021 also places MSU at World Top 51-100 and Top 2 among Malaysia's institutions of higher education offering Hospitality and Leisure Management programmes.

Another new entrant securing a QS world ranking is Business and Management Studies, placing MSU at Malaysia Top 11 and World Top 451-500.

The Asia-Pacific Triple-E Awards 2020 by the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities (ACEEU) shortlisted MSU as a Finalist for both the category of Entrepreneur University of the Year and Student-Driven Sustainability Project of the Year.

Its President, Prof Tan Sri Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid is the inaugural recipient of the ACEEU Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship Award.

MSU has also been awarded Platinum 5 Crowns by the UK's Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (ASIC); and QS-rated 5-Stars on the metrics of Overall as well as individually across Teaching, Graduate Employability, Academic Development, Internationalization, Online Learning, Social Responsibility, Inclusiveness, and Hospitality and Leisure Management.

MSU is Asia's first to be recognised by Netherlands-based ACEEU as an Entrepreneurial and Engaged University and is the Asia Pacific Best Brand in Education for Leadership and Human Capital Development.

Besides internationalisation, the MSU mis-

sion for excellence in human capital development is benchmarked by industry employability, entrepreneurship, and community sustainability; supported by research, life-long learning, and flexible education.

MSU is an applied, enterprise university focused on graduate employability. With 98.7% of its graduates successfully securing employment within six months of their graduation, MSU is ranked by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) as Malaysia's No.1 for graduate employability.

MSU is also the first university recognised outside of Japan by the Alliance on Business Education and Scholarship for Tomorrow (ABEST21) and the first to be recognised by the UK's ASIC as a Global TVET Model University with Outstanding Leadership in International TVET Education as well as Fellowship Award for Leadership.

MSU had received the ASIC double awards of Excellence in Quality International Education and Outstanding Contribution to International Education.

MSU International Medical School Bangalore campus is Malaysia's first offshore medical school granted the full five-year accreditation by the Malaysian Medical Council, and MSU Medical Centre is the country's first private teaching hospital.

In addition, MSU's MBBS programme is recognised by Medical Council of India (MCI), Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) and Maldives Medical and Dental Council (MMDC).

As a top university in Malaysia and the country's best teaching and learning university, MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability.

Its highly qualified academics and international visiting professors support a holistic curricular framework that delivers compelling learning experiences.

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.

Extensive partnerships and collaborations with institutions in over 40 countries worldwide provide comprehensive mobility opportunities for all MSU students, enhancing their graduate employability through global exposure by studies and internships abroad.

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

As an applied, enterprise, holistic and international university, MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates admission of students from all walks of life, where it aims to transform lives and enrich future.

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

Nurturing creativity and innovation

CREATIVITY is one of the most sought-after traits by employers today as it leads to innovative thinking and introduces new solutions.

At Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's (UTAR) Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI), students are nurtured through a solid and broad foundation that allows them to hone their creative skills, develop problem-solving abilities, think critically, communicate with others, work in a team, and develop vital digital skillsets.

FCI offers various exciting courses such as Bachelor of Communication (Honours) Broadcasting, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Graphic Design and Multimedia, Bachelor of Corporate Communication (Honours), Bachelor of Media and Creative Studies (Honours), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Game Design, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Journalism in Chinese Media, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Honours), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Digital Animation and Bachelor of Science (Honours) Game Development.

Its advanced courses paired with new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and robotics will fully prepare graduates for the world of high-level creative applications.

These programmes groom students to specialise in niche fields, where they can work with the latest technology to develop video games, animation, digital illustrations, web projects, event management as well as learn innovative



FCI offers various exciting courses.

teaching practices.

As part of UTAR's commitment to high quality, standards and rigour in its academic programmes, the university has established a panel of external examiners comprising well-known academicians and professionals in their respective fields.

Eminent academicians/professors have been appointed such as Assoc Prof Dr Seth Giddings from Southampton University, Prof Dr Christine Huang from The City University of Hong Kong, Assoc Prof Dr Peter Pugsley from the University of Adelaide, Dr Brigitta Hosea from the University of the Creative Arts, Prof Dr John Wen from Shih Hsin University, Prof Dr Cheng Po-Hsun from National

Kaoshiung Normal University, Prof Huang Ya-Ling from National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, Assoc Prof Dr Cheng Ya-Li from Tzu Chi University and Assoc Prof Dr Catherine Gomes from RMIT University.

The faculty has also received strong industry support in industrial placement for its students, organised frequent talks for its staff and students, mentoring of senior students and employment of its graduates.

