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THE STAR, THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021

EDUCATION GUIDE

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Years

Producing quality doctors and dentists

IT is often said that the study of medicine and dentistry requires strong academic foundation. As linguistically challenging fields of study where Latin terminology peppers the students' vocabulary, the journey to becoming a doctor or dentist is indeed not an easy one.

In 2020, Manipal University College Malaysia (MUCM), formerly known as Melaka-Manipal Medical College, made the bold decision to honour high-calibre future doctors and dentists in their pursuit of MBBS or BDS by introducing the MMMC Scholarship Awards.

A total value of RM1.5mil in tuition fee scholarships awaits Malaysian citizens wishing to pursue their MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine-Bachelor of Surgery) or BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) with the college.

"It is a recognition of a student's achievements, academic and non-academic, prior to the start of their degree," said Prof Dr Jaspal Singh, MUCM vice-chancellor.

Twenty-seven MBBS and BDS in-coming students were awarded scholarships ranging from RM10,000 to RM172,500.

For Joanne Francis Xavier of Penang, winning the BDS College Scholar award is a blessing towards financing her degree and obtaining the education necessary to improve the lives of the people she will work on as a dentist in the future.

She said, "MUCM is consistently recognised for its excellence in



Dental students performing procedures on actual patients.

education and I will get to know how the real dentistry world works and gain firsthand experience through interaction with the patients and staff."

The selection process for these scholars with a specially convened panel was gruelling.

While academic prowess was merely an eligibility criterion in this process, these scholars had to demonstrate that they are indeed

all-rounders in their academics and co-curricular activities.

They also impressed the panel with their skills as eloquent communicators and lateral thinkers.

MBBS College Scholar, Tharmaraj Vallaiathalingam who hails from Seremban, said, "This provides me a greater incentive to excel in my medical studies at MUCM."

"It has also made me realise and

appreciate the value of education more."

Tharmaraj, who is also a student from the Foundation in Science programme, added, "For me, the scholarship is not the end but just the beginning. Receiving the scholarship is not just about receiving money. For me, it tells me that I have the potential to deliver much for the future of our society."

Tharmaraj's sentiments of the

"MUCM scholars are expected to be the best of the best for their intake."

Prof Dr Jaspal Singh

future echo the ambitions of the MUCM Scholarship.

"MUCM scholars are expected to be the best of the best for their intake. With that, comes the expectations that they will continue to shine in their journey as an undergraduate student and beyond in their careers as doctors and dentists," said Prof Dr Jaspal.

For P'ng Xiu Hui of Selangor, claiming the coveted College Scholar award strengthens her goals and dreams of one day becoming an outstanding surgeon.

"I hope to be exemplary in all that I do and contribute to the community and society in the future," she said.

The MUCM Degree Scholarship is available yearly for MBBS and BDS programmes. The scholarship application closes three months prior to intake commencement.

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



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collegiate institution of :



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Enhancing the digital technology learning experience

SITUATED in the nucleus of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), University Malaysia of Computer Science and Engineering (UNIMY) is a premier digital technology university established in 2012 in response to the fast-changing pace of technology.

After almost a decade of successfully nurturing students with a global mindset and ready to face Industrial Revolution 4.0 challenges, UNIMY has moved to a new campus in 2019 – Block 12 and Block 13 of Star Central, Cyberjaya.

Block 12 of the new campus comprises a welcome reception area where they receive their guests and conduct their counselling and meetings. A map of UNIMY surrounded by IT giants in Cyberjaya and a list of their industry partners is prominently displayed on the ground floor.

There is also a newly opened Hirup Mee Kopitiam on Level 3A where visitors, students and staff can enjoy some refreshments in a pleasant area. Outside of Level 3A is a rooftop garden where students can take a break and get a breath of fresh air.

UNIMY ensures effective and meaningful campus and learning experiences for all its students with modern facilities.

Level 6 of the campus is divided into many different spaces such as a library area for students to do some reading and studying, two student hangout areas where students can hang out and chill with their friends, and several mini rooms for students to have some quiet and alone time to study.

Level 7 comprises computer labs which are equipped with 40 high-end computers, numerous functional classrooms including a smart classroom and a Physics lab equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

By September 2021, UNIMY will be developing its smart campus at Block 13 which will include a UNIMY Gallery Showcase, a Cyber Security Center, a Digital Research Lab, Student Areas, a Post Graduate Center, a Game Lab, a Game Studio, Augmented



Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Razali said that UNIMY is on its way to establishing a smart campus utilising leading-edge digital technologies.

Reality and Virtual Reality Center, a Production House with Green Screen facilities, Cafeteria, Auditorium and more classrooms.

There are plenty of amenities in the vicinity of UNIMY including a café that serves some local delicacies combined with a mini-mart just next door at Block 10, a post office situated a few blocks away, and the Neo Cyber across the road where there are various food and beverage outlets, pharmacies, supermarkets, ATMs, and more.

Next to Star Central is a Park and Ride facility where students can park their cars for free and enjoy the food trucks hub in the evening.

As an added convenience, UNIMY provides a shuttle service to transport students back and forth from their accommodation to the UNIMY Campus.

