



**METHODIST**  
**COLLEGE** KUALA LUMPUR  
*Veritas Vincit Omnia*

# the flame

by Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

Education is essential to the development and survival of any nation, and Malaysia is no exception. But long before anyone becomes an engineer, economist, lawyer, doctor or the thousands of other professionals that make up a modern workforce, one first has to learn the basics of reading, writing and counting. This is where early childhood education comes into play, right at the beginning. Those who aspire to teach children at such an important stage in their lives have the immense responsibility of ensuring that they will acquire all the skills, knowledge and physical development necessary to grow and mature into contributing members of society.

Naturally, it is in the nation's interest to ensure that teachers of young children are adequately prepared in order to have the best possible chance of success in educating them. As a result, the Ministry of Education (MOE) requires pre-school teachers to have a minimum of a Diploma in Early Childhood Education (Diploma in ECE) in order to qualify for a teaching position in kindergartens or childcare centres. This regulation has already been in place for some

## Methodist Kindergartens Invest In Teacher Training Through The MCKL Joint Scholarship Scheme



time, though limited enforcement has allowed many to take up teaching positions with lesser or no qualifications. However, the MOE has announced its intent to seriously enforce this regulation from 2020 onwards, which has severe implications for all kindergartens and preschool centres run by local Methodist churches.

In anticipation of this issue, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur

(MCKL) developed the Diploma in ECE programme, which is fully accredited by Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), to train and equip young Malaysians with the knowledge, skills and qualification necessary to meet the challenges of teaching our youth. On top of that, MCKL sent word to the Methodist Churches in Malaysia to raise awareness of the impending enforcement of minimum

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*See more of our alumni inside!*





private university on a Global Accountant Scholarship.

With our students doing remarkably well year after year, several local and overseas institutions are offering attractive scholarships and discounts exclusive to MCKL students, forging unanticipated partnerships within the education fraternity to the benefit of our students. MCKL's partners include Messiah College (US), Monash University Malaysia, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, Asia Pacific University, KDU University and HELP University, offering anything from application fee discounts and free accommodation to full tuition scholarships.

In addition to these achievements, the College continues to faithfully commit to other nation-building initiatives, including the MCKL Teaching Scholarship, initiated in 2013, which helps fund the tertiary studies of alumni who intend to build a career in education. This year, we have sponsored Catherine Mei-Yan Bakewell to read English in Education at the University of York, UK, and Christina Chang Qian Ying to read Economics at the University of Sydney, AU.

Just as the two left to commence studies, Chan Yen Ping, the 2013 recipient, graduated from University of Cambridge and began teaching Chemistry in the A Level programme this July in addition to taking up advisory roles for various committees and student bodies. Melissa Chew Li Mei, who was the 2015 MCKL Teaching Scholar for ECE, returned from IT Tralee, Ireland with a degree and began teaching in our ECE classes from July 2016 as well.

As we invest in the future generation of teachers, the present generation must also be equipped and encouraged to grow. In MCKL, all new teaching staff undergo the internal teacher-training programme, the Art and Science of Teaching and Learning (ASTL) to prepare them

better for the challenges in and out of the classroom. This year, by God's grace, MCKL (in collaboration with the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia) has funded the first recipient for a postgraduate programme as part of our staff development initiatives. Chung Rui-Zhe will be on sabbatical for the next one year to read a Masters in Operational Research and Business Statistics at the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Through the Diploma in Early Childhood Education programme, MCKL continues to groom kindergarten teachers of the future with special arrangements made for candidates through two initiatives: The MCKL Joint Scholarship with local Methodist Churches, which is available to new or current teachers in Methodist kindergartens looking to gain or upgrade skills in this field, and the MCKL-MCOE Scholarship, which provides for prospective teachers from the Orang Asli community. This year, Nor Arima a/p Nordin graduated with her Diploma in April. She is currently gaining valuable working experience at the kindergarten run at the Klang Baptist Church, after which she will return to her community to set up a kindergarten there. We also welcomed aboard Sutana a/p Bah Jalil, who commenced her Diploma studies in August, with the aid of the Wesley Methodist Church KL as well.

