

# Star Special

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EDUCATION GUIDE

## Bridging the world

THE rapid development of today's marine industry has been going on for decades. The large scope of the industry includes various types of vessels, offshore platform design, construction, operation and maintenance up to the production of shipping spare parts and equipment.

There are more professional and semi-professional bodies working in the marine industry and other related bodies.

By looking at the statistics and human resource requirements in the industry, Universiti Kuala Lumpur-Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL-MIMET) is always on the ground to support those requests.

It plays an important role in capacity building and networking in providing a trained workforce to meet the growing demand for highly skilled human capital in the sector.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recognised the importance of human resources to the development of the maritime industry and has

given priority in helping to improve maritime training facilities and model training courses.

UniKL-MIMET offers programmes to train students to become qualified personnel as Officers in Charge of Engineering Supervision (OICEW) and Electrical Technical Officers (ETO) to meet the needs of the industry. The seagoing programme is developed based on the IMO model courses IMO7.04 and 7.08 which makes this programme recognised worldwide.

UniKL-MIMET's Diploma in Marine Engineering Technology and Diploma in Engineering Technology in Electricity and Electronics (Marine) are in line with national needs to increasingly liberalise the maintenance, repair and troubleshooting of various marine equipment including communication systems, navigation, generators, motor switchboards and other electrical and electronic equipment.

The structure of the programmes prioritise hands-on or

practical learning methods. The students are exposed to the importance of their duties on board, especially in the modern era where ships are becoming more automated and dependent on technology. They are responsible for ensuring that all electrical and electronic systems on board are working properly, and they play an important role in keeping the ship and its crew safe.

Before graduation, students will undergo 24 weeks of industrial training at a real workplace. All of these broad subjects are designed to advance both technical knowledge and soft skills in communication, management, technology entrepreneurship and professional practice.

Apart from engineering technology subjects, the programme also offers skills in technology entrepreneurship, design innovation and projects. This is to ensure that they are good technical workers with high skills, creative, innovative and capable of managing, operating and maintaining any system related



UniKL-MIMET's programmes prioritise hands-on or practical learning methods.

to the marine industry.

The programme is internationally recognised thanks to the model course from the IMO. It is also closely monitored by the administrator, the Malaysian Marine Department. In addition, this programme is also approved and recognised by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, the Engineering Technology Accreditation Council and the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology.

The campus is located on the

east coast of Peninsular Malaysia and has facilities that comply with IMO requirements. It includes a 250-tonne hardstand, marine workshop, light and heavy workshop, electrical and electronics lab, automation and control lab and materials lab.

■ For admission and details, check out its website at [www.unikl.edu.my](http://www.unikl.edu.my) or contact the admission office at 05-690 9014 or 010-650 9014 or email [admission.mimet@unikl.edu.my](mailto:admission.mimet@unikl.edu.my)



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# Celebrating the best innovators

A DEPLOYABLE sensor system capable of flying under the radar to track aircraft and satellites, a chatbot designed to support mental health in young people and a leading national education platform that is improving access to school content are among the 19 finalists for Curtin University's annual Curtin Innovation Awards for 2023 announced by the varsity in Miri, Sarawak, recently.

Among the finalists is a team of researchers from Curtin University's Malaysian campus (Curtin University Malaysia) that has developed an AI-driven model to predict the quality of a pineapple that does not damage the fruit.

With Malaysia producing on average 400,000 to 600,000 tonnes of pineapples yearly, this new innovation aims to benefit the local pineapple market by helping producers identify higher quality varieties whilst reducing product waste.

Curtin University Commercialisation director Rohan McDougall congratulated the finalists on transforming innovative research into real-world solutions.

"The judging panel and selection committee, made up

of industry professionals, has unanimously agreed this year's pool of applicants is among the highest quality we have seen in the award's 16-year history," McDougall said.

