



Roots of a Beyond Education Experience



FUNDAMENTALS come first. Getting the basics right is a rite of passage before embarking on the next step in life, as a rock-solid foundation is imperative to achieving higher goals. This nugget of wisdom is also relevant to high school leavers who face a big decision on how to achieve their higher education goals.

One of the many options to reach those goals at Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) is via the Foundation programme, where students dedicate one year to preparing themselves for their bachelor's degree studies. These Foundation programmes are meticulously put together to help students adapt to the new academic environment and equip them with the knowledge and skills needed for a seamless transition to the bachelor's degree level.

Since its inception in 1969 as the then TAR College, TAR UMT has established a long and reliable track record of providing high-quality pre-university studies. Embedded with the Beyond Education experience, students learn more than knowledge and skills – they also learn competencies and values that can lead to a fulfilling life and career. TAR UMT offers six Foundation programmes: Science, Arts, Accounting, Engineering, Business and Computing. These options are carefully curated and designed to allow Foundation students some freedom in deciding their bachelor's degree specialisation later, and are in-depth enough that they can transition into their chosen field of study smoothly.

It is this balance that attracts students like Lau D-Jang to further their studies at TAR UMT. Lau, who chose the Foundation in Business programme, said he has been adapting well to tertiary education life thanks to the TAR UMT experience. "After high school, I researched how to proceed with my tertiary education. I realised that I only had a general idea of what to study and no idea what my

future career would be, which was why I chose the Foundation programme in TAR UMT.

"This way, I am able to adapt comfortably to the change in study lifestyle and environment, and make new friends. The syllabus is also well balanced as I can pick up fundamental skills and in-depth specialised knowledge relevant to the general direction in my field of study, so I can make an informed decision about which bachelor's degree programme to undertake later," said Lau.

The choice of six Foundation programmes at TAR UMT can be a huge advantage for high school-leavers who may fear that they are forced to make a choice they might regret later, wasting time and resources.

"Students today are more educated about their preferences and passions and don't want to risk choosing the wrong course. With more Foundation programmes to choose from, students have more options to settle on a route they can be happy with," said Agnes Sim Mei Yi, drawing from her own experience of deciding to enrol in the Foundation in Arts (Track A) programme.

"I did not have interest in a particular course, so my parents suggested the Foundation programme option. It has given my parents and myself peace of mind as I can further my studies in a course I'm interested in without committing too much to a specialised programme. That gives me time to discover my true passion and not waste my parents' money," Sim added.

As for Foundation in Arts (Track B) student Er Jia Yin, the Beyond Education experience at TAR UMT which allows students to learn and grow inside and outside the classroom through a vibrant campus ecosystem is more than enough for her to recommend TAR UMT's Foundation programme to her peers.

"The university life here is one of a kind. Compared to many other institutions I've explored, TAR UMT has more sports facilities, clubs, societies and extra co-curricular activities, which make for an exciting learning environment.

"Students here are not taught to just study and take examinations. They are encouraged to develop connections, find their own creativity and live their best student life through a variety of activities that they can choose from," said Er.