As we head into a new year, we have already secured the necessary approvals for Malaysia's very first Diploma in Social Work which we are planning to launch in April 2017. Aimed at currently serving social workers and volunteers at various centers across the county, we look forward to providing a good training ground and academic

foundation for individuals with a passion to address the growing social and emotional needs of the nation, especially in the urban localities.

While there were many things to celebrate this year, there was also loss. In June, our beloved Mr Ganesan, who had been teaching IELTS and the English subjects for the Ausmat programme since 2000, passed away suddenly due to a heart attack, leaving everyone at the College in shock and classes without a lecturer. But God has been good and just when we needed someone to fill the gap, two of our 'alumni' returned to fill in the various vacancies at the College. They are Nicholas

Wong Keng Soon from the A Level Class of 2011, who has just returned to Malaysia after completing his Masters in English Literature from the University of York, and Dr Grace Lim, a former MCKL staff, has also returned after completing her PhD in Education (Teaching of English Literature) from the University of Cambridge. We are very delighted and grateful for their timely arrival.

Indeed, where there is a need, God provides!

As we look back on the year, let us give thanks for all we have experienced. We congratulate those who have done well and moved on to the next chapter of their lives, and celebrate their successes. We encourage those who are still making their way to the next chapter

and continue to support their efforts. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a holistic learning experience for all who come through our doors, and look forward to impacting the next generation of professionals and leaders who will form and transform our nation and our world in the future.

Blessings,  
Moey Yoke Lai



## The Art and Science of Teaching and Learning

MCKL maintains rigorous standards for its lecturers, requiring additions to academic staff to undergo the ASTL (Art and Science of Teaching and Learning) course, which includes theory, practice, and peer-review. MCKL evaluates its lecturers with reference to the latest in pedagogical theory, addressing shortfalls and providing a framework for improvement.

Lesson Templates and Teacher/Trainer Type Inventory (TTI) help trainees personalise their teaching styles for optimal student response and performance. Learning Theory and Reflective Essays encourage reflection on the philosophy of teaching and one's approach.

"Personally, I gained the most from the peer-review and practical exercises," shares Nicholas Wong, an MCKL Alumnus now teaching English Literature at the College.



"Recorded-teaching Assessments and Public Presentations were both co-operative, so I was able to compare my work with my peers and so identify my own weaknesses. I have found this awareness both of one's shortcomings and the discovery of allies who can help correct those deficiencies equally invaluable.

"What I enjoyed most about the course was the opportunity to bond with colleagues – a sense of camaraderie fostered amongst the trainees through shared experience and division of labour. I think the true value of ASTL lies in the sense of perspective - identifying strengths, weaknesses, and key areas for

improvement, before comprehensively providing its lecturers the concrete, theoretical, and social resources to affect it.

"Lastly, MCKL conducts 'Staff Development Programmes' to address not just academic performance, but also student welfare and mentoring. Demanding though these programmes are, I am impressed with the College's holistic approach towards students and staff, addressing matters both academic and pastoral," he concludes.



continued from cover page

# The MCKL Joint Scholarship Scheme

requirements for private preschool teachers as well as to offer a Joint-Scholarship Scheme – wherein local Methodist churches and MCKL will collaborate to sponsor promising students to pursue the Diploma in Early Childhood Education studies full-time in MCKL.

Mr Khoo Teng Sooi, the Director of Institutional Development in MCKL describes it thusly: "This Joint-Scholarship scheme, carried out in collaboration with local Methodist churches, offers a great opportunity for young SPM school leavers to be professionally trained as early childhood educators and to pursue a rewarding career in teaching!"

As of October 2016, three churches, Trinity Methodist Church Perak, Gunung Rapat Methodist Church, Ipoh and Tamil Methodist Church Kuala Lumpur have answered the call and sent three students as pioneers for this special joint-scholarship. They are Chin Wei Nee, Chee Wei Ling and Alvina A/P Katayah Yasin, respectively. MCKL provide full scholarships that cover their tuition and other fees of up to RM22,000 each, whilst their sponsor churches will commit a matching scholarship to cover their living expenses and books for the duration of their studies. In return, the students will be bonded to serve for a minimum of four years in a kindergarten or preschool centre operated by their sponsoring church immediately after completing their studies in MCKL.

