Leading the way in TCM practice

CHOOSING traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) as a career path was an unconventional decision for Revathi Gunasekaran and Muhammad Luqman Hakim Mohamad Fauzi.

Yet, that very choice would later lead them to co-found Naturalis Acupuncture Setia Alam, a wellness centre dedicated to holistic healing through ancient Chinese medical practices.

The two first met as classmates at Management and Science University (MSU), under the School of Pharmacy, where their shared passion for traditional healing blossomed into friendship, and eventually, a business partnership.

Together, they now run the centre, promoting health and wellness through a unique blend of ancient wisdom and modern care.

Revathi began her Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine at MSU in 2010 as part of the pioneer batch. She later pursued her Bachelor in Traditional Chinese Medicine (Hons), graduating in 2016.

Revathi (left) and Muhammad Luqman chose the unconventional path to TCM, aided by MSU's English programme modules.

"I'm Indian, and most TCM courses are taught in Mandarin, which makes them difficult for non-native speakers," she explained.

"MSU offered the programme in English, which was a great opportunity for me. That's why I chose MSU."

Muhammad Luqman completed his Bachelor in Traditional Chinese Medicine in 2018.

Both agreed that MSU's English-medium instruction made the complex theories of TCM more accessible and enjoyable.

"MSU offered us a rare opportunity in Malaysia. They also provided an affordable programme, making it easier for students like me to pursue this field," he said.

However, his path to TCM was far from straightforward. After completing his SPM, he furthered his studies in Egypt to pursue a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

But, when the revolution crisis erupted, he was forced to return to Malaysia.

"I tried to transfer my credits, but couldn't. So, I had to restart from the foundation level in science," he recalled.

"That's when I discovered MSU's TCM course, something new and rare, especially for Malays. I saw it as a chance to learn, take risks and maybe even become a pioneer in this field."

The pair's centre in Setia Alam began humbly, with Muhammad Luqman initially visiting patients individually to provide acupuncture home services.

"I was going from house to house offering acupuncture treatments. Eventually, I realised I needed a dedicated space where people could come for treatment," he said.

Around that time, he reconnected with Revathi, who was also offering freelance home services.

They decided to rent an affordable space in Setia Alam, a growing neighbourhood that is ideal for their wellness centre.

"This allowed us to offer high-quality acupuncture services at affordable prices. When one of us goes out for home visits, the other can stay at the centre to attend to walk-in clients," said Muhammad Luqman.

According to Revathi, the arrangement also allowed them to better meet clients' comfort and privacy needs.

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Bridging classroom and career

IN today's fast-moving industries, employers seek graduates who can adapt quickly, communicate effectively, and contribute from day one.

To meet this demand, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) offers a Work-Based Learning (WBL) programme that blends academic study with full-year industry immersion.

UTAR's WBL pathway is offered in four technology-focused degrees:

> Bachelor of Technology (Honours) in Electronic Systems

> Bachelor of Technology (Honours) in Industrial Management

> Bachelor of Information Technology (Honours) Industrial Intelligent Systems

> Bachelor of Software Engineering (Honours)

Students spend two years on campus before embarking on one year of full-time placement with UTAR's industry partners.

During the WBL year, students gain practical experience, apply classroom theories to real projects and receive assessments from both industry mentors and UTAR academic supervisors.

To ensure relevance, UTAR co-develops its WBL curricula with industry leaders, aligning programme syllabi with emerging technologies and current industry standards.

Key partners include Infineon Technologies, ViTrox Corporation and Beckhoff Automation, alongside collaborations such as UTAR's Electronic Systems partnership with Huawei Malaysia for practical training.

Accreditation further enhances the value of these programmes. The Electronic Systems and Industrial Management WBL programmes are approved by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and accredited by the Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT).

UTAR's Work-Based Learning (WBL) programme blends classroom study with a full year of industry immersion, giving students real-world skills and strong career readiness.

This enables graduates to register as Graduate Technologists and later pursue Professional Technologist status, earning the "Ts." title. The Software Engineering programme is also recognised by MBOT.

