

The Foundation Gazette 2024



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Message from Head of Global College



Warm greetings! I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all our July and September 2024 cohort of students to our Foundation Programmes at Global College in Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.

In this issue, we showcase some highlights from the Fit-For-Future Programme conducted during the and July and September 2024 Welcome Weeks. We are also pleased to have our new students writing about their first semester experience at the University. I am also proud to read about the experiences of our 2023 students who have graduated from their Foundation Programmes and have now successfully progressed to the Undergraduate degrees of their choice. Well done and congratulations to them on their achievement.

At Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, we strive to provide our students with positive learning experience and supportive environment that will enable them to readily bridge the transition between school and university studies while preparing them to embark on their chosen disciplines in our undergraduate degree programmes.

As such, at Global College, we provide additional learning support to students who need extra guidance through supplementary classes that aim to address any learning attainment gaps. In addition, we have also weekly drop-in sessions at allocated classrooms where students can drop-by to seek guidance in for tutorial questions and assignment work. We encourage all students to take advantage of these learning support initiatives from our lecturers.

With this newsletter we aim to include parents and guardians to be part of their child's journey, and to keep you informed on events and activities in the Foundation programmes. I hope that you enjoy the contents and find them informative.

Best Wishes to All,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

Associate Professor Jasmine Low
Head of Global College, Malaysia

Fit-for-Future

July 2024



Fit-for-Future

July 2024



Fit-for-Future

July 2024



Fit-for-Future

September 2024



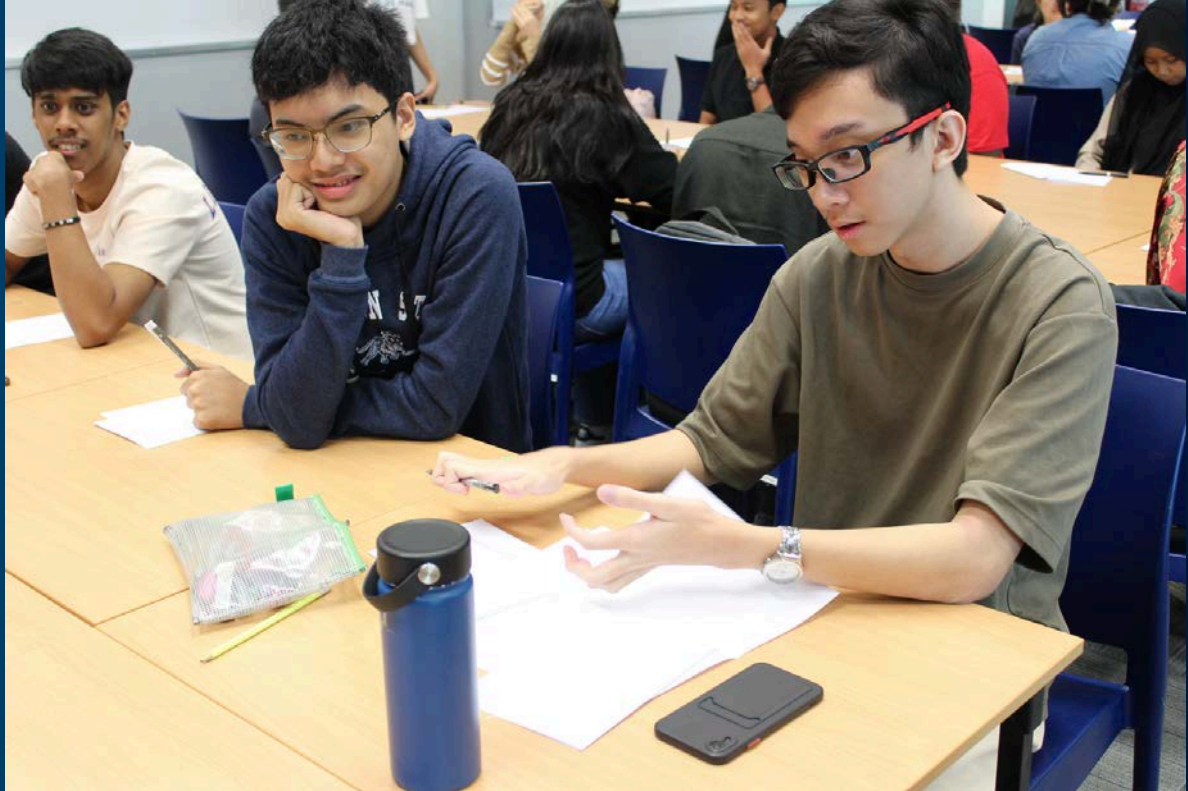
Fit-for-Future

September 2024



Fit-for-Future

September 2024



My First Semester at the University



My first day at Heriot-Watt University had a rocky start. I arrived a bit late and sat in the front of the hall. Coincidentally, I sat beside the CEO of the University. Indeed, it was an interesting situation in which I found myself. After that rough start, the Fit-for-Future week went like a breeze. I met many people from different backgrounds and cultures. I come from a majority Malay-based background, so being part of this multiracial family has been mind-blowing. Fortunately, I am surrounded by warm and friendly people, so making new friends and interacting with people has never been an issue. From the first week until now, many wonderful memories have been created. I got to experience the Recruitment Day, which is as bustling and informative as it could ever be, as well as the Hari Malaysia celebration. The people here, students and lecturers, are the most welcoming people I have had the pleasure to interact with. The fear of being alienated is conquered, and I am proud to call myself a HWUMAN.

Muhammad Idlan bin Bkhari @ Bukhari
Foundation in Business

Honestly, I was very nervous during the orientation because I felt like I was still a high school student, and suddenly, I was going to be a university student. There were many uncertainties and unknowns. However, after the orientation, I found little difference, and I adapted quickly. But honestly, there were still many difficulties in the course because I had never studied economics before, so it was a bit difficult and time-consuming to start from the beginning. However, learning new things gives me confidence and more opportunities for my future pathways, which is not bad. Here is some advice: Don't be afraid to try new things because you never know if you'll like them or how much of an impact they will have on your future!