> TURN TO PAGE 4


APRIL Intake
Open Day
17 & 18 April 2021
 10am to 5pm

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Open for consultation:

Monday to Friday (9am - 5pm), Saturday and Sunday (10am - 4pm)

 Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (DULN007(WP))
 No. 1, Jalan Venna P5/2, Precinct 5, 62200 Putrajaya

Inspiring students to come up with creative and innovative ideas

> FROM PAGE 2

“UNIMY is on its way to establishing a smart campus utilising leading-edge digital technologies to enhance the campus and learning experience for our students.

“This new campus is expected to inspire students to come up with creative and innovative ideas while they study at UNIMY and motivate them to create impactful advances in the field of digital technology,” said UNIMY vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Razali Muhammad.

UNIMY will be having its open days on April 17 and 25 at the UNIMY Campus, Block 12, Star Central, Lingkaran Cyber Point Timur, Cyberjaya, Selangor and E-open days on April 18 and 24 via the Zoom platform.

■ To visit UNIMY’s new campus or for more information, visit <https://www.unimy.edu.my>, contact 1300 885 008 or email to enquiry@unimy.edu.my



UNIMY ensures effective and meaningful campus and learning experiences for all its students.



In 2019, UNIMY moved to a new campus – Block 12 and Block 13 of Star Central in Cyberjaya.



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Medical and
Healthcare
Professionals

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

CENTRE FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDIES

- Foundation in Science
KPT/JPT(R2/010/3/0186)/09/2023 | MQA/FA3974
MAR | JUL | AUG

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- Medicine
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0033)/09/2026 | MQA/FA6155
FEB | SEP
- Psychology
KPT/JPT(R2/311/6/0013)/09/2022 | MQA/FA8177
FEB | SEP
- Counselling (Master)
KPT/JPT(N/762/7/0046)/09/2026 | MQA/PA12002
SEP

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

- Dentistry
KPT/JPT(R2/724/6/0010)/01/2023 | MQA/FA7026
FEB
- Endodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0043)/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12162
APR
- Implant Dentistry (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(R/724/7/0019)/06/2026 | MQA/PSA6111
INTAKE IN 2021
- Prosthodontics (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/724/7/0042)/05/2024 | MQA/PSA12163
JUN

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
KPT/JPT(R2/442/6/0003)/01/2023 | MQA/FA8229
FEB | JUL | SEP
- Pharmacy
KPT/JPT(R2/721/6/0050)/09/2026 | MQA/FA8374
JUL | SEP

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Biomedical Science
KPT/JPT(R2/421/6/0011)/09/2022 | MQA/FA8230
JUL | SEP
- Diabetes Management and Education (PG Dip)
KPT/JPT(N/726/7/0030)/02/2023 | MQA/PA9086
MAR | JUL
- Dietetics with Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R2/726/6/0021)/09/2022 | MQA/FA8176
JUL | SEP
- Medical Biotechnology
KPT/JPT(R2/545/6/0014)/09/2022 | MQA/FA8228
JUL | SEP
- Nursing
KPT/JPT(R/723/6/0125)/04/2027 | MQA/FA8944
SEP
- Nutrition
KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0011)/06/2022 | MQA/FA1298
JUL | SEP

CENTRE FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

- Acupuncture (MSc)
KPT/JPT(N/721/7/0071)/03/2022 | MQA/PA8570
SEP
- Chinese Medicine
KPT/JPT(R/721/6/0059)/01/2027 | MQA/FA10260
FEB | SEP
- Chiropractic
KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0054)/08/2026 | MQA/FA9294
FEB | SEP

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry[#] (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R2-CD/442/7/0001)/01/2027 | MQA/FA1191
MAR | SEP
- Business Administration in Healthcare Management (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
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/PSA1563
KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0070)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA1564
MAR
- Health Informatics and Analytics (PG Cert / PG Dip / Master)
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0131)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA13973
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0130)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA13972
KPT/JPT(N/720/7/0129)/09/2025 | MQA/PSA13974
SEP
- Molecular Medicine[#] (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/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
MAR | SEP
- Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD)
KPT/JPT(R/720/7/0049)/06/2026 | A10618
KPT/JPT(R/721/8/0043)/01/2027 | A3767
Throughout the year

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



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Learning from industry experts

CIVIL and construction engineering lecturers and students of Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) recently completed the first phase of an online “BIM Project” training designed to familiarise them with modern Building Information Modelling (BIM) digital tools and project management solutions for the construction industry.

The training was organised by the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering and the Curtin Highway Infrastructure and Innovation Hub (CHIRI) at Curtin Malaysia’s Faculty of Engineering and Science in collaboration with PCSS Consultancy Sdn Bhd, a Sarawak-based project management consultancy.

The training was the outcome of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Curtin Malaysia and PCSS Consultancy for collaboration in academic development, staff and student advancement and project management-related research signed in October last year.

It was also part of the Faculty of Engineering and Science’s “Digitalisation Initiatives 2020 BIM Project”, which aims to provide opportunities for staff and students to gain practical experience with modern tools for digitalisation in construction.

In the first phase of the training, from December 2020 to February 2021, the lecturers and students were trained on a suite of specialised software provided by PCSS Consultancy, including Autodesk Revit, a BIM software for professionals in the construction industry; Oracle Primavera P6, an enterprise project portfolio management software; and Synchro, an integrated digital construction management software that focuses on project delivery.

The training involves taking the ongoing development of Curtin Malaysia’s new Lakeside IV student housing project as a case study, allowing the lecturers and students to relate what they learn to a real-life scenario.

