

StarSpecial

HIGHER EDUCATION

Giving back through entrepreneurship

A PERSON'S life experiences are mostly observed and specifically adjusted to fit the person's needs.

Management and Science University (MSU) alumna Nur Aisyah Kamsani dials it up a notch by taking that experience beyond her needs.

"I had a skin problem that I wanted to solve and after thorough research, I found my solution: a natural and novel formula," she said. "The next step, of course, was to share it with the world."

Certified halal by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim), Aisyah's beauty formula also received certification from Malaysia's Ministry of Health and was tested by the Food Quality and Safety Research & Development Centre at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Qalish Beauty debuted in the Malaysian market in 2015, spreading the message of attaining self-confidence with good, clear skin. It didn't take long for Aisyah to realise that she should also highlight the social value her solution provides.

Aisyah's company, QBC Global Sdn Bhd, was established in 2017 and co-founded by her fellow Bachelor in International Business



Aisyah with her Anugerah Personaliti Industri dan Usahawan Malaysia 2020 award.



Aisyah founded QBC Global Sdn Bhd in 2017 with her husband Halmey.

(Hons) graduate and presently, husband, Halmey Kadir.

The inspiration for the company came as an undergraduate at MSU's Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies (FBMP), when Aisyah was juggling studying and working part-time to support her parents and four siblings.

"I understand hardship and the next step was to share the financial stability that could be had from the business. I wanted to share my success by giving back," she said.

So while Qalish Beauty helps its

customers solve their skin problems, it also provides them with the opportunity to enlist as stockists. Last year, the company produced its first millionaire and anticipates five more this year.

While celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, the brand aims to grow more entrepreneurs and help them achieve financial health.

Along the way, it plans to spread well-being by targeting to provide solutions to a million large pore and/or acne-prone skin problems by 2029.

Although the enterprise landed her an Anugerah Personaliti Industri dan Usahawan Malaysia 2020 award, Aisyah attributed her success to her alma mater.

"I regard the MSU president as my idol. As a member of the Student Representatives Council, we were in touch with Tan Sri Datuk Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid through regular meetings and his words on my graduation day in 2009 about making a difference have been etched in my heart ever since," said Aisyah.

Imparting advice to present and future fellow MSU'ians, the Bachelor in International Business (Hons) graduate leans on her involvement in the entrepreneurship ecosystem as one of her best learning experiences at MSU.

"I joined MSU's Global Leadership programme held in Indonesia. It taught me a lot about entrepreneurship – how to identify and solve problems and make a change in society, especially for underserved communities," she said.

"As we cannot predict the future, it is important to acquire skills that will last a lifetime. One way to do that is through entrepreneurship. With the business you create, you can jump-start innovation."

As a top university in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student development by enhancing employability. With 98.7% of its graduates successfully securing employment within six months of their graduation, the Ministry of Higher Education ranks MSU as Malaysia's No.1 for its graduate employability.

Blending technical vocational education and training 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 sought by employers.

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

MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates admission of students from all walks of life.

■ For more details, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit www.msu.edu.my



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First City UC's Engineering students will be able to enjoy using state-of-the-art learning facilities such as the Mechanical Engineering Lab.

Create your success story

FIRST City UC has always offered industry-relevant bachelor's degree programmes across its three faculties:

Faculty of Design and Built Environment (FDBE)

FDBE students benefit from industry partnerships with professional design bodies such as the Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers, Malaysian Design Council and the Graphic Design Association of Malaysia.

The BA (Hons) Graphic Design and BA (Hons) Furniture and Product Design are three-year programmes while the BA (Hons) Interior Architecture and Design is three and a half years. Students will learn about the role of design and the designer within their respective professional contexts.

The three-year BA (Hons) Fashion Marketing empowers fashion enthusiasts to market and brand their own fashion products.

Faculty of Business, Hospitality and Communication (FBHC)

With a versatile range of programmes, students may opt for an Accounting and Finance, Business, Entrepreneurship or Hospitality Management pathway.

Those keen on a finance-related career should consider the three-year BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance programme. Graduates wishing to get an Association of Chartered Certified Accountants qualification will be eligible for nine module exemptions.

Meanwhile, those looking to join global businesses can sign up for the three-year BA (Hons) International Business programme.

The BA (Hons) Entrepreneurship programme trains students to evaluate concepts and respond to a changing environment flexibly. It also imbues students with the necessary leadership skills to motivate and direct others towards a common business goal.

Students of both programmes can also opt to apply for CIM (Chartered Institute of Marketing) membership at student price.