Over 190 companies have provided industrial training for its students.

FCI dean Dr David C.E. Tneh said, "UTAR-FCI is a home-grown institution with a global interna-



Its advanced courses paired with new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and robotics will fully prepare graduates for the world of high-level creative applications.

tional outlook, and here in the faculty, our education standards and the quality of our courses are exceptional.

"We do not produce graduates who are 'tailor-made' for the industry. Rather, we groom graduates who can adapt and be critical thinkers and doers of the 21st-century global creative economy.

"Our programmes are fun, exciting and practical. In FCI, we strive to be more than mere 'players' in the 'education industry.' We strive and aspire to be caring educators of the future that impart not only knowledge and education but also kindness, integrity, love, humility,

grit and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge that broaden and enlighten."

UTAR offers courses in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in various areas, and engages in the provision and conduct of research, consultation, management and leadership training and other related educational services at its campuses at Bandar Sungai Long and Kampar in Malaysia.

■ For more details, log on to www.utar.edu.my or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).

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Driving towards a sustainable society

THE University Malaysia of Computer Science and Engineering (UNIMY) will be hosting the inaugural International Conference on Frontiers of Digital Technology Towards a Sustainable Society (ICDiTS 2022) on Jan 26 and 27, 2022.

The virtual conference, UNIMY's launchpad for its 10th year anniversary celebration, will see two prominent keynote speakers – Prof Dr Ajith Abraham, Machine Intelligence Research Labs director and Prof Dr San Murugesan, BRITE Professional Services director – sharing the latest on machine intelligence and green IT respectively.

UNIMY vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Ts Dr Mohd Razali Muhamad shared, "Digital technology advancements have spread rapidly across the world, especially during the pandemic, providing every nation with unprecedented opportunities to boost productivity growth, employment and quality of life.

"At the same time, we must be careful to make our technology and actions sustainable. I have been asked many times whether digital technology/digitalisation and sustainability are opposites? Or can new technologies such as artificial intelligence even contribute to making our lives more sustainable? Is technical progress perhaps even the only answer to climate change? This conference aims to provide insights to these questions and offers an overview of the future-friendly developments in our digital society."

Datuk Razali added, "With renowned individuals like Prof Dr San Murugesan who has developed and delivered multilevel certification and training programmes on Green IT, the Internet of Things, among others and Prof Dr Ajith Abraham known for his work in a multi-disciplinary environment involving for example machine intelligence, cyber-physical systems and its application to real world issues, we are confident attendees will leave ICDiTS 2022 with enhanced appre-



Datuk Razali: 'Digital technology advancements have spread rapidly across the world, especially during the pandemic, providing every nation with unprecedented opportunities to boost productivity growth, employment and quality of life.'

ciation of key issues impacting frontiers of digital technology and its role towards achieving a sustainable society."

According to Conference chair and UNIMY Transformative Learning head Dr Nor Azlinah Md Lazam, "The ICDiTS 2022 highlights the tight correlations and interlinks between the different expertise that we have with the conference's co-organisers – local partners Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia and international partners Universitas Mulia Indonesia, Universitas Raharja Indonesia and Gaza University."

"We believe ICDiTS 2022 would be an excellent platform for a discourse on innovative ideas given the scope of the seven theme-based tracks that is available – Coding Development and Operation, Internet of Everything and Smart Machine, AI and Intelligent Machine, Cybersecurity, Extended Reality (AR, VR, XR) and Creative Digital Multimedia, Cloud Computing and Software Engineering, and Digital Business," shared Dr Nor Azlinah adding, "In addition to providing an opportunity for all to network, share ideas, and present their research to a worldwide community; discussion on the

"We look forward to welcoming academicians, researchers, students and crucial partners from various fields to present their essential work."

Prof Datuk Ts Dr Mohd Razali Muhamad


latest innovations, trends and practical concerns, and challenges in these fields are also encouraged. Full paper could be submitted by Dec 15 while ICDiTS 2022 proceedings will be published in a Scopus indexed publication by AIP and also in the *Albukhary Social Business Journal* indexed by MyJurnal (Malaysian Citation Centre)."

"We look forward to welcoming academicians, researchers, students and crucial partners from various fields to present their essential work, reflecting learnings that would establish an ecosystem which can unite and build bridges, a network of links that allows us to exchange ideas and tackle challenges, and turn them into opportunities for a sustainable society," concluded Datuk Razali.

■ Information on ICDiTS is available at <https://icdits2022.unimy.edu.my>

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