The Curtin Innovation Awards recognise and celebrate individuals and teams that have made significant strides in innovative research, developing new innovations through research, study or work at Curtin University that have the potential to significantly benefit society.

McDougall said that the finalists would receive wider recognition of their work and be considered for further support towards commercialisation of their innovations. The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony in Perth on Oct 20, and will share a prize pool valued at A\$100,000 (RM300,000).

The outstanding contributions to research and innovation of the Malaysian finalists, Dr Christine Yeo Wan Sieng and Eric Chua Yong Hong, through their innovation entitled 'A New AI-driven Model to Predict Pineapple Quality based on the Fruit's Skin Colour' propelled them to be among the top contenders for this prestigious recognition.



The outstanding contributions of Dr Yeo (left) and Chua propelled them to be among the top contenders for this prestigious recognition.

Dr Yeo is a senior lecturer and researcher in Curtin Malaysia's Department of Chemical and Energy Engineering while Chua is a chemical engineering research student under her supervision.

Curtin Malaysia's research and development dean Prof Ramasamy Nagarajan said, "Dr Yeo has consistently displayed exceptional dedication and expertise in her research work. "Her pioneering work in infer-



ential sensor design has garnered widespread recognition and appreciation from peers and experts alike.

"By pushing the boundaries of knowledge and adopting innovative methodologies, she has made significant advancements in her field."

Meanwhile, the varsity's pro vice-chancellor, president and chief executive Prof Simon Leunig said, "Through her efforts, Dr Yeo has not only

contributed to the scientific community but also enhanced the reputation of Curtin Malaysia as an esteemed research-active institution.

"Her commitment to excellence and pursuit of cutting-edge research have stood out among a highly competitive field of finalists."

Prof Leunig also congratulated Chua on his contribution, saying, "Research students like Chua are instrumental in driving our research activities, securing research grants, and winning awards.

"Their contributions fuel innovation, expand knowledge, foster collaborations, and help shape the future of research and academia."

Prof Leunig wished both Dr Yeo and Chua the best of luck in the finals in October.

■ For more information about the Curtin Innovation Awards, visit <https://www.curtin.edu.au/engage/entrepreneurs/curtininnovation-awards/>

For details on Curtin Malaysia, log on to [www.curtin.edu.my](http://www.curtin.edu.my), or look for Curtin Malaysia on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and TikTok.



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UniKL Page



## A bright future in accounting

PROFESSIONS in accounting and finance are in high demand across all industries and spectrums.

These professionals are in charge of budgeting and financial advice, as well as preparing annual financial statements and auditing a company's accounts efficiently.

Recognising the importance of knowledgeable and skilled accounting personnel, MSU College (MSUC) offers the Diploma in Accounting through its School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies (SHB) to those who enjoy working with numbers and calculations.

Accounting principles and auditing will be taught to students, as well as the most recent developments in economics, management, marketing, finance and insurance.

The curriculum ensures that students are not only capable of performing accounting transactions, but also in making tough business decisions.

This programme provides students with a solid foundation for mastering theory and techniques to understand financial and accounting activities. Topics of study include economics, information technology and accounting law.

Students with three credits in Mathematics, Science and any other subject in their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or recognised certificates can expect a conducive learning environment with high-calibre academics with years of practice and experience in the field.

Various character-building programmes, including those linked to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) initiatives, community engagements and entrepreneurial embedded ecosystems, will be embedded into students' learning experience to help them become more competitive and well rounded.



MSU College's Diploma in Accounting is specially designed for those who enjoy working with numbers and calculations.

Credit transfer allows MSUC graduates to pursue a second-year bachelor's degree at Management and Science University (MSU) through its Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies (FMBP).

Students are also encouraged to pursue additional accounting certifications such as ACCA or CAT in order to increase their earning power.

Other programmes offered by SHB include Early Childhood Education, Management and English Language Teaching (ELT).

MSU College is also a 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.