“We are very privileged to have experts from PCSS Consultancy train our lecturers and students in the use of the software. The company’s staff are highly experienced and can draw on their involvement in the Battersea Power Station redevelopment project in London where they introduced the Synchro 4D software in the management of the project. They are also involved in local mega projects such as the Pan Borneo Highway and Sarawak Second Trunk Road,” said Department of Civil and Construction Engineering head Dr Wong Kwong Soon.



A screenshot showing some of the lecturers and students participating in the BIM Project training.

Dr Wong said civil and construction engineering students at Curtin Malaysia already use Autodesk Revit in their course and BIM is an integral part of the civil and construction engineering curriculum.

This is in line with both current industry practice and advances in civil and construction engineering education in universities across the world.

It is also aligned with the Public Works Department (JKR) Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which has set a target for adoption of BIM in the Malaysian construction industry by 50% next year and 80% by 2025.

Meanwhile, Faculty of Engineering and Science dean Prof Tuong-Thuy Vu said the incorporation of BIM in the course curriculum sets Curtin’s civil and construction engineering course apart from others.

“Our students are learning the latest methods and technologies in the construction industry, and getting hands-on experience in the use of construction management software will make them more competent and job-ready when they graduate,” said Prof Vu.

Curtin Malaysia offers Curtin’s four-year Bachelor of Engineering in Civil and Construction Engineering (Honours), which is a comprehensive combination of civil engineering and construction engineering.

The qualification has extensive support and collaboration from industry players and is both highly prized by graduates and respected by professional engineers. It also offers a high level of job mobility.

In the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, Curtin was ranked in the top 100 universities globally for Civil and Structural Engineering.

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

Training tomorrow's teachers

“OUR children are the rock on which our future will be built,” said Nelson Mandela.

Recognising the need for a quality education system to develop potential individuals to meet national aspirations, the Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025 has indicated that every preschool follows a set of national quality standards including the provision that every preschool teacher has a minimum diploma qualification.

SEGi Group of Colleges steps up as a trusted provider of early childhood care and education (ECCE) programmes, producing thousands of qualified ECCE educators and practitioners.

The Diploma in Early Childhood Education prepares learners to meet the demands and challenges of a teaching profession at nursery and preschool levels for both public and private settings.

The programme is structured to enable learners to acquire competencies in identifying teaching and learning approaches for young children and be reflectively and professionally engaged in teaching-learning processes and experiences, curriculum planning, and management aspects.

With the vision to place quality education within reach of willing minds and natural talents, SEGi applies teaching and learning methods suitable for 21st-century learners using hybrid teaching.

Students are exposed to real-life experiences with field visits and webinars with experienced professional experts from the industry.



SEGi's ECCE programme is delivered in a versatile manner where students learn the subjects in interactive and hands-on learning.

“The programme is delivered in a versatile manner with interactive and hands-on learning. Students are also exposed to a myriad of key issues relevant to the future planning of ECCE in the country,” said SEGi College, Kuala Lumpur lecturer-cum-programme leader Kavitha Soundararajan.

The SEGi Diploma includes subjects like Montessori Methods and Practices, which will give the students opportunities to enter Montessori Schools and normal schools. SEGi also offers the Montessori Apparatus Workshop and Integrating Montessori Practice (IMP).

The Diploma programme is offered both full- and part-time where classes are delivered over the weekend, making learning easy for working adults.

SEGi works hand-in-hand with advisers from childcare centres and preschools to improve the quality of its ECCE programmes while supporting students’ learning experience.

With strong links with over 100 local and international ECCE agencies, students gain easy access to internships and employment opportunities.

“Students undergo two internships during their study, and the schools they go to appreciate their commitment and hard work. Most schools even offer jobs to our students at the end of their internship.

“Field trips are also organised to increase students’ confidence further when they enter the industry,” Kavitha said.

SEGi has partnered with some renowned education institutions, including The Children’s House, Beaconhouse, Eduwis, Mayter

Kindergarten and Q-dees.

A fulfilling career in ECCE awaits students upon graduation.

“One of our alumnae, Mandy Tan Siok Luoi from Cohort 17, is now a principal at Eduwis and has won several awards throughout her career in ECCE,” Kavitha said.

Most graduates choose to work after graduation but many go on to complete their degree.

The BA (Hons) in Early Years Education 3+0 with the University of Greenwich, UK offers students the opportunity to reflect on the core values of the early years’ workforce, review practice and policy and learn the importance of encouraging children’s total development in partnership with their families.

The programmes offered at SEGi are based on Malaysian Qualifications Agency standards (MQA) and regularly reviewed to keep them relevant and maintain their quality.

Apart from ECCE, SEGi also offers other specialisation fields linked to the teaching profession, such as Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), Special Needs Education and Counselling where students have the opportunity to further their studies in this field at graduate level.

■ Visit colleges.segi.edu.my for more details or call 03-8600 1777 (SEGi College Subang Jaya), 03-2070 2078 (SEGi College Kuala Lumpur), 04-263 3888 (SEGi College Penang) and 082-252 566 (SEGi College Sarawak).

Tips to improve your memory

GOT a mind like a sieve? Here are three 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.

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.

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.



#inspire possibilities Admissions Open 2021

- Foundation in Science*
R/010/3/0022; 8/2021; JPT/BPP(K)1000-600/M411 Jld.4(7)
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
R2/721/6/0057; 12/2027; JPT/BPP(K)1000-600/M411 Jld.6(11)
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery
R2/724/6/0018; 11/2025; JPT/BPP(K)1000-600/M411 Jld.7(08)

*SPM trial results accepted for April Intake

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Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM) lakeside campus in Putrajaya.