Such a significant commitment of funds requires similarly promising and committed students – not just academically, but emotionally and spiritually as well – and Wei Nee, Wei Ling and Alvina fulfil those aspects in their respective backgrounds. All three of them have extensive experience in teaching and looking after young children, whether in their church kindergartens or the homes of friends or relatives, and desire formal training to take it to a professional level. "I used to help my mother babysit children, and I also taught in the church kindergarten," says Wei Nee. "Teaching in the kindergarten was difficult because it was for special needs children, and I didn't really know the best way to connect with them. That's why I want proper training."

Wei Nee's experience mirrors that of many preschool teachers, which is why MCKL's Diploma in ECE is designed with a great deal of academic depth and practical training to ensure that students are able to meet the intellectual, emotional and physical needs of young children. After all, there is more to preschool than simply occupying the children's time whilst their parents are at work; teachers need to instil in children the desire to learn and lay the groundwork of language and mathematics necessary for primary education, whilst providing them with a safe and nurturing environment. That is a lot to prepare for, and Wei Ling agrees. She adds, "We have to do a lot of studying in ECE, and we have even covered tough topics that are supposed to be taught in university! My friend who is studying ECE in another college says that MCKL's syllabus looks a lot harder. But that is good because I want to be ready for anything when I work. Once I have

more experience and further studies in entrepreneurship, I hope to be able to open my own kindergarten in Malaysia."

On top of that, ECE students must have a genuine desire to teach and nurture young children. All the technical knowledge in the world will not help if a teacher has no passion, and this is especially crucial for children who still lack the maturity or discipline to learn independently. To those who are considering this career, Alvina has this to say: "I used to help my mother take care of other people's children in church, and I also used to teach in Sunday school. I really enjoy it, both my parents support my choice, and MCKL's teachers are all very friendly and dedicated, so I know that this is the right place for me. You should really be into teaching kids if you want to do ECE."

Through this collaboration of College, church and gifted students, MCKL hopes to establish a formidable and lasting tradition of preparing more young Malaysians for the task of building the nation through Early Childhood Education. Time is of the essence, as the deadline for the enforcement of minimum qualification draws closer, for we now have an opportunity to secure our roles in teaching, raising and imparting our values to our own children in the immediate future and beyond.

## Preschools told to Hire Teachers with Diploma from 2017!

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 2016 (Bernama) -- All preschool education implementing agencies must start hiring kindergarten teachers with at least diploma qualification from next year.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said the requirement for such an academic qualification would be fully enforced by 2020.



"Preschool teachers serving under government agencies or the private sector can enrol into any public or private university that offers the diploma in early childhood education (DECE) using a special requirement, namely the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning...."

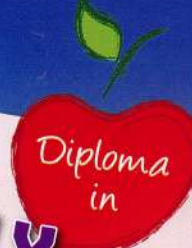
( Source Link : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1278305> )



Methodist College Kuala Lumpur offers the Diploma in Early Childhood Education programme that trains you to become a professional early childhood educator. As one of the longest established early childhood programmes in the country, the curriculum developed by MCKL provides a good balance of theoretical knowledge and practical hands-on training, covering vareas such as:

- Child Development
- Creativity through Music, Drama, Art and Craft
- Teaching Mathematics and Science to Young Children
- Language and Literacy
- Health, Safety and Nutrition
- Infant and Toddler Care
- Teaching Social Studies to Young Children

Students will acquire new skills while having fun learning them. The programme is open to all who have a genuine interest in caring for young children.



### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

KPT/JPS (A5668)12/19

## NEXT INTAKE :

# April & August

## 2017



*"At the heart of education is the education of the heart"*

Ask us about the Joint Scholarship between MCKL and your Methodist Church

Contact us for more information!



Off Jalan Tun Sambanthan 4, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
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 Email: ask@mckl.edu.my  
 Website: www.mckl.edu.my



In September 2016 Mr Chung Rui-Zhe, a Mathematics lecturer at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), became the first beneficiary of the College's staff development programme in collaboration with the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (United Board).

