

Learn from a different perspective

MANY students who first step into a higher education environment may find it daunting as they are unprepared for the demands that are expected of them.

Fortunately, the Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) Beyond Education programme has this covered.

With the goal of providing a learning experience beyond academic knowledge and skills, TAR UMT boasts a vibrant and immersive campus environment where students are free to spread their wings, and develop their own unique talents and skills in their own way.

Outside the confines of the classroom, there are many other avenues such as clubs, societies and volunteer work that will allow students to improve their soft skills, which can become valuable assets and help them stand out in their future careers.

One such initiative is the Peer Coaching Programme introduced by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), which allows its students to coach their fellow peers and help them improve their command of the English language.

FSSH deputy dean Yap Yong Wei said the programme has been a success, with more than 100 students participating so far since the programme's inception in 2021.



Chia (left) and Noor Farah had good experiences participating in the Peer Coaching Programme where they developed valuable skills while helping their fellow students master the English language.

"This programme's aim is to provide avenues for TAR UMT students to improve their English language proficiency through their peers, and at the same time, have a platform for student coaches to develop their teaching skills on top of their soft skills such as professionalism, leadership, training abilities, effective communication and so on.

"This initiative embodies the Beyond Education programme championed by TAR UMT, where students will be able to develop skills and values that can lead to a more fulfilling life and career – which is more important than just gaining theoretical knowledge in class," said Yap.

"The student coach experience

has been fun, fruitful and fulfilling," says Meg Chia Yi Lin, a student of Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English with Drama.

"When I heard about this programme, it sounded like a great opportunity to help others in mastering the English language and to help me gain insights on being a peer coach, which is a win-win situation!

"The experience helped me evolve, as my role changed from a student absorbing knowledge to a teacher guiding my peers. The programme helped me strengthen my effective communication skills and pushed me outside my comfort zone as I had to initiate conversations and make new friends, despite being



The Peer Coaching Programme gives TAR UMT student coaches an opportunity to help their peers master the English language, while honing their own skills.

an introvert myself.

"Despite the added responsibilities, this is definitely one of the highlights of my university life. Watching my peers improve from session to session gave me satisfaction, and I couldn't be prouder of them!" Chia said.

This sentiment was echoed by another student coach, Noor Farah Adeebah, who is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in English Studies (Hons).

"I participated to make new friends while simultaneously gaining valuable experience from teaching my peers. This programme helped me overcome my shyness, develop better body

language and stronger intonation while presenting, making me more confident in teaching in front of a class.

"TAR UMT is a place that will help you grow out of your shell and unlock your true potential. Enrolling here is a decision I will never regret," said Noor Farah.

■ For more information about TAR UMT's Social Sciences and Humanities programmes, call 011-1078 5990 and 011-1059 7135 or log on to www.tarc.edu.my to apply online. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are available for qualified students.