Sharnice Loi Ly Hui
Foundation in Business (Accounting)

My First Semester at the University



At first, I was afraid because I had no basic knowledge of business subjects, so I was worried that I would be unable to catch up with the assignments and exams. But the moment I started my first class in business and economics, I found out that it was not that 'scary'. Learning new things makes me more knowledgeable, increases my confidence, and creates more opportunities for my future pathways. Even though I was confused during my first economics class, I could not understand the specific terms used in economics, but my friends and lecturer helped me throughout the course. I felt grateful to have such a great lecturer and lovely friends. In the future, I would like to mainly focus on psychology and business pathway. Joining foundation in business helped me to achieve my future goals and get me ready for my degree year!

Liau Yu Huan

Foundation in Business (Psychology)

Since I enrolled at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, my life has been astonishing. The campus is different from my previous university. Here, I can meet a lot of new friends and make some international friends. It is such a wonderful experience. At first, I was thinking, "How will I survive here for four years?" However, I am lucky enough to meet such friendly seniors and lecturers.

Studying here gives me a sense of relief, as I have ample time to do my revision without disturbing my class schedule. I am thankful to the lecturers who have guided me throughout my studies.

There is a lot that I want to write about, but let us stop for now. It is my pleasure to be a part of HWUMANS. I am looking forward to many more exciting moments and memories ahead at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

Amier Iskandar Roslan

Foundation in Business



My First Semester at the University



Instead of waiting for the spotlight to shine on you, become the spotlight. All you need is a guide to navigate your college experience. Stepping onto the stable concrete pavements of her new beginning, in her gold-colored coat, which was supposed to bring confidence, but perhaps the magic hadn't kicked in yet. Everyone seemingly knew where to go, and she just followed.

"Why us? Why Heriot-Watt University?" A confident and powerful voice shot through the silent lecture hall. A hand slowly raised up. That's it!

Just days later, standing before the same lecture hall, her voice fills the room with confidence. Good impressions inspire a person with aims, a welcoming and positive community motivates one to work happily and passionately toward their goals. At HWUM, you get that. During my first month at HWUM, I've had many opportunities to express myself differently. For example, this text. At the same time, I hope my sharing inspires you to be a better version of yourself. I know for a long-term feeling, HWUM is the place I would pick over and over again for my teen to adulthood transformation.

Poh Yu Wen, Victoria
Foundation in Science (Computing)

At the start of this semester, I was quite anxious about stepping into university life. Fortunately, the Fit-for-Future Week, or Orientation Week, helped me tremendously in adjusting to this new environment through its unique events and wonderful staff. As time went on, I met many amazing people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. The friends I made at university helped me overcome my social anxiety, and I naturally became more sociable. Eventually, I even had the opportunity to serve as the emcee for one of the Fit-for-Future Week events. That experience was insightful and sparked my interest in public speaking. The fear I once had subsided, and from day one until now, through thought-provoking classes, pleasant interactions with friends, and informative events, I find myself excited for the upcoming semester.

Feroz bin Mujeebu Rahiman
Foundation in Business (Computing)



My Year in Foundation



My Foundation year was one of my most essential experiences, immensely shaped by my academic and personal life. I had some expectations coming into the programme, in that it would be a challenge but fun. Undoubtedly, I would find this statement even truer as I ventured on.

The programme was challenging, and there was no doubt about that. In many ways, the courses were designed to push me out of my previously adopted comfort zone, forcing me to adapt to new learning styles.

Some notable course requirements and assignments that remained etched into my mind, would be the English video assignment, the Mathematics and Physics research papers, as well as the numerous Computer Science projects. These different course works were demanding of me very different skills, and I was pushed by the programme to achieve and excel.

However, such challenges were always accompanied by fun! The supportive environment in the Foundation programme from my peers and lecturers made a huge difference, often turning a bad and stressful day into one filled with laughter, humour, and absolute joy. My lecturers not only encouraged academic success, but also nurtured personal growth. Especially poignant was the consistent emphasis on perseverance, in that I had to learn to persist in my work and seek help when needed during times of overwhelming workloads. All these experiences and important skills that I have attained could never been achieved without the support I've received.

Having successfully graduated from the programme, I am prepared to face the next chapter of my undergraduate life, now with a solid foundation both in my academic prerequisites and my growth-mindset. To my juniors, new students in the programme, I can assure you that it will indeed be hard, and at times success will feel impossible; but I'd suggest you stick to it, and embrace this year fully, for it will bear you the most magnificent fruit you have ever seen.

Loh Yue Hung (Cheerful)
School of Engineering and Physical Sciences

My Year in Foundation



My time as a Foundation student at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia has been a transformative journey marked by academic growth, personal development, and invaluable experiences. As a Foundation in Business student aiming to major in Accounting and Business Finance, I tried to be involved in various university events. The coursework in my field challenged me to think critically and develop a deep understanding of business concepts. Having no prior experience in business-related subjects, all the courses I took were new to me.

Initially, my lack of knowledge mainly in Accounting and Economics made it difficult to keep up with the lectures. However, with the support of my friends, I gradually caught up and improved. This experience taught me the importance of perseverance and the value of a supportive learning environment. Balancing academics with extracurricular activities was challenging but helped me become more organised and disciplined. Leadership roles in student organisations, where I served as a director in the AIESEC committee, enhanced my communication and team-building skills. Additionally, being invited to emcee a ceremony by the university's library was a wonderful experience that boosted my confidence and public speaking abilities. Active involvement in extracurricular activities was a significant aspect of my pre-university experience. As a member of AIESEC in HWUM, I improved my public speaking and critical thinking abilities. The committee, full of supportive people sharing the goal of impacting the community, provided me with unique opportunities. AIESEC's volunteering activities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the impact of these activities was impressive. The experience of contributing to such meaningful projects has inspired me to continue my involvement despite the hectic workload.

In conclusion, my time as a foundation student at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia has been a period of significant academic and personal growth. The experiences and lessons learned have prepared me for my future endeavours as a degree student majoring in Accounting and Business Finance.

Nurul Amirah binti Zairul Ariffin
School of Social Sciences

My Year in Foundation

Reflecting on my foundation year at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, I can confidently say that these three semesters have been transformative for me academically and personally. When I first received the acceptance email, I was filled with a mixture of excitement and apprehension, unsure of what to expect. However, this journey has proven to be incredibly enriching. As a scholarship recipient, I had the privilege of joining the “Leader with Impact” program for all three semesters. This program, specifically designed for scholarship students, has been instrumental in developing my leadership skills.



Through various workshops and activities, I learned the essentials of being an effective leader, which has greatly benefited me. Additionally, I had the opportunity to become a student ambassador for the HWUMSA club program such as the badminton competition and Watt a Night event, which was a completely new experience for me. I had never been involved in such activities during high school, and this role allowed me to meet new friends and gain valuable experiences. It was both fun and enriching, broadening my social network and enhancing my extracurricular profile. Academically, the year presented its challenges, particularly with subjects that were not my strengths. However, the support from lecturers and the resources provided by the university were immensely helpful. My friends and the overall environment were also incredibly supportive and non-judgemental, fostering genuine friendships and a collaborative spirit. My fellow scholarship students shared their coping strategies, which motivated me to strive for excellence.