As MCKL pursues its mission of providing holistic excellence in higher education, it has to ensure that the College staff are aligned to its core values and are developed and trained to take on this challenge. As such, the College has proactively taken steps in the past few years to develop its academic and administrative staff through various programmes and initiatives.

Making The Connection

MCKL made the connection in 2014 when Dr Hope Antone of the United Board visited the MCKL campus. Two senior management staff, Mr Khoo Teng Sooi and Mr Reuben Chan, were invited to participate in the Asian University Leaders Program (AULP) conference later in the year held in Hong Kong. At the AULP conference they discovered the various opportunities and support for faculty and institutional development provided by the United Board, including the Faculty Scholarship Programme. The mission of the United Board – a commitment to education that develops the whole person – resonates with the mission of MCKL and a close bond was established



between both organisations.

The Faculty Scholarship Programme of the United Board offers awards up to USD 10,000 a year for postgraduate studies (Master and PhD level) in one of its network universities in Asia and Australia. Mr Chung was nominated by MCKL for the scholarship and he was successful in winning the award as well as gaining admission to Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) to read for an MSc in Operational Research and Business Statistics in September 2016. In addition, Mr Chung was awarded a 65% tuition waiver sponsorship by the Department of Mathematics, HKBU. On our part MCKL granted him one year's paid leave for his studies with the undertaking that he will return to serve the College for a couple of years after graduation.

The Faculty Scholar

Mr Chung, the inaugural recipient of the 2016/2017 Faculty Scholarship Programme is one of the outstanding young lecturers in MCKL. He has served at the College as a mathematics lecturer for the past 3 years in the A Level and Australian Matriculation programmes. He played an active

role as an advisor to both the Student Council and Christian Fellowship and contributed in many ways to other projects and initiatives in the College. Bursting with enthusiasm, energy and ideas in teaching and outside the classroom, this young man is suited for the staff development programme.

Chung already had personal plans to go for further studies when he was nominated by management in October 2015 to apply for the United Board Faculty Scholarship. Chung then began researching his field of specialization in earnest and started

**As MCKL pursue its mission of providing holistic excellence in higher education, it has to ensure that the College staff are aligned to its core values and are developed and trained to take on this challenge.**

the application process: "The application process involves writing a personal statement, getting reference letters and going through an interview. If the scholarship application process is a success, only then the candidate will begin to apply for a particular course in the selected university. United Board requested that we shortlist 3 universities along with the respective courses. Then they decided which university I should apply to."

Commenting on his choice,

Chung had this to say: "I chose HKBU over other institutions as the subject matter of operational research really interests me a lot. All other choices [of universities] did not offer that subject." Chung was fortunate to have United Board agreeing to his first choice of the university and course of study. Together with the joint HKBU sponsorship and MCKL's financial support, Chung's academic fees, accommodation expenses and meals are mainly covered. HKBU also provided assistance with the hostel accommodation arrangements.

Chung also feels encouraged that the College is trying to give their faculty members and staff a chance to grow academically and

gain experience through the staff development and sponsorship initiatives. "With the current economy, is hard to find many organisations that are willing to do so, and even if they do, the chances of receiving one is very slim. I think it is really good that the College is willing to jointly sponsor me along with United Board. This collaboration is an excellent idea as it is unlikely for one organisation to fully fund someone... but together then it is more doable," Chung commented as he recounts the relatively high cost of studying in Hong Kong.

"Chung Rui-Zhe is a good candidate for the collaborative initiative with the United Board," commented Mr Khoo Teng Sooi, Director of Institutional Development. "He has a lot of potential and Management recognized that. He is our pioneer and we wanted to send one of our best talents. We are grateful



to the Lord that he was selected."

Upon completion of his one-year Master's programme in HKBU, Chung will return to resume his academic position and leadership roles in various extramural activities for at least the next two years. The College looks forward to Chung's return and future contribution to the development of the College in line with its mission and core values.