■ Look out for more information on programmes offered by visiting [www.msucollege.edu.my](http://www.msucollege.edu.my). You can also email enquiry@msucollege.my or call 03-5521 6868.

# Tips for improving your memory

GOT a mind like a sieve? Here are some ideas to help you plug those holes.

## Stop multi-tasking

It's been a popular idea that we can do several things at once, but studies show we can't. At least, we can't do anything particularly well unless our mind is focused on it. For example, you might think you can wash a car automatically as you work out a good approach to your essay but what happens is that your mind is occupied by the academic issue. If some evil person would happen to put paint in the bucket, chances are you'd not notice

until your paintwork was ruined. So rule No.1 is to focus. When you're listening to a lecture, switch off your phone. Don't try and read a book. Just open your ears and listen.

## Get some sleep

When you're tired, your body doesn't work well and that includes your brain. This means getting in at least seven hours of sleep a night. If you have insomnia, knock off the soft drinks, coffees, green teas and teh tarik. Exercise at the end of the day, have a warm shower and make sure you have a comfortable bed. If you

have noisy neighbours, foam ear plugs are cheap and easy to source.

## Write, don't type or save an image

When you read notes, you're working just a small part of your brain. When you write them down, you're using your body – something that helps stimulate your mind and your memory. So instead of passive reading or copying cute-looking infographics from the Net, start writing your own notes. Honestly, you'll be amazed how effective a memory boost it is. If you can, read over your own notes while you work out to boost retention.



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# Exploring education beyond the classroom

PROVIDING an opportunity to explore education beyond classrooms are the Global Mobility Programme (GMP), Global Leadership Programme (GLP), and Global Internship Programme (GIP) at Management and Science University (MSU).

These three programmes collectively empower MSU students to become global citizens, visionary leaders, and skilled professionals ready to make a meaningful impact on society.

By embracing these programmes, students embark on a transformative journey that prepares them to thrive in an interconnected and dynamic world.

Scholarship for Mobility and International Learning Experiences (SMILE) is a prominent flagship initiative that was introduced and launched by MSU through its endowment, Yayasan MSU, to support students' growth and ensure a transformative journey for them.

With the objective of offering financial aid to students at MSU, as well as at 350 affiliated universities, spanning various faculties, colleges, and offshore campuses, the SMILE programme fosters a heightened inclination among students to venture beyond the confines of the campus.

This exposure enables them to gain distinctive knowledge and a multitude of enriching experiences crucial for their post-graduation endeavours.

Taking place at the Performing Arts Theatre (PAT) at Shah Alam campus, the launch of SMILE was attended by MSU president Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid, MSU vice-chancellor Prof Puan Sri Dr Junainah Abd Hamid, Yayasan MSU vice-president Datuk Rosli Yusof, Research and International Affairs vice-president Prof Dr Indang Ariati Ariffin, as well as staff and students from MSU.

Additionally, inbound students from partner universities and offshore campuses, namely Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, attached to the School of Pharmacy; Universitas Negeri Makassar, attached to the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies; and Management and Science Institute, Colombo, attached to the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, were also in attendance.



MSU students at Hanze University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands.

The Double Degree Programme of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) students from Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR); MSU Colleges; Jakarta Global University (JGU); Thaksin University, Thailand; Amity University, India; and Henan Polytechnic University, China, were among the students and staff joining the launching virtually.

Prof Mohd Shukri emphasised internationalisation as the primary essence of the varsity.

"Internationalisation is the only way forward in embracing cultural competence. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our nation.

"However, it is crucial to note that this should not hinder any individuals affiliated with MSU interested in pursuing global exposure.

"To alleviate the load and enhance prospects, Yayasan MSU has enhanced its endowment service to foster a broader understanding through collaborating with unique cultures and individuals worldwide. This presents a significant opportunity for MSU students to develop into well-rounded individuals with a holistic and balanced approach."

The SMILE programme aims to provide comprehensive support to students enrolled in the MSU Group of Colleges nationwide and those participating in outbound and inbound academic exchanges through GMP, GLP and GIP.