Electronic Systems graduates may continue their studies through UTAR's one-year Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) or pursue a dual-degree master's with OTH Regensburg, Germany, under a mutual credit-recognition arrangement.

Beyond technical proficiency, WBL strengthens essential competencies such as teamwork, communication, professionalism and cultural intelligence.

UTAR offers over 140 programmes from foundation studies to bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in Accounting, Business, Finance and Economics, Actuarial Science, Mathematics and Process Management, Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Chinese Studies, Creative Industries, Digital Animation, Multimedia and Design, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

■ Visit UTAR Open Day on Dec 20-21, 2025 and Jan 10-11, 2026 from 9am to 4.30pm at both Kampar and Sungai Long campuses. For more information, go to *www.utar.edu.my* or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).

Learning analogue skills in a digital age

SRI Bestari Private School Kuala Lumpur recently marked its 30th anniversary through a strategic collaboration with Thong Sia Group that reinforced the school's commitment to analogue learning at a time when digital tools dominate the classroom.

The initiative, held in early September, saw Thong Sia Group conduct the Seiko Time and Timepieces School Project for Year 4 students.

The programme introduced pupils to the fundamentals of watch mechanisms through hands-on activities, including identifying components, assembling parts and reading time using analogue displays.

School principal Dr Steven Baptist said the collaboration aligned with Sri Bestari's long-standing approach to maintaining essential traditional skills such as handwriting and analogue time reading.

"Our society often rushes into adopting technology in the classroom without proper studies, only to revert to time-tested methods used for generations. We see this trend worldwide," he said.

During the project launch, Thong Sia Group managing director William K.W. Hui travelled from Hong Kong to meet the staff and observe the school's learning environment.

He said he was impressed by the team's professionalism and commitment to nurturing well-mannered and knowledgeable individuals.

> SEE NEXT PAGE

msu management and science university

Management and Science University (MSU) is a globally recognised institution, ranked by both Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE). Committed to developing well-rounded human capital, MSU envisions a more sustainable and inclusive future. Through transformative learning experiences, the university promotes equality and strives to create a level playing field for all, enriching lives and shaping tomorrow's leaders.

Contact us : Tel : 03 5521 6868
Email : enquiry@msu.edu.my

MSUmalaysia
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MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY (MSU) DU019(B)
No.4, Persiaran Olahraga, Seksyen 13, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor.

Yayasan msu

Students and educators from Sri Bestari Private School pose with Thong Sia Group representatives during the Seiko Time and Timepieces School Project, which introduced analogue time-learning and watchmaking concepts to the Year 4 cohort.

Ticking towards bright futures

> FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Hui also commended the school's investment in STEM-AI learning, describing it as preparation for an increasingly advanced future.

The visit led to a further contribution when Hui offered to replace all clocks on the school's World Clock Time Zone panel with Seiko clocks. The upgrade was completed in October.

The school said the partnership complements its 11-year exchange programme with Tokai University Fukuoka High School and reflects the principles of the national Look East Policy.

At the closing of the three-session programme, Hui said the project demonstrated strong teamwork between Sri Bestari Private School and Thong Sia Malaysia.

Baptist agreed, noting that students and teachers gained meaningful exposure through the collaboration.

Sri Bestari Private School students join the Seiko Time and Timepieces Project, examining watch components under the guidance of Thong Sia Group representatives.

The school said the initiative strengthened its commitment to balancing modern innovation with traditional learning values.

Pathway to a management career

MANAGEMENT is the art and process of organising, planning, decision-making, leading, motivating and controlling an organisation's human, financial, physical and information resources to achieve goals efficiently and effectively. Good management not only drives performance – but it also forms the foundation of strong teamwork and is the key to any successful organisation.

Designed for those aspiring to build a successful career in management and administration, the Diploma in Management at MSU College offers a comprehensive business education enriched with essential soft skills.