**MCKL Alumni on the Staff Team 2016/2017**

- Colin Wong Keng Yin, Marketing
- Edwin C. Dutton, Administration & Student Services
- Ngai Qi Hao (Howard), University Placement Services
- Lim Heui Wern, Accounting & Finance
- Wong Ying Ying, University Placement Services
- Regina Yoong Yui Jien, Lecturer - English Literature
- Jeremy Achariam, Lecturer - Physics
- Nigel Ngiam Kee Kiat, Lecturer - Chemistry
- Chan Yen Ping, Lecturer - Chemistry
- Melissa Chew Li Mei, Lecturer - Early Childhood Education
- Nicholas Wong Keng Soon, Lecturer - English Literature

**Career Opportunities at MCKL**

In line with the College's expansion plans, we are seeking dedicated individuals to join our family in both academic and administrative positions. Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume with a recent photograph, stating expected salary and contact details to:

[hr@mckl.edu.my](mailto:hr@mckl.edu.my)  
 Attn: Ms. Chan Chiau Khoon,  
 Human Resource Development Manager



# Transforming The Nation Through Education: An Orang Asli Story

When a phone call from the Orang Asli village of Kg. Lanchang, Pahang to the Chinese Methodist Hokkien Church KL came in asking for assistance to rebuild the spiritual lives of the villagers, Mr Eric Tong and a few other church members never imagined that this was but one step in the overall picture of development God was painting for this isolated village of the Semai tribe.

When their prayer for manpower and transportation was answered in August 2010, the team headed for the village to make an evaluation of their spiritual and physical needs and returned in January 2011 armed with a plan to restore the faith of the village since diminished after a couple of generations from the first missionary efforts in 1928. Unexpectedly, while doing the Sunday School lessons for the children, they realized a very high illiteracy rate even among the older school-going children. Further inquiries revealed that most youths in the village didn't even finish secondary school, leaving the community in a vicious cycle of illiteracy and poverty with limited opportunities to find good paying jobs.

A burden to fix this grew in the heart of Mr Tong, and he was inspired with a 20-year plan to transform the community through education at primary then secondary level. However,



finding a teacher willing to teach in the area was tougher than expected. But man's plans are not always God's plans, and as this door remained shut, another was opened. At the time, a few girls from the village showed potential to study and had done decently well in their SPM. When they were approached about the opportunity to attend college to train as teachers, they were agreeable. As a member of the Methodist Council of Education (MCOE), Mr Tong raised the topic of the needs of the village, and proposed that the Council take a proactive step to fund and support this effort. With the Diploma in Early Childhood Education at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) in mind, arrangements were made between the College and the Methodist Council of Education (MCOE) to provide for the education and wellbeing of the three girls while pursuing studies in KL.

In January 2014, Nor Arima, her sister Norizaiful, and her aunt Zufahadila were enrolled into MCKL's Diploma in Early Childhood

Education programme. Starting off with a specially arranged intensive English course, the girls progressed well in that few months, and were sufficiently equipped to commence their first lessons as future early childhood educators in August 2014.

Their first year was the hardest, having to adjust to a new environment away from the comforts of home and their community, language barriers, etc but with perseverance and determination they pulled through. Due to personal reasons, Norizaiful discontinued her studies after December 2014 whereas Nor Arima and Zufahadila continued on their journey of transformation in education.

Mr Tong also had a vital role in sustaining the girls' morale to finish their studies. He and his wife took a personal interest in the girls' education, making regular trips to the College to check on their academic progress as well as their overall wellbeing over the years. When Nor Arima graduated in August 2016, it was truly a celebration of first fruits for



*Transformed: Nor Arima when she first joined the College in 2014, up until she graduated in 2016.*

all who were involved in this effort.

"We are all proud and overjoyed with what Nor Arima has achieved," said Mr Tong, "and even more thankful to our God for His most wonderful work in Nor Arima and MCKL, and for Ms Moey and her staff who gave their best to make this happen... Praise be to our God."

Nor Arima completed her Diploma in April 2016, and started working in Tadika Cahaya Gemilang (under the Klang Baptist Church) in June. With the kindergarten moving into new location and developing their own syllabus, Nor Arima will be equipped with both the knowledