From theory to practice

AMANDA Tan Yee Mun's time at International Medical University (IMU) was nothing short of transformative as the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) graduate is now building her career at one of Malaysia's top private hospitals.

Looking back, she details her journey through the four-year pharmacy degree at IMU, which was instrumental in shaping her career as a hospital pharmacist.

The pharmacy degree and curriculum at the institution provided Tan with a strong foundation in pharmaceutical sciences, clinical practice and professional development – all of which have been invaluable in her role as a healthcare professional.

Focus on pharmaceutical sciences

One of the key aspects of IMU's Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) curriculum is its emphasis on pharmaceutical sciences.

Through rigorous coursework in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapy, Tan gained a deep understanding of the mechanisms of action, side effects and interactions of medications commonly used in clinical practice.

"This knowledge has been essential for making informed clinical decisions and ensuring the safe and effective use of medications in the hospital setting," she said.

IMU also provided ample opportunities for clinical training and experiential learning.

"During my time at IMU, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) practical sessions allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.

"From medication dispensing and patient counselling to medication reconciliation and therapeutic monitoring, these hands-on experiences equipped me with the practical skills necessary for success in hospital pharmacy care," said Tan.

Additionally, the curriculum emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and communication skills.

"I learned how to work effectively with other healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses and allied health professionals, to deliver comprehensive patient care," Tan shared.

Tan's four-year journey through her pharmacy degree was instrumental in shaping her career as a hospital pharmacist today.

This collaborative approach is vital in the hospital setting, where teamwork is essential for optimising patient outcomes and ensuring patient safety.

Tan added that IMU also instilled a strong sense of ethics and professionalism.

Through courses and training in pharmacy ethics and professionalism, she learned the importance of adhering to ethical standards, maintaining patient confidentiality and upholding the highest standards of integrity.

Problem-solving and critical thinking

Tan said the pharmacy degree also equipped her with problem-solving and critical thinking skills, which are essential for addressing complex medication-related issues in the hospital setting

"Whether it's optimising medication regimens, resolving drug interactions or managing medication shortages, these skills enable me to navigate challenges effectively and ensure the best possible outcomes for patients," she said.

At IMU, students have the option to complete the entire Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) programme locally at the institution or via credit transfer pharmacy programmes to the University of Otago in New Zealand and University of Tasmania and University of Sydney in Australia.

These international partnerships are a testament to IMU's innovative education alignment with global standards.

Students who opt to complete the entire programme in Malaysia also have the opportunity to venture overseas for elective placement.

The commencement of the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) degree programme will be in July and September. If you are keen on exploring a diverse career involving the safe and effective use of medicines, make an online application today to enrol in IMU's pharmacy programme.

■ For more information, visit *www.imu.edu.my*, email start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.

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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.

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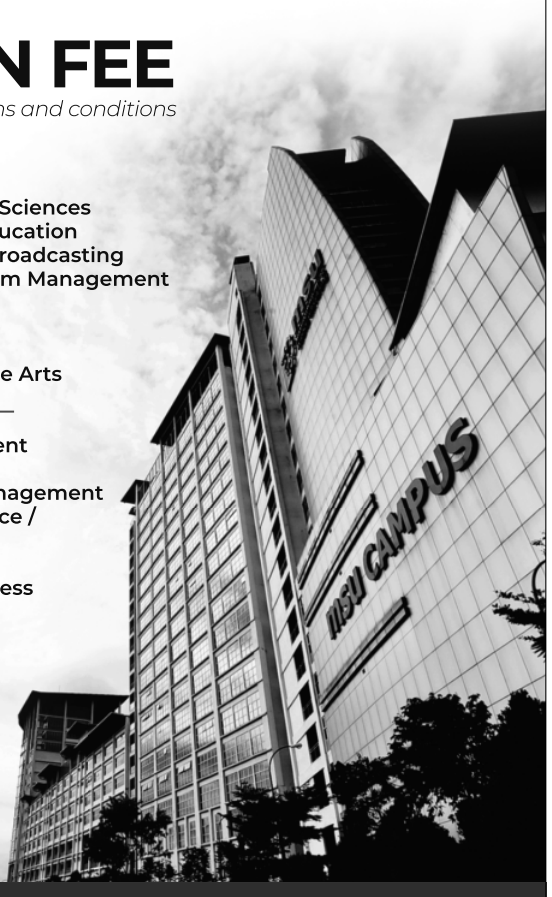