The BBA (Hons) Hospitality Management course modules cover related topics and critical thinking and communication skills.

Faculty of Engineering and Computing (FEC)

FEC prepares students for the career possibilities created by Industrial Revolution 4.0. Through Memoranda of Understanding signed with companies such as NEM and Iconix, students can access up-to-date course materials and cutting-edge equipment.

Students of the four-year Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering with Honours programme will learn to solve complex engineering problems and comprehend engineering and management principles.

The four-year Bachelor of Electronic



First City UC's Design students will have access to top-quality learning tools and facilities such as this Wood Workshop.

Engineering with Honours will teach concepts such as circuitry, control systems, signal processing and electronic system design.

Those interested in information technology or computing may consider the Bachelor of Computer Science (Intelligent Systems) (Hons), Bachelor of Information Systems (Hons) in Business Management, Bachelor of Information Technology (Networking and Security) (Hons) or the Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons) programmes.

Virtual Open Day, enrolment incentives and campus facilities

SPM school-leavers are encouraged to map out their education pathway to success at First City UC's Virtual Open Day sessions throughout September and October or go on a physical campus tour during this period.

Prospective bachelor's degree students should enrol quickly to be among the first 100 entitled for attractive financial assistance and scholarships. The first five to enrol for the Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering programme will qualify for 30% off their tuition fee each year. All these offers are subject to terms and conditions.

Bachelor's degree students will be eligible for an alumni incentive of up to 25% for postgraduate studies.

A host of financial aid and scholarships including the First City Merit Scholarship, UEC Scholarship, Sports Scholarship, Sibling and Alumni Incentive are available.

Due to First City UC's location within Bandar Utama in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, students will have access to many amenities, including 1 Utama Shopping Centre and major public transportation like the MRT.

Students may take a 360° virtual tour via <http://virtualx.my/360projects/firstcity-edu/>

■ Register online via <https://firstcity.edu.my/category/programmes/>

More details are available via the hotline 017-660 6680 and on Facebook (@firstcityUC) and Instagram (@firstcity.uc).

Call for agency to tackle ECCE issues

EARLY childhood care and education (ECCE) has had a presence in Malaysia since the 1940s. While the importance of ECCE remains indisputable, many experts still believe there are gaps within the field that require a strategic intervention.

Most of these gaps are related to policies that have been in existence since pre-independence. As Malaysia inherited these policies post-independence, efforts were made to redesign the policies and introduce new and more comprehensive policies to meet current and future needs.

However, as community needs differed in various states, the ECCE services fell under the purview of four ministries – Education, Women, Family and Community Development, Rural Development and the Department of National Integration.

The private sector, non-governmental organisations and religious agencies also played a significant role as they too offered ECCE services.

Although ECCE has a long history, it was only looked at more rigorously over the last two decades. The National Preschool Curriculum was officially introduced in 2003, and the National Curriculum for Early Childcare and Education (Permata) was implemented in 2008.

As stakeholders began realising the importance of ECCE for the holistic development of children, the gaps and incoordination among stakeholders, policymakers and implementers caught the attention of many.



Prof Mogana (left) and Dr Foong are calling for a concerted effort to educate stakeholders on education policies and streamline the public and private education setting for a sustainable ecosystem.

To address these gaps and study measures that could help strengthen the quality of Malaysian ECCE, the National Child Development Research Centre (NCDRC) under Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) and SEGi University entered into a research collaboration in 2017 to evaluate the efficacy of existing education policies and study the needs of various ECCE stakeholders.

The main purpose of the research project was to find

solutions to establish a more informed and solution-driven ECCE community in the country.

This research was part of a bigger sub-project that focused on “Malaysian ECCE Programme Evaluation – Improving Quality and Informing Policy”. The study on policy matters related to ECCE led an 11-member research team at SEGi University to conduct a comprehensive survey involving five stakeholders, namely policymakers, preschool operators, parents,

teachers and special education teachers.

Over 3,000 participants were involved in this research.

The recently concluded study found that many of the issues and gaps highlighted by the stakeholders could be addressed with a single coordinating agency to coordinate and manage the registration and monitoring of preschools in Malaysia.

The proposed agency would not just serve as a reference point on policy matters, but also as a service hub connecting stakeholders to the relevant ECCE services.

“The dearth of policy awareness often leaves preschool operators in a perplexed state because they have to visit various departments for approval. A single agency can help coordinate the registration and quality assurance processes under one roof.

“This can help reduce and ultimately eliminate the issue of unregistered preschools and childcare centres,” explained research project leader Prof Dr Mogana Dhamotharan.