Flexible options for students

THE Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our education system in many ways – with the closure of international borders, many students are left in limbo on whether to opt or decline offers from universities here and abroad.

There are also some students whose final year of secondary school studies was disrupted, which led to them doubting their capabilities and the confidence to pursue tertiary education.

At the same time, cost is a huge factor for parents looking to invest in higher education during this challenging time.

In response to the current environment, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM) has taken proactive measures to enable the continuity of quality education to both its local and global students through its April 2021 Flexible Foundation Programme.

The flexible solutions offered by the FutureMade University provides students with a flexible and worry-free commencement for their Foundation studies in April, enabling progression towards their undergraduate studies.

These are the Flexible Entry, Flexible Fee Payment, Flexible Restart, Flexible Study Plan, Flexible Studying by Responding to the Current Environment, Flexible Location of Study, and Flexible Commencement.

Flexible Entry

With flexibility in entry requirements, students can share their forecast results from their respective schools to kick-start their academic journey. However, their actual results must meet the university's entry requirements to convert the conditional offer letter to an unconditional one.

Flexible Fee Payment

The university has created a flexible fee plan to support parents with their children's education. These payment options include enabling parents to pay the full tuition fees in six instalments or opt to pay full first semester fees, which entitles them to an early bird waiver while it is available. To further provide worry-free commencement, HWUM is also offering a 70% refund of tuition fees should



The university's Responsive Blended Learning combines active, supported online learning with contextually face-to-face learning opportunities, responding dynamically to changing external context.

students decide to withdraw from their studies by July 5 (applicable to students in the April intake).

Flexible Restart

HWUM is providing a risk-free study option to those who join their April intake as part of efforts to help students identify their purpose and passion. Students who choose to commence in the university's April intake have the option to "restart" their academic pursuits in the July intake at no cost if they wish to change their programme.

Flexible Studying by Responding to the Current Environment

The continuity of quality education to both its local and global students is supported by HWUM's mixed methods of teaching via its renowned Responsive Blended Learning (RBL).

The university's RBL combines active, supported online learning with contextually face-to-face learning opportunities, responding dynamically to changing external context. It provides support in a way that is academically appropriate and practically delivered – ensuring students can actively participate in their course learning, wherever they begin their studies.

Engagements at a distance are facilitated through provision of resources, live online sessions, tutorials, discussion forums, collaborating on projects, sharing of insights from practical work, and

other appropriate activities. When campus spaces become accessible, appropriate use of these spaces are made through the priority opening of specialist learning centres such as labs and studios, with an initial focus on small group interactions.

Flexible Location of Study with a Flexible Study Plan

Heriot-Watt University offers high-quality British education with a global outlook across all campuses in United Kingdom, Dubai and Malaysia that adhere to the same quality standards of education.

As part of the University's Go Global programme, students can keep their study abroad options open. Through this programme, students are given the option to transfer to any of its global campuses once travel restrictions are lifted or complete their studies fully in Malaysia, provided the programme and study is available at the respective campuses.

This can be done in flexible modes of 1+3 years, 2+2 years, 3+1 years, 4+0 years or 2+1+1 years.

In line with the university's commitment to future-proof students and to help secondary students get accustomed to university life, the Fit-For-Future programme which utilises their digital foundation platform, is designed to unleash the full potential of students at the Foundation level. The programme supports students by helping them set realistic SMART goals through



HWUM's Malaysia Foundation Programme head Assoc Prof Jasmine Low says: "The Fit-for-Future Programme prepares students to start their academic journey with us on a positive footing."

impactful activities that will help them with their positive transformation.

HWUM's Malaysia Foundation Programme head Assoc Prof Jasmine Low says: "We understand that students are starting their university life under unprecedented circumstances. The Fit-for-Future Programme prepares students to start their academic journey with us on a positive footing while our Digital Foundation Programme delivery approach engages students in an innovative challenge-based learning pedagogy. However, we realised that sometimes things may not go as planned, thus our Flexible Foundation options enable students to restart their first semester of studies with no additional costs or delay to the progression to their undergraduate programmes."

HWUM Foundation student Darren Lim says that the Fit-for-Future Programme and Foundation programme are stepping stones towards his academic journey.

"The Fit-for-Future Programme is an exciting programme which equipped me with the skills I needed to further excel in my studies. I also applied for the Foundation programme right away as I wanted to get a head start while waiting for the July or September Foundation intakes."



HWUM Foundation student Darren Lim says: "I choose to study the Foundation programme at Heriot-Watt because I was attracted to its quality of education."

I choose to study the Foundation programme at Heriot-Watt because I was attracted to its quality of education."

Flexible Commencement

The pathway to the university's undergraduate programme begins with a Foundation in Science or Foundation in Business depending on the student's interest or previous field of study. Within the Foundation in Business, they can choose either the Accounting and Business, Psychology or Actuarial Science route. The university's Foundation programme are designed to prepare and equip students with the skill sets that will smoothen their transition into their undergraduate studies.

Students can apply for the April intake to pursue their Foundation studies. The Fit-for-Future Programme will commence on April 19, while classes start on April 26.

Visit its Putrajaya lakeside campus, speak to the education consultants and academics and chat with HWUM students to learn more about the exciting study opportunities and scholarships offered during the Open Day for its April intake on April 17 and 18.

■ For more information on HWUM, visit <https://www.hw.ac.uk/malaysia/>

High demand for petroleum engineers

THE mounting scarcity of petroleum products, combined with expansion in exploration of new petroleum resources is the conundrum many in the field of petroleum engineering face.

Exploration for and production of oil and gas is one of the biggest industries in the world. Petroleum engineering is an exciting career with opportunities to travel and work overseas and also help ensure sustainability of resources, while conserving the environment for future generations.

To many, petroleum engineering revolves around tapping petroleum resources. Evidently, this is not the case as the exploration and extraction of oil and gas have moved on encompassing more than just that.

By-products of oil and gas such as soap, plastic and kerosene are always part of the industry. Despite the pandemic, the Oil and Gas Engineering Services Market – Growth, Trends, COVID-19 Impact, and Forecasts (2021-2026) report estimates a compound annual growth rate of 7% for the Oil and Gas Engineering Services Market.

The significant adoption of automation technologies is the primary factor driving the adoption of engineering services in the industry.

The need to maximise efficiency and productivity, maximise uptime and return on assets, while minimising the costs due to the industry's dynamic nature, is expected to drive the adoption of engineering services in the industry.

The report stated that the application of advanced technologies,



According to UCSI University Faculty of Engineering Technology and Built Environment dean Assoc Prof Ts Dr Ang Chun Kit, UCSI's engineering programmes incorporate IR 4.0 and SDG-related courses.

such as analytics, machine learning and many more, is expected to assist the oil and gas companies to analyse big data sets and provide meaningful insights.

These are indicating factors that the sector is constantly in need for skilled petroleum engineers equipped with the right skillset.

At UCSI University, the push to drive the frontiers of academic excellence is an initiative that is never-ending. The university relentlessly challenges its students to push boundaries in realising their potential.



This state-of-the-art petrochemical lab includes all the latest equipment for practical studies in the field.

With its Engineering faculty making it to the 101-150 bracket under the petroleum engineering category in the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject, the ranking cements the faculty's status in providing an exceptional learning experience to students in enabling them to thrive in the field of engineering as a whole.

International students particularly benefit from this programme as many of them are from oil-rich countries in the Middle East. The petroleum engineering programme also has great potential, attracting local students with an interest in the field. From this comes the collaboration with petroleum-based companies overseas, where

students are exposed to going abroad to study petroleum engineering extensively.

The prospects for graduates in petroleum engineering are many including becoming geologists, reservoir and production as well as research engineers.

"At UCSI, we incorporate the elements of IR 4.0 in courses such as Drilling Engineering and Reservoir Simulation while incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy as well as SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure into our curriculum," said UCSI University Faculty of Engineering Technology and Built Environment dean Assoc Prof

Ts Dr Ang Chun Kit.

"Overall, the petroleum engineering programme encompasses a well-balanced curriculum that focuses on both upstream and downstream industries. It even covers economics and safety issues alongside geology and petrophysics, drilling engineering, reservoir engineering and production engineering," said Chemical and Petroleum Engineering head of department Assistant Prof Dr Lee Kiat Moon.

For Dr Ang and Dr Lee, the recent QS rankings that distinguished their faculty as one of the world's top 150 for petroleum engineering is a recognition of the faculty's years of determination and assiduousness in providing a wholesome education experience to its students.

They emphasised student attachments with renowned companies such as Schlumberger and Exxon Mobil as another means in which their students are exposed to working with the industry's best.

Students from UCSI's engineering faculty are annually sent to advance high-impact research at Tsinghua University and Imperial College of London, among others.

According to Dr Ang, the faculty is in the midst of developing a new programme related to energy engineering.

■ For more details, visit ucsiuniversity.com.my or contact 03-9101 8882/011-3592 0893. The university will be hosting its eOpen Day and Open Day on April 17-18.



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[198901008177 (185479-U)]

Passion brings you further in life

CURRENTLY working as a Health Operation manager at Shell Malaysia, Harnesh Kaur has progressed in leaps and bounds since she graduated with a nursing degree from the International Medical University (IMU). She shares her story:

"In my role, there is a need to apply my medical knowledge, clinical nursing experience and health principles to the best interest of the company, employees and customers in general. This is a specialty most commonly known as Occupational Health.

I constantly need to be on my toes, finding creative ways and staying fluid when engaging with my stakeholders. Mind you, they are healthy people who have different priorities at hand and health may not be top on their list.

I would say the 'nurse' in me, and the years of rigorous training and caring for my patients and family members during my clinical years, have stood me in good stead.

Even though I do not perform any hands-on clinical tasks now, I am always required to be alert and able to anticipate any health-related hazard/issue, and deploy different strategies.

For example, Covid-19 was a very challenging situation, which called for multiple strategies in dealing with the pandemic. As the business and stakeholders were keen to ensure their services and activities were not affected adversely, I had to use all my nursing and public health training and perspective to support the company and strategise.

This included deployment of health promotion activities to care for the staff virtually, ensuring necessary SOPs were in place and covered all activities carried out by employees, as well as risk mitigating procedures to ensure any possible occurrence of an outbreak is prevented."

Looking back at her time at IMU, Harnesh felt it provided her a wonderful platform to grow and transform holistically.