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Shaping global leaders of tomorrow

WHAT'S next after completing your SPM or pre-university studies? If you're looking for a compelling learning experience, the Management and Science University (MSU) – among top universities in Malaysia, Asia, as well as globally – provides quality education that is both transformative and enriching.

As a Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE) multi-global-ranked institution, MSU has focused on building holistic human capital.

Envisioning a better, more sustainable future for all, the university champions equality by providing a level playing field across extensive efforts in transforming lives, enriching futures through compelling learning experiences.

MSU provides a valuable opportunity for prospective students and parents to gather detailed information about the university, including meet-up sessions with academic counsellors to explore educational pathways, scholarships, and financial aid.

Faculty sessions will also help students and parents better understand career options and what life is like as a student at MSU.

A visit to the MSU campus in Shah Alam, or any of its satellite campuses, as well as participation in the MSU Edu-Carnival nationwide, allows both prospective students and their parents to experience life at MSU.

They will have the opportunity to learn about courses directly from academic staff who teach those subjects.

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

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

MSU is currently ranked among the top universities globally by QS, including 580th in the QS World University Rankings 2025, in the QS Top 100 for the world's best young universities, 129th in Asia's best universities, 28th in South-East Asia's best universities, and in the QS Top 301+ for Graduate Employability Rankings.

MSU's commitment to academic excellence and its outstanding achievements on global stages are demonstrated by their remarkable rating in the top 1,000 worldwide or in band 801-1,000 in their debut into THE World University Rankings 2025.

This accomplishment reflects the University SDG's ranking, placing at World 301-400 in THE World Impact Ranking 2024.

In QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024, MSU is ranked in the top 30 universities worldwide for hospitality and leisure management, in the top 100 for art and design and in the top 300 for business and management studies. It also debuted in the ranking in top 550 for social sciences and management as well as in top 650 for computer science and information systems.

MSU's state-of-the-art campus in Shah Alam offers a dynamic and innovative learning environment, shaping the future of education.

Additionally, MSU received the Engaged and Sustainable University of the Year 2024, the People's Choice Award 2024 and the Global Green University of the Year 2023 from the ACEEU.

This builds upon MSU's recognition as the Most Entrepreneurial and Engaged University in Asia by ACEEU in 2019, as well as its status as a finalist for the Student-Driven Sustainability Project of the Year 2020 and Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2020.

Prior to that, MSU became the first higher education institution to achieve an EMNA E-STAR from the Entrepreneurial Mindset Network, an international community dedicated to helping people make their unique contributions to the world.

In addition, MSU was named one of Malaysia's most exceptional universities, bagging Talentbank's Employer's Choice of Universities 2025 as a notable recognition of MSU's efforts to shape the nation's future workforce and continuously producing highly sought-after graduates.

This milestone exemplifies the university's unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration between MSUrians, industry partners and the community. It is further enriched by the steadfast dedication of MSU's faculties and staff, ensuring that graduates are thoroughly equipped with the skills and knowledge essential for thriving in today's dynamic job market.

Blending technical vocational education and training (TVET) with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internship, community and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure; empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness desired and sought after by employers.

MSU has also been QS-rated 5-Stars on the metrics of Overall as well as individually across Teaching, Graduate Employability, Academic Development, Internationalisation, Online Learning, Social Responsibility, Inclusiveness and Hospitality and Leisure Management.

Extensive partnerships and collaborations in over 350 institutions from more than 40 countries worldwide provide comprehensive mobility opportunities for all MSU students, enhancing their graduate employability through global exposures by studies and internships abroad.