She said introducing a single dedicated agency can ease and harmonise the process for ECCE centre operators.

The agency can do more public awareness programmes for stakeholders to educate them on matters crucial to families and children. It will also help parents in making informed decisions on their children’s education.

According to SEGi University Faculty of Education and

Languages dean Dr Lydia Foong, who was also one of the co-researchers, the research further revealed other inadequacies and room for improvement.

For instance, although there was high policy awareness among the implementers of policies, it was limited to their own area of work or study, making it difficult for them to formulate a comprehensive policy that encompasses all the essential aspects ranging from registration to training and administration.

She added that parents were concerned about the lack of supervision or monitoring at preschools, as well as the quality of teachers’ and principals’ experiences, personalities and competencies.

Parents of children with special needs, in particular, expressed their concerns on teachers’ qualification and experience.

Meanwhile, teachers lamented the lack of training, funding and resources required for this specialised field.

Both academics also emphasised that a concerted effort must be made to communicate the critical points of various policies through effective channels.

They added that efforts must also be made to streamline the public and private education settings to establish a more inclusive and sustainable ECCE ecosystem.

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

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Muzaini (centre) with fellow Nilai University staff (from left) Mohd Najib Abd Majid, Lim Chan Chee, Khairi Faiz Mazri and Pang.

KICK-START an exciting journey towards your dream job at Nilai University's School of Accounting and Finance. Experience the joy of receiving an excellent tertiary education while gaining industry-relevant knowledge in the field of accounting and finance.

Enhance understanding and proficiency

Nilai University offers diplomas and degrees in Accounting and Finance, as well as Master's programmes in Banking and Finance. Lessons for each course have been designed to ensure that students are well versed in the latest innovations to ensure a firm foundation in accounting and finance.

The fundamental knowledge gained will help students master economics, accounting essentials and financial analysis.

School of Accounting and Finance head Muzaini Osman believes the programme is capable of nurturing industry-ready graduates.

The university keeps track of tertiary education trends and incorporates hands-on activities so that students can apply what they learn in lectures and real-life situations.

Obtain practical comprehension

Classes conducted by experienced lecturers help students enhance their understanding of the practical side of various subjects. For example, practical classes are conducted on auditing using software like AXP Audit Workshop.

With the availability of the AutoCount System software, students will also learn to analyse business performances.

The university also partners with AXP Solutions Sdn Bhd, allowing students to receive training in the latest computerised auditing system using Audit Express, an audit software widely used by audit firms in Malaysia and Singapore. Students will be awarded a Certificate of Proficiency if they pass the proficiency examinations.

Exemptions from professional bodies

Students will be given a maximum exemption of nine papers in the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants Accredited programme. This qualification is recognised worldwide, meaning you can practise accountancy in the country of your choice.

Students will also gain seven paper exemptions from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, seven paper exemptions in the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and six module exemptions from the Registered Financial Planner qualification offered by the Malaysian Financial Planning Council.

Obtaining a professional certification in the field of finance promises great career progression. The certificate boosts your chances of working in renowned companies.

Solid career pathway

Nilai University's Accounting and Finance programmes are well known to train students to be thorough professionals capable of adapting well in their

career. Most of its alumni have completed their industrial training in big firms, earning their places in prestigious companies upon graduation and being hired in Big Four accounting organisations like KPMG Malaysia, PwC Malaysia, Ernst and Young and Deloitte.

With financial technology or fintech (an industry that incorporates technology into finance) coming into the picture, the university aims to provide students with more skills and knowledge for better career opportunities.

"With digitalisation, companies will create niche business models, value chains, business activities and strategies to suit customers' needs and wants," said Muzaini.

With many nations currently going through drastic economic adjustments, companies are forced to evolve and compete in a digitalised economy.

"Some accounting and financial functions that are routine and repetitive have been automated, and it will not stop here. This will enable accountants to focus on more creative, non-routine and non-structural tasks that require further critical thinking. The roles and duties in accounting and finance will be transformed," said Nilai University senior lecturer Mary Pang.

While both Muzaini and Pang agree that the fundamental knowledge and concepts of accounting and finance are still essential, there is a need to rapidly adapt, transform and change in the fast-paced digitalisation of businesses.

Some of the career options available upon graduation are management accountant, public finance accountant, financial planner, financial analyst, associate budget analyst and credit analyst.

Library resources, services and facilities are available for students. They can also participate in the beneficial mentor-mentee programme between students, lecturers and department staff. Nilai University also offers financial aid options and scholarships for students.

■ Intakes are open for October 2020. Call 06-850 2308 for an appointment with its education counsellors or email marketing@nilai.edu.my.