The interdisciplinary environment also allowed her to not only excel on the academic front, but also blossom personally and professionally.

My clinical postings and internships had also been another memorable yet rewarding experience in IMU. In my last semester, an internship with the Breast Cancer Awareness Welfare Association allowed me to discover my passion for community work and promotion of health awareness to the public.

After graduation, the first job offer I received was from Singapore. Working in Singapore provided great exposure. I had the chance to work with people from various backgrounds. Career wise, the environment was different from Malaysia – the expectation and demands were different.

However, due to the excellent IMU



Harnesh Kaur has progressed in leaps and bounds after she graduated with a nursing degree from IMU.

Nursing curriculum, I was able to blend in well with the fast-paced Singapore healthcare system and culture. During my four years working in Singapore, I was able to be agile and keep up with the advanced medical technologies deployed in the patient care settings, as well as cope with the high standards expected from healthcare professionals."

IMU offers a four-year Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) that prepares a student to become a registered nurse, qualified to practise in a variety of settings in either the public or private healthcare sectors. Students are provided opportunities to learn a whole range of nursing skills in addition to acquiring knowledge related to nursing practice.

The commencement for the Nursing programme is in September each year. IMU welcomes students with pre-university qualifications to start a promising and rewarding yet challenging future in Nursing.

If you have pre-university qualifications, make an online application today.

Scholarships are available for eligible students.

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

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

Signs you need a study break

IT can be tough to complete a study programme, especially if you're working on the side or enrolled in an all day intensive programme. A little stress can be good for you, focusing the mind and giving you a little frisson that keeps you sharp and bright.

However, too much isn't good for you. Overdoing stress clouds the mind and hurts the body. So how do you know which side of the line you're on?

You can't switch off

Your brain is working, even when the rest of you is trying to sleep, read a relaxing book or cook something inspired for dinner. As

you try to get your mind off work, you find that inner voice worrying about an assignment, a paper you're reading or a list you're trying to memorise. If that's the case, you're overdoing it. Try taking a longer break.

Losing interest

You've lost interest in all your favourite hobbies and your friends say they've forgotten what you look like. All work makes Jill a dull girl, the saying goes, and there's a lot of truth in that. Dedication is admirable but obsession is a problem. For this, listen to your friends and take time to care for yourself.

UNIVERSITI Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) is one of the premier higher learning institutions in Malaysia founded as a not-for-profit private university with a mission to provide quality yet affordable education to all, committed to transforming lives and broadening horizons of its students through education.

Over the years, UTAR has maintained its affordable fees to provide accessible education to all, which has proven successful with the current number of alumni, standing at over 69,000.

UTAR is also ranked 201-300 in the overall Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2020 following the university's performance and achievements in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The award from Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2020 recognises universities across the world for social and economic impact according to the 17 SDGs outlined by United Nations (UN).

Goal 17: Partnerships
Strong collaborations with

external organisations and educational institutions are among the university's many approaches to achieving SDGs, specifically Goal 17 – Partnerships.

The annual Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair is a fine example, of which collaborations with Asean Academy of Engineering and Technology, UTAR, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology and The Institution of Engineers Malaysia aim to promote interest in STEM among primary and secondary school students.

Academically, local and international symposiums, forums and conferences are actively organised by UTAR in collaboration with other researchers. The university believes research plays an important role in achieving SDGs while promoting active discussion for more sustainable outcomes.

For instance, the International Conference on Tropical Biodiver-



Participants visiting Mossy Forest, Pahang after the conference.

sity 2018, in collaboration with South China Botanical Garden (Chinese Academy of Science), Bogor Agricultural University, Society for Conservation Biology, Malaysian Society of Applied

Biology, Rimba Ilmu (University of Malaya), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, University Kuala Lumpur MICET, The University of Nottingham Malaysian Campus, Monash University Malaysia, Yayasan Bina Lestari, and Pulau Banding Foundation has shed light on the importance of a stable biodiversity ecosystem.

Goal 13: Climate Action and Goal 15: Life on Land

The conference also achieves Goal 13 – Climate Action and Goal 15 – Life on Land. It was highlighted that biodiversity is equally important as ecotourism.

Unsustainable development may cause an imbalance to the ecosystem, resulting in the loss of many precious biodiversity important to mankind's well-being.

UTAR's sustainable efforts and achievements continues to strengthen the role of education in ensuring sustainability is well

understood, taught, practised and achieved for the long term.

UTAR is reputed as one of the fastest growing private higher education institutions in the country since its inception in 2002 with campuses located in Kampar, Perak and Bandar Sungai Long, Selangor. UTAR has graduated over 69,000 students since its inaugural convocation in 2005 and currently offers over 120 programmes in various fields.

UTAR is ranked No.501-600 in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021, ranked No.157 in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2021 and awarded Self-Accreditation Status by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

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

MSU College's Diploma in Early Childhood Education is designed for those who have a passion for teaching children.



Importance of early childhood education

EARLY childhood education plays an important role in the physical and mental development of children. With effective exposure and proper guidance, a child may develop to his or her full potential and have a bright future.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), early childhood care and education is more than preparation for primary school.

It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. It has the possibility to nurture caring, capable and responsible future citizens.

Unesco's approach is reinforced in the Education 2030 agenda and in particular target 4.2 of Sustainable Development Goal 4 which aims to "by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education".

Supporting the agenda, Diploma in Early Childhood Education offered at MSU College is specifically designed for those who are passionate about teaching children and ensure they are equipped with the intellectual building blocks necessary for future success.

With at least three credits in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or recognised certificates, students can expect a conducive learning environment and high-calibre lecturers who have years of experience in the field.

The programme provides quality education in children's early development, producing future educators capable of effective interaction, engagement, and management of children.

Specific emphasis is given on teaching and learning theories, pedagogical skills, curriculum content, children development and psychology, child-learning assessment, pre-school centre management, safety and nutrition aspects of children, as well as spiritual and moral development of children.

And in-line with MSU College's aspiration to produce a balanced, holistic and well-rounded graduate, Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competency (PEC) programmes are also embedded into student learning experience as part of the initiatives to further enhance their soft skills and ensure they are competent in the job market.

Upon completing the diploma, graduates may continue to pursue a Bachelor in Early Childhood Education or other programmes at Management and Science University (MSU) through its School of Education and Social Sciences with the option of credit transfer.

Here are some career prospects in early childhood education for graduates to explore – pre-school teacher, childcare worker, social worker, early childhood programme officer and many more.

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



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Blending engineering with creativity

A PERFECT mix of both practical engineering and creative expression, interior architecture is a potential career path with a good prospect in interior design and architectural practices that allows one to showcase their creative personality by embedding their character into a functional space.

Dynamic field

This field is highly dynamic due to the nature of revolving trends, and as such, the delivery of its academic knowledge will need to be flexible as well, especially when taking into account the challenges posed by the new normal environment.

It was these challenges and exciting prospects which influenced Lim Dao Liang to undertake the Bachelor of Interior Architecture (Hons) programme at Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC). However due to the current global circumstances, Lim had to continue his higher education journey fully online.

"I decided to study at TAR UC's Kuala Lumpur Main Campus despite being from Johor because I wanted to come out of my comfort zone and challenge myself in a new environment.

"I was also hoping to experience the campus environment offered by TAR UC," said Lim.

Due to the restrictions imposed, Lim had no choice but to adapt to the situation, but the 21-year old TARCian is taking it all in his stride.



Despite the online learning, Lim is thankful for the constant support from his lecturers which keeps him motivated in focusing on his studies.

"I may not be experiencing TAR UC as it is supposed to be, but I am staying positive and doing what I can to keep learning and improving to the best of my abilities with what I have.

"In fact, I feel I am learning to be more independent in managing my schedule, communicating my ideas more effectively online, and taking more initiatives to open discussions with my lecturers to improve my learning process," Lim explained.

Despite challenges under the new normal conditions, Faculty of Built Environment (FOBE) programme leader Idaura Fadhyha Che Ibrahim has concentrated her efforts in keeping the learning process as effective as possible.

"With emphasis on structure, flexibility, engagement and right amount of assigned coursework, we aim to maintain connections, continue meeting academic milestones and foster a productive learning environment at home.

"For example, we have a 'virtual hallway' where students are encouraged to participate and have casual conversations with their fellow coursemates, emulating the traditional classroom engagement. In addition, lecturers have kept an open channel of communication with their students to maintain a healthy connection between educator and student," said Idaura.

Close contact with industry experts

On how the programme is maintaining its close contact with industry experts, Idaura said studio masters, peers, external stakeholders, industry practitioners, clients or even educators from other institutions are often roped in during the online critique and review sessions where students present their designs for professional feedback and comments.

"The sessions ensure our students are constantly being exposed to the standards expected by the industry so that they are well equipped with in-depth knowledge and skills that are essential to become professionals in the interior design, architectural sector and research field upon graduation," Idaura added.

This claim is backed by Lim, who has been given much support by his lecturers.

"My lecturers have been very helpful in tending to any questions I have and helping me adapt to the

online learning process. They even offered additional advice like adding more details to our design work in order to express our ideas more effectively due to the lack of physical interaction.

"The mock presentations are also helping me communicate my ideas more effectively which is a very important aspect in the interior architecture field where your success is determined by how well your clients can understand your design intentions, which is a good practice for my future career," said Lim.

■ To find out more about interior architecture or other TAR UC's Faculty of Built Environment (FOBE) programmes for the May/June 2021 intake, contact FOBE at 011-1075 8535 or visit www.tarc.edu.my/fobe.

Alternatively, join its Virtual Open Day happening every weekend until April 25, from 10am to 5pm.

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply online at www.tarc.edu.my. SPM trial exam results are accepted for Foundation and Diploma programmes for May/June 2021 intake.

Applicants who submit their applications online by April 30 will receive a RM60 waiver of processing fee.

Attractive scholarships are also available at TAR UC on the basis of academic merit and sibling discount for qualified students.

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Service professionalism is the way forward



Students of Berjaya University College will learn about service professionalism, so that they graduate as service professionals in any field they prefer.

THE Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the economy and various fields, causing people to worry about getting or keeping their jobs.

But have you ever thought about maintaining a spirit of service professionalism that can make it easier to gain a foothold in the workplace?

Berjaya University College chief executive officer Dr See Hoon Peow said that based on past experiences from the financial turmoil in 1998 and 2009, Malaysia's financial system should be able to recover from the Covid-19 impacts and regain its strength.

Even the tourism and hospitality industry, possibly the most affected areas, would see the light again, he believed.

The crucial thing is that we should set our sights to a high level of service professionalism to win people's hearts.