These global programmes provide international context through three pathways – the Global Mobility Programme (GMP) that allows students one semester and up to one year of studies at any of MSU's partner universities worldwide; the Global Leadership Programme (GLP) that prepares students to become the leaders of tomorrow in their chosen profession by developing in them a global mindset; and the Global Internship Programme (GIP) that prepares future graduates for professional roles in a globalised society by offering work-integrated learning experiences in international workplace settings.

Steeped in a culture of research and innovation as well as social entrepreneurship, MSU comprises the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies, the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering, the International Medical School, the School of Pharmacy, the School of Education and Social Sciences, the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts, the Post Graduate Centre 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, with the aim of Transforming Lives and Enriching Futures.

■ Don't miss the opportunity to #Lets Go To MSU. To learn more, visit *https://www.msu.edu.my/*

Coding a future in data

DATA science has become a pivotal force in reshaping industries, economies and daily life. By leveraging data, businesses enhance efficiency, governments make informed policies, and healthcare advances towards personalised treatments.

Data science is not just a tool; it is shaping the future, making it an exciting and vital field of study for students today.

More so when Malaysia is aiming to achieve high technology status by 2030, data science is at the core of such vision.

Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT)'s Department of Computer Science and Embedded Systems programme leader, Assoc Prof Tan Chi Wee, shared his thoughts on data science development in Malaysia.

"Malaysia's data centre market is experiencing unprecedented growth. With a development pipeline of 1.2 gigawatts planned, we are looking at a 600% increase over the next five years, as reported by the media. This expansion will certainly position Malaysia as a leading data centre hub in South-East Asia."

With such rapid expansion of data science in the country, a strong pool of qualified human capital is needed to run the show.

Jane Wang En Huan is one such talent who is pursuing her Bachelor of Data Science (Honours) at TAR UMT and she is looking forward to joining the workforce when she completes her degree.

"I am very encouraged that when I graduate, there are ample opportunities for me to grow and strengthen my career.

"Similar to how I really enjoyed my degree programme, I am sure I can secure an employment related to data science, thanks to the government's focus in developing data centres.

"I've a deep interest in IT and machine learning, which is why my favourite subjects include machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data visualisation.

"These areas are at the forefront of innovation, for example, in manufacturing, machine learning can detect product defects in real-time or predict maintenance schedules," she explained.

TAR UMT's Bachelor of Data Science (Honours) programme is designed to equip students with cutting-edge knowledge and practical skills.

The comprehensive curriculum covers essential areas such as Programming, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Data Engineering, Image Processing, Natural Language Processing (NLP), and the Internet of Things (IoT) – all of which are crucial in today's data-driven world.

Assoc Prof Tan elaborates further, highlighting the practical applications of emerging technologies.

"It is a common misconception that AI is simply about the coding of asking questions and receiving answers, but it is far more than that.

"For example, Image Processing is one of the latest trends in data science. It plays a critical role especially in healthcare and manufacturing for quality control and defect detection. Coupled with IoT, we can connect devices and enable real-time data collection through sensors, allowing us to predict anomalies and enhance operational efficiency."

■ For more information, visit TAR UMT's open day on May 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 and 24-25, as well as June 14-15 (excluding public holidays) from 10am to 5pm in all TAR UMT campuses nationwide. Call 011-1075 8554 or log on to *www.tarc.edu.my* for information and to apply online. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are available for qualified students.

Wang said the programme at TAR UMT encourages critical thinking, offers online resources and tools, and provides a supportive environment for collaboration and guidance.

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Excel in accounting

IN a constantly evolving global economy, accounting is more than just numbers – it is the language of business and those fluent in it are vital across all industries.

At Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), the Faculty of Accountancy and Management (FAM) delivers an academic experience that bridges theory and practice, shaping future-ready graduates who thrive in today's dynamic job market.

The four-year Bachelor of Accounting (Honours) programme is recognised by key professional bodies, such as the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), CPA Australia, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and the Chartered Tax Institute of Malaysia (CTIM).

Students participate in tutorials built around real-world case studies and hands-on sessions.

Field trips, competitions and guest lectures from firms such as PwC, Deloitte, KPMG, EY, BDO, Baker Tilly and Crowe bring real-world relevance and energy to the classroom.

The university partners with organisations like Auto Count Sdn Bhd, CIMA, ACCA, the Chartered Tax Institute of Malaysia and industry practitioners to enhance learning with technical training, co-teaching opportunities and industry updates.

One student who benefitted from this immersive learning environment is Joshua Yap Jan Chen.

"I initially intended to study psychology. However, after being exposed to bookkeeping during secondary school, I discovered I had a natural talent for it.

"Since the Sungai Long campus is close to my home and UTAR is known for offering quality education at an affordable cost, I chose to pursue accounting here.

"The programme has been a great mix of theory and practical learning. We often get insights from industry professionals, and the lecturers are always ready to guide us."

Internships are a key part of the UTAR experience, and all students complete a six-month placement before graduation.

These internships develop workplace skills and often lead directly to job offers. 80% of graduates secure employment within six months of completing the programme.

The remainder typically pursue professional certifications to specialise further. Many alumni have established careers at Big Four firms, including PwC, EY, Deloitte and KPMG, while others excel in commercial sectors or rise through the ranks as professional auditors and managers.

Yap (centre) proudly represented the university and emerged as the first runner-up in the EY Young Tax Professional of the Year 2024 (Malaysia) competition.

To explore more about the programme, visit *study.utar.edu.my/accounting.php* or apply directly at *admission.utar.edu.my/Apply_Now.php*

■ Visit UTAR Open Days on May 10 to 11, May 24 to 25 and May 31 to June 1 from 9am to 4.30pm at both Kampar and Sungai Long campuses. To learn more, visit *www.utar.edu.my* or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus), 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).

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Stirring passion into culinary excellence

CULINARY arts is more than just cooking – it's about turning ingredients into edible works of art. From plating to presentation, culinary professionals blend skill, creativity, and passion to create unforgettable meals.

At Management and Science University (MSU) College's School of Hospitality, Education, and Business Studies (SHB), the Diploma in Culinary Arts offers students the opportunity to turn their love for cooking into a professional skillset, opening doors to dynamic and rewarding careers.

This programme not only introduces students to various culinary disciplines but also equips them with a strong foundation in culinary knowledge, hands-on expertise, industry insights, and essential management skills.

This comprehensive programme also provides a solid foundation in culinary techniques while introducing students to industry best practices, management principles, and hands-on kitchen skills.

To enrol, students need a minimum of three credits in any subjects in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or an equivalent qualification.

Delicious opportunities

Graduates can dive straight into the workforce or continue their studies at MSU's School of Hospitality and Creative Arts (SHCA).

With MSU's credit transfer system, students may enter directly into the second year of a related bachelor's degree programme in the same field or other related programmes.

MSU College is committed to developing graduates who are not only skilled but also well-rounded, with a strong focus on soft skills and entrepreneurship – essential traits in today's competitive culinary scene.

MSU's Diploma in Culinary Arts offers hands-on education and practical skills that prepare students for success in the fast-paced culinary world.

Career options are endless, ranging from working in top hotels to launching a restaurant or a cafe, or even running a catering business.

Students can also consider other hospitality-driven fields such as Tourism Management, Hotel Management, or Food Service and Restaurant Management.

MSU College is also an MSU APEL Centre, providing an alternative pathway for candidates to pursue higher education through the APEL Aptitude Test.

This non-conventional pre-qualification allows entry into various academic levels, with MSU currently offering APEL A and APEL C at:

> T-3 (Certificate)
> T-4 (Diploma)
> T-6 (Bachelor's degree)
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This flexible approach opens doors for those looking to advance their education and career, regardless of background.

■ To find out more, go to *www.msucollege.edu.my*, call 03-5521 6868 or email enquiry@msucollege.my