Or visit Nilai University's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NilaiUniversity/> or its website at www.nilai.edu.my

Nilai university is open for consultation daily or online chats when you join the online tour at <http://online.nilai.edu.my/scholarship-info/>



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Be the best in your field

WHEN you choose a career path, do you look to becoming the best in your field? If so, here are some ideas to help you on your journey.

First, read a book by an expert on what it takes to be successful. There are many self-help books and biographies for you to read so if you want to become a pilot, lawyer or photographer, pick up a book by a professional that discusses how they did it.

Second, be prepared to work hard. If it were easy to be good at something, everyone would be a genius. As the American inventor Thomas Edison said, "Genius is

one per cent inspiration, 99% perspiration."

This means your education should come first. Plan to study between lectures, and don't expect a constant stream of holidays and long weekends. Those come when you've hit the top.

Third, when you're learning, you might focus just on the goal but with most complex tasks, it's a process.

If you learn to analyse the process, and recognise the separate parts, then you can find ways to improve speed and quality. This will make learning more efficient – and less of a strain.



IMU's Bachelor of Psychology graduates find it easy to obtain employment in a variety of fields after graduation.

Exploring psychology

STUDYING psychology has always been an interesting journey. Psychology is defined as the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes; this definition alone sparks a great deal of intriguing questions about the immense complexities of being human.

Psychology has developed tremendously over the past century with the emergence of many theories and approaches leading to a deeper understanding of the field. The International Medical University's (IMU) approach to teaching psychology is inclusive of the increasingly diverse learners in higher education.

To address the needs of learning diversity, IMU's psychology programme is systematised into equally excellent preparations for both faculty and students' academic and career satisfaction.

Below are some reasons why students should study at IMU:

Competent

IMU's faculty members are competent and experienced professionals with years of experience in practice, teaching, clinical supervision and research. Their fields of expertise include industrial and organisational psychology, neuropsychology, behavioural psychology, educational psychology, developmental psychology, counselling and clinical psychology.

Recently, it organised a three-session live talk series on various topics: Embracing Grief and Loss Amidst a Pandemic, Helping Our Kids (and Ourselves) Stay Positive in a Pandemic and Building Resilience as a Family. It was hosted and presented by Cheryl Tham, Puvessha Jegathisan, Alexius Cheang, and Serena In.

Credible and versatile

Armed with teaching experience in American, British, Australian and local educational systems, and registered with respective international professional bodies, IMU's faculty is versatile in its ability to capture the essence of each unique educational system, while also working tirelessly to bring out the best in each and every student.

Caring

The university practises a mentor-mentee system that

serves to connect at an individualised level, providing students with appropriate academic support.

IMU's philosophical model also emphasises caring for the community, with students engaging in community-based projects.

Current

To address the concerns of rising mental health issues in Malaysia, IMU's latest addition to the Psychology programme is the Master of Counselling postgraduate programme. Successful completion would qualify graduates to become a registered and licensed counsellor in Malaysia awarded by the Malaysian Counselling Board.

IMU's Bachelor of Psychology graduates also find it easy to obtain employment in a variety of fields after graduation.

They also undergo training in areas like motivation, learning, memory, leadership, behaviour modification, communication skills and entrepreneurship.

The three-year Bachelor of Science (Hons) Psychology at IMU has a curriculum developed to meet high international standards. Students can study the entire psychology degree at IMU or study part of the programme locally and then transfer to the University of Newcastle, Australia or the University of Strathclyde, the UK to complete their degree.

The three-year Bachelor of Science (Hons) Psychology has also been accepted internationally for further specialisation at the graduate level.

To become a qualified psychologist, you will have to first complete your undergraduate degree in psychology, followed by a Master's degree in one of the specialised areas of psychological practice.

Intakes for the Psychology programme are in February and September. Apply now for a great start to an exciting career in psychology.

For students who have just completed their SPM and do not have any pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science, the direct route for entry into any of IMU's local degree programmes.

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

Producing capable OSH professionals

UNIVERSITI Kuala Lumpur Branch Campus Institute of Medical Science Technology (UniKL-Mestech) has opened the September intake for the Bachelor of Occupational Safety and Health (Honours).

This four-year programme is offered to Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia holders, foundation/matriculation students and diploma graduates who fulfil the entry requirements.

Students will be equipped with theoretical and practical management skills in the occupational safety and health (OSH) sector. It is a multi-disciplinary course that aims to produce knowledgeable, competent and professional OSH practitioners capable of independent practice in any industry sector.