This programme equips students with the knowledge and abilities required for management roles, while also providing solid exposure to key areas of organisational management such as communication, leadership, marketing, finance and more.

In addition to academic knowledge, students are nurtured to uphold strong moral values and integrity as they carry out their duties and responsibilities.

This well-rounded approach ensures they are not only competent but also ethical future professionals.

Entry into this two-and-a-half-year programme requires a minimum of three credits in any subjects in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or equivalent certificates.

Upon completing the diploma, graduates can choose to enter the workforce or continue their studies at Management and Science University (MSU).

Through the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies (FBMP), students may progress directly into the second year of a bachelor's programme in the same or related fields, with the option of credit transfer.

Blending practical business knowledge with essential soft skills, the Diploma in Management at MSU College equips students for future success.

Aligned with MSU College's aspiration to produce balanced, holistic and well-rounded graduates, the programme is supported by a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem and industry-embedded initiatives. These elements further enhance students' soft skills and ensure their readiness to compete in today's job market.

Additionally, the School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies (SHB) also offers other programmes, including Early Childhood Education, Accounting and English Language Teaching (ELT).

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

■ For more information on programmes offered, call MSU College at 06-764 8686, email enquiry@msucollege.my or visit *www.msucollege.edu.my*

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of the Year - Advertising & Graphic Design, Digital Media Design, Illustration and Digital Animation in the Kancil Awards 2024 by 4As Malaysia
*source: kancilawards.com/student-winners/year/2024

International Recognition of Excellence
For over three decades, students' international achievements and providing world-class education have always been The One Academy's first priority. Receiving international recognition for our efforts, we pledge to continue holding steadfast to our "**Masters Train Masters**" teaching philosophy and together with our exceptional team of educators, provide unmatched creative education to boost Malaysia's creative economy and become Asia's creative hub.

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Illustration Movie & Game Art
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Interior Architecture & Design
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THE ONE ACADEMY | MASTERS TRAIN MASTERS

Tan Ning and Yap (left) were recognised in Web & App Design while Kay (right) received the People's Choice Award for her immersive media project.

Malaysia's creative stars shine bright

ONE of the nation's leading art and design colleges, The One Academy, has once again put Malaysia on the world map with its achievements in the 2025 Rookies Global School Rankings – a global platform that celebrates creativity across fields such as games, animation, visual effects, immersive media, graphic design, motion graphics and architectural visualisation.

Recognised as the ultimate benchmark for creative excellence, the rankings spotlight the very best in creative education worldwide.

An annual competition judged solely on how well a school prepares its students to produce a world-class portfolio, with no influence from application numbers or advertising revenue, the Rookies Global School Rankings serves as the definitive measure of creative excellence, recognising universities and colleges around the world that consistently produce top-tier talent across diverse creative disciplines.

Global recognition for creativity

This year's competition received 6,577 entries from 486 schools across 104 countries, reviewed by 132 renowned creative professionals.

Outshining creative powerhouses from the United States, Spain, and Germany, The One Academy achieved outstanding placements across multiple categories.

Prominently placed among the 'Top Global Creative Schools', it ranked No.1 for Graphic Design, No.1 for Immersive Media, No.1 for Web & App Design, Top 2 for Concept Art, Top 3 for Product and Industrial Design, Top 5 for Motion Graphics, Top 7 for 2D Animation, and Top 9 for Architectural Visualisation.

To uphold the legitimacy of these prestigious titles, the school's overall standing is also determined by calculating the median student score.

Bonus points are granted to students designated as finalists, highly commended, runners-up, or winners in each category.

Creative rising stars

Students of The One Academy took centre stage with several individual award wins for their incredible projects.

The Rookie of the Year title for Web & App Design was awarded to Tan Ning.

Angelina Vivian Kay won the People's Choice Award for Immersive Media, while Yap Li Wen and Gavin Gan Zi Yang earned runner-up titles in Web & App Design and Immersive Media, respectively.

"One key reminder from my lecturer was to 'do good projects'. This mindset pushed me to look for real problems and not just design something that looks nice. It helped me think about the people I am designing for," said Tan Ning when asked what led to her win.

Lastly, the Career Opportunities Award (sponsored by PlaySide Studios) in the Concept Art category was awarded to Tan Mei Shan.

This special award goes beyond creative excellence; it recognises one participant who can effectively position themselves in a real-world career setting.

As part of the award, Tan has been awarded a four-week paid onsite internship with PlaySide Studios, an Australian video game developer and publisher.

When asked what the award meant to her, Tan shared, "This award gave me more confidence to keep creating. It feels like a sign telling me that I'm on the right path. I hope to carry this motivation forward."

Nurturing talent for success

Submitting students' creative work for international evaluation takes confidence.

The One Academy's achievements in the 2025 Rookies Global School Rankings and its recognition as the top creative school highlight its commitment to student success.

By taking part in competitions like this, it not only solidifies the college's position among industry giants but also gives its students the confidence and reassurance they deserve for their exceptional skills.

The One Academy is committed to providing the best art education programmes and continues to nurture its students passionately through its 'Masters Train Masters' coaching philosophy, which has been practised for over 35 years, by offering diploma and degree courses in Visual Communication Design, Digital Animation, Digital Media Design, Interior Architecture and Design, Illustration, Fine Arts, and Paris Fashion Design & Pattern Making.

■ For more information, visit *www.toa.edu.my* call 03-7875 5510 or e-mail your enquiries to info@toa.edu.my

Unconventional paths lead to success

> FROM PAGE 7

"Most female clients prefer female practitioners. So, I handle these clients while Luqman focuses on male clients, especially since many Malay and Muslim clients have specific comfort preferences," she said.

Revathi also credited Muhammad Luqman for inspiring her to take the leap into entrepreneurship.

"He was the one who gave me the idea and confidence to build something together," she said.

Today, their clients include professionals such as doctors and pharmacists, who seek acupuncture and TCM therapy for various health concerns.

"Having professionals trust us with their treatment is one of my proudest achievements," Revathi said.

She also highlighted their success in fertility acupuncture, noting that many clients have achieved positive results through treatment.

For Muhammad Luqman, the greatest fulfilment comes from helping stroke patients recover.

"It's an incredible feeling to see patients go from being bedridden to walking on their own, while some even drove back to visit us. That's the most rewarding part of this career," he said.

As a young, Malay TCM practitioner, Muhammad Luqman admits that scepticism remains one of his biggest challenges.

"Some people find it hard to believe in me, compared to the older, more established Chinese practitioners. I don't try to prove I'm better; I just want to show that I have the knowledge and can offer a Malay perspective on health, lifestyle and wellness," he said.

Another challenge, Revathi added, is overcoming people's fears of needles.

"We always explain that acupuncture needles are very thin and almost painless, like a mosquito bite," she said.

Both practitioners firmly believe that acupuncture is far more than a placebo.

"It balances the body's Yin and Yang, improves blood flow and enhances Qi energy, which leads to real, visible health improvements," Revathi explained.

Reflecting on his time at MSU, Muhammad Luqman shared how the university shaped his perseverance and professional growth.

"Being the only Malay in my batch was tough. I often sought help from my lecturers, and over time, they became like family to me," he said.

"I once had the chance to join a student exchange programme in China, but I couldn't afford it.

"One of my lecturers gave me pocket money and said, 'Just be a good practitioner, that's how you can repay me'."

Both individuals remain deeply grateful to MSU for giving them the foundation to succeed.

"MSU shaped who we are today. It gave us the guidance, knowledge and values that we now apply in our daily work," said Muhammad Luqman.

Revathi agreed, adding: "We're truly thankful to MSU and our lecturers for believing in us and nurturing our passion for healing."

Their journey from classmates to co-founders stands as an inspiring reminder that with compassion, courage and commitment, even the most unconventional paths can lead to success.

■ For more information on the undergraduate programmes offered at MSU, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit *www.msu.edu.my*

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