Additionally, SMILE facilitates research mobility by offering funds for travel costs and post-doctoral research initiatives.

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 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 at Transforming Lives and Enriching Futures.



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# Transforming waste into gems

A RADIO news broadcast reported that up to 36,699 tonnes of waste is produced in Malaysia every day. Among them, food waste accounts for a substantial amount. Moreover, the waste produced by the industry aggravates the hazard towards the environment.

Take for example, the waste from the palm oil industry which could reach as high as 80 million tonnes per year.

"As a university lecturer, how can we make changes to this situation?" Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Faculty of Science (FSc) academics Dr Lam Ming Quan and Dr Ee Kah Yaw mused on this issue.

"In one of our discussions, we decided to introduce a waste management-related project as our final year project for undergraduate students.

"By a stroke of luck, we brought our students on a field study to the nearby BioLoop Sdn Bhd, a biotech company that cultivates insects as the next generation of sustainable food protein," Dr Lam and Dr Ee added.

The two young owners of the company, who returned from studying abroad, are now settled in Teluk Intan, Perak. They built their dreams in the small town while making contributions to the future of biotech.

Yet one may ask. Why are they looking for insects when they only wish to study the manage-

ment of waste? What is the connection? Can it even make money?

The insects in question, black soldier fly larvae, are a type of insect that consumes any organic waste.

Describing the insects as the bearers of great ability is no exaggeration.

They are the connoisseurs of organic waste, digesting the waste in their stomachs and then absorbing them as nutrients to be reconstructed as muscle.

Such a process converts organic waste into a new generation of food protein, which could be utilised as raw material for food production, or animal and fish feed after processing.

Besides, the frass excreted by the larvae during their growth can be turned into fertiliser with the help of microorganisms to provide nutrients for crops, thus realising the concept of turning waste into gems once again.

These processes mark the engagement of different fields of sciences as they strive for a zero-waste future.

"Listening to the young owners' explanation on the cultivation process of larvae, coupled with the food sampling of roasted larvae by the students, our minds couldn't help but cry, 'How exciting!'."

"These kinds of practical experiences are indeed not available in the classroom.



Dr Ee (far left) and Dr Lam (second from left) leading the students during the field study to the BioLoop factory.

"They are extremely rare experiences. The engaged students were from different departments of FSc, including students from Biotechnology, Food Science, Microbiology and Agricultural Science programmes.

"This visit made them realise the prospects of studying in their respective programmes, and at the same time evoked their zeal towards their future professions.

"Not to mention, the students fulfilled their objectives during the visit, as they brought waste samples back from the company. They will subsequently conduct experiments on the waste samples and strive to explore new

possibilities in turning waste into gems," enthused Dr Lam and Dr Ee.

The importance of science should never be disregarded. A country's prosperity is mainly dependent on the sustainable incomes deriving from new inventions.

Undergraduate programmes offered by UTAR's Faculty of Science (FSc) include Agricultural Science, Food Science, Biomedical Science, Dietetics, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Logistics and International Shipping, and Statistical Computing and Operations Research.

Postgraduate programmes such as Master of Science, Master of Science (Mathematics), Master of Science in Biological Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Science), Doctor of Philosophy (Mathematics), and Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Science are also available.

For more information on science programmes, visit [www.fsc.utar.edu.my](http://www.fsc.utar.edu.my) or contact Dr Lam (email: [lammq@utar.edu.my](mailto:lammq@utar.edu.my)) and Dr Ee (email: [eeeky@utar.edu.my](mailto:eeeky@utar.edu.my)).

UTAR also offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in areas including Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Applied Mathematics, Arts, Chinese Studies, Malaysia Studies, Business and Economics, Biotechnology, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences, Media and Journalism, Education and General Studies, and 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.

■ For more information, visit [www.utar.edu.my](http://www.utar.edu.my) or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus), 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).

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