It offers strengths in various areas such as OSH legislation, occupational management system (ISO45001), industrial toxicology, risk assessment, human factor and ergonomics.

Students will also need to conduct research projects and choose four elective subjects related to occupa-



Students will be equipped with theoretical and practical management skills in the OSH sector.

tional rehabilitation and behavioural safety. The uniqueness of this programme is that students will obtain professional competency certification upon completion of study.

As Malaysia increasingly strength-

ens legislative requirements for OSH, future demand for OSH professionals is expected to be high.

The Institute of Labour Market Information and Analysis and TalentCorp Malaysia in February 2019 listed the OSH professional in the Critical Occupations List as it is significantly in demand and facing shortages in the Malaysian labour market.

This dedicated group of safety and health professionals is responsible for managing the OSH system, compliance to regulatory requirements, making available technical advice and providing OSH promotion and education at the workplace.

Graduates of this programme will be able to undertake safety and health professional roles in various sectors as health, safety and environment (HSE) executive, safety and health officer, OSH coordinator, industrial hygienist, OSH competent person and HSE Consultant.

■ For details, contact 03-8739 5894 or email mrusdan@unikl.edu.my

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IT is common for children to exclaim, "One day, I am going to be a doctor." Doctors have always been familiar characters in each person's life – at one point or another, everyone would have had to visit a physician. It is no wonder that medicine is still a career of choice for Malaysian school-leavers today.

Qualifying with an MBBS is merely the first step as it is no longer a fixed road to becoming a practising clinician.

"Students have multiple pathways these days upon qualifying as a doctor. They can remain in practice, advance into research, go into corporate organisations by becoming a hospital manager or administrator or an occupational health specialist, or serve the community by being in public health," said Melaka-Manipal Medical College Faculty of Medicine dean Prof Dr Adinegara Lutfi Abas.

The practitioner

With the growing population, the doctor practitioner is still much needed in all sectors of society. While the hours may seem long and unfamily-friendly, it comes back to

A dream worth pursuing



Melaka-Manipal Medical College Foundation students Nurul Arisya and Toniieshaa meeting with Seremban district school counsellors during their visit to the campus.

the individual. As the saying goes, "Do what you love, and you will never feel as if you've worked a day."

"Furthermore, medicine is one of the fields catering to a varied range of interests in terms of the specialisations one can opt to go into," added Prof Dr Adinegara.

In a future where technology dictates, the skills that are distinctly human will be among the most valuable, and it is these skills that are enriched through postgraduate study.

Considering how vital this is, Melaka-Manipal organises workshops for USMLE, PLAB and various Royal College Fellowship/Membership exam prep courses at its campus in Melaka, so that students can prepare for them prior to graduation with minimal travel involved in their ongoing routine.

The researcher

For the doctor who is intrigued by how things start and how things can be resolved, or diseases cured, becoming a researcher would be a good choice. As the world shrinks with ease of travel, the threat of infectious diseases looms larger. Research work is also more structured today, with evidence collected based on a cross-section of causes.

With the advent of systematic review, the physician's research is now part of a larger multidisciplinary team, as the study must

incorporate a complete summary of current evidence relevant to the subject matter.

The community adviser

If it has always been your dream to treat communities as opposed to individual patients, the role of a doctor as a community adviser by way of being in public health would be the right path for you.

A strong love of medicine coupled with mathematics and statistics are the core ingredients for excelling in this pathway. By being able to read into trends and form analytical solutions, a public health physician can formulate strategic preventive measures

The right place to do your MBBS

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JUL | SEP
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KPT/JPT(N/345/7/1090)12/2023 | MQA/PSA11355
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KPT/JPT(R/145/7/0064)09/2025 | MQA/PSA15163
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MAR
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MAR | SEP
- Public Health[#] (MSc)
KPT/JPT(R/720/7/0077)09/2025
MAR | SEP
- Medical and Health Sciences (MSc / PhD by Research)
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KPT/JPT(R/272/1/8/0043)01/2027
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SEP
- Chinese Medicine
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FEB | OCT
- Chiropractic
KPT/JPT(R/726/6/0054)08/2026 | MQA/A9294
JAN | SEP

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KPT/JPT(R/2442/6/0003)01/2023 | MQA/A8229
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INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
KPT/PS11954/02, ANGGARAN/ST/00003
126, Jalan Jali Perkasa 19, Bukit Jali
57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

+603 2727 7450
start@imu.edu.my
www.imu.edu.my

Universiti Kuala Lumpur DU011(W)

+603 2175 4000 | Hotline : 1800 888 177 | www.unikl.edu.my

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