Overall, my foundation year has been a period of significant growth and learning. Despite the challenges, the support system and opportunities available at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia made it a fun and rewarding experience. I am grateful for the lessons learned and look forward to continuing my academic journey with confidence and enthusiasm.

Kristy Gracie Anthony Chong
School of Social Sciences

Turning Plastic Waste into Art: July 2024 Cohort



As part of foundation chemistry project, students are stepping up to make a difference by transforming plastic waste into artwork. This innovative project not only nurtures their creativity but also raises awareness about the pressing issue of plastic pollution. By collecting discarded plastics from their communities, students gain firsthand insight into the volume of waste produced daily and the impact it has on the environment.

The process begins with gathering plastic waste, which might include bottles, wrappers, and other discarded items. As they sort and clean the materials, students learn about recycling and the importance of reducing waste. Next, they brainstorm creative ways to repurpose these items, turning them into sculptures, murals, or mixed-media pieces that convey a powerful environmental message.

Through this project, students developed artistic skills and gained a deeper understanding of environmental issues. They learned to see value in what is often considered garbage and discover how creativity can be a tool for change. The artwork produced serves as a visual reminder to our campus communities about the need for responsible consumption and the potential for waste to be transformed into something beautiful and meaningful.

By converting plastic waste into art, students take an active role in promoting sustainability, demonstrating that even small actions can contribute to a larger environmental movement. Their efforts inspire others to rethink their relationship with plastic, encouraging a shift toward a more sustainable future.

Saraswathy Nalatambi
Assistant Professor, Foundation in Science

Student Information

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

1 F2F SEMINARS, TUTORIALS AND LABS

Attend all scheduled learning sessions.



2 VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CANVAS)

- Read the weekly learning materials.
- Complete the learning activities and tutorials.



3 ASSESSMENTS

- Manage time to complete the assignments and projects and submit by given deadlines.



Announcement

Academic Calendar July

Academic Calendar for Foundation Programme

Dates	Activity
15 – 19 July 2024	Welcome Week
22 July – 18 October 2024	Semester 1 teaching
26 – 30 August 2024	Reading Week
21 – 25 October 2024	Semester 1 Exams
28 October – 29 November 2024	Semester 1 break
2 December 2024 – 14 March 2025	Semester 2 teaching
23 – 27 December 2024	Break 1
30 December 2024 – 3 January 2025	Reading Week
27 – 31 January 2025	Break 2
17 – 21 March 2025	Semester 2 Exams
24 March – 4 March 2025	Semester 2 Break
7 April – 4 July 2025	Semester 3 teaching
12 – 16 May 2025	Reading week
7 – 11 July 2025	Semester 3 Exams
14 July – 29 August 2025	Semester 3 Break
18 – 22 August 2025	Resits
1 – 5 September 2025	Undergraduate Welcome Week

The dates are subject to change

Announcement

Academic Calendar September

Academic Calendar for Foundation Programme

Dates

Activity

26 – 30 August 2024

Welcome Week

2 September – 22 November 2024

Semester 1 teaching

28 October – 1 November 2024

Break

25 – 29 November 2024

Semester 1 Exams

2 December 2024 – 14 March 2024

Semester 2 teaching

23 – 27 December 2024

Semester 2 (break 1)

30 December – 3 January 2025

Reading Week

27 – 31 January 2025

Semester 2 (break 2)

17 – 21 March 2025

Semester 2 Exam

24 March – 4 April 2025

Break

7 April – 4 July 2025

Semester 3 teaching

12 – 16 May 2025

Reading Week

7 – 11 July 2025 S

Semester 3 Exam

14 July – 29 August 2025 B

Break

18 – 22 August 2025

Resits

1 – 5 September 2025

Undergraduate Welcome Week

The dates are subject to change

Additional Learning Support

To ensure the learning success of our students, there is support available for students to come and seek guidance for their tutorial questions and assignments.

LEVEL UP CENTRE FOR ALL MFP STUDENTS

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Venue: LS5 (West Wing Level 1)

1 to 1 coaching by Physics, Math, and Accounting Lecturers

Peer learning with seniors and juniors



Additional Learning Support

To ensure the learning success of our students, there is support available for students to come and seek guidance for their tutorial questions and assignments.



ENGLISH GYM

Our English Gym is available to all students who are looking to improve their academic English language and study skills.





UK | DUBAI | MALAYSIA



Compiled by: **Nur Ili Syazwani**
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