Service professionalism is about consist-

ently delivering one's skills with human creativity, care and commitment.

"Even if there is a fully automated hotel in the future, there is no need to worry about artificial intelligence (AI) stealing jobs," said Dr See.

"AI is good at performing efficient and repetitive tasks, not the time-honoured service that pays attention to people's mindfulness, emotions and personalisation. It is this spirit and attitude of service professionalism that makes guests feel at home."

Dr See indicated that, regardless of the industry, when consumers decided on the same type of product, the ultimate competition lies in the quality of service because people enjoy the good experience from superior service.

> SEE NEXT PAGE

Many scholarship opportunities available

> FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Berjaya UC offers diverse programmes covering hospitality, tourism, events management, culinary arts, business management, accounting, communication, etc.

Based on the hospitality programmes, the spirit of service professionalism has been the core culture of the institution, and a compulsory course for all programmes.

"Students must know how to serve. The soft skills training encourages them to treat people with professional knowledge and etiquette, respond to and solve various emergencies."

"For example, the accountants trained by Berjaya UC not only know how to calculate complicated numbers and data, but also communicate well with clients."

Dr See said that more than half of Malaysia's job opportunities have come from the service industry, and

"The soft skills training encourages them to treat people with professional knowledge and etiquette, respond to and solve various emergencies."

Dr See Hoon Peow

they would grow as the country becomes more developed in the future. People with the service professionalism spirit, knowledge, and ability will still be very popular with employers.

Berjaya UC is committed to

gearing up their graduates to step up their service spirit to a higher level of professionalism.

Many scholarship and bursary opportunities are available for eligible students. Graduates with outstanding Unified Exam (UEC) results will be entitled to a discount in tuition fees for every 'A' they scored, RM1,000 for every 'A' for the diploma programmes, RM2,000 for each 'A' for the bachelor's degree programmes whereas SPM graduates will be eligible for up to a 100% rebate for their tuition fees.

Teachers, nurses, or uniform forces' children who take up a diploma or bachelor's degree courses are entitled to a 10% tuition discount.

An early-bird sign up discount of 30% is also available (on a first come, first served basis).

■ To learn more about scholarships and bursaries, call 018-388 0681 or visit www.berjaya.edu.my to learn more.

How to persevere and 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 and you're having difficulty focusing, 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.

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. Whatever it is, make a list of all the stuff you're good at.

Hang it on your mirror so you see it every day. It will give you a positive lift.

Third, have a good moan with a fellow student. As long as you keep it short, and you 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.

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- Creative Industries & Design
- Chinese Studies
- Engineering, Technology & Built Environment
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- Life & Physical Sciences
- Medicine & Health Sciences

Students with other experiences and qualifications can also apply through the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL).



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Alumnus thankful to alma mater

BACHELOR of Medical Sciences (Hons) alumnus Proveen Krishnan Ravi Krishnan has Management and Science University (MSU) to thank for the opportunity to bloom into his best self. The youngest among five siblings born to a lorry-driver father and a housewife mother is the family's only member to attend university.

"I had been an introvert throughout my school years. MSU transformed me, thanks to inspiration from MSU president Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid and the MSU Student and Career Development (SCD) department's guidance on all the activities we organised through the MSU Facilitators Club. I am also grateful to all my lecturers at International Medical School (IMS) for their motivation. I pledge to give back to my alma mater as an alumni."

With his strong base through the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Hons) programme, the recipient of Mohd Shukri Yajid Outstanding Award in conjunction with MSU's 27th Convocation Ceremony and Yayasan MSU scholar is advancing to Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) at MSU's IMS Bangalore campus this April.

The future doctor is also setting his sights on the Master in Medical Physiology programme at MSU's School of Graduate Studies (SGS) towards his dream to lecturing on the subject – probably, as he mentioned, at his own alma mater.

The MBBS is a five-year programme offered through the IMS at



Proveen receiving the Mohd Shukri Yajid Outstanding Award from MSU president Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid.

the MSU main campus in Shah Alam and offshore campus in Bangalore, India – Malaysia's first medical school to receive a five-year accreditation from the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC).

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

MSU's MBBS curriculum is designed in adherence to the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) guidelines and approval.

The MBBS programme presents a continually expanding level of medical experiences. In the early years of study, the basic medical sciences are taught in the context relevant to patient care.

Later in the course, clinical teaching builds upon and reinforces this strong scientific foundation.

MSU medical students also have the opportunity to complete their clinical training at two major referral hospitals in Malaysia, namely the Sungai Buloh Hospital and Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital



Proveen sharing a light moment with his parents, Ravi Krishnan Balakrishnan and Pathmavathy Marimuthu.

in Klang.

Upon graduating with the MBBS, the new doctors must register with the Public Services Department and complete a two-year housemanship at selected public hospitals under the supervision of the Ministry of Health Malaysia.

With the opening of MSU Medical Centre, MSU has become Malaysia's first university with its own private specialist hospital, in-house clinical placement and job opportunities for its MBBS graduates.

Intakes for MBBS programme is in May and October. Qualified students are required to sit for the Medical Entry Test (MET) at the MSU campus in Shah Alam to determine their aptitude for the MBBS programme.

■ Want to be a doctor and wonder if you are qualified to sit for the Medical Entry Test (MET) at MSU? Get more details on scholarships and fee waiver at 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit www.msu.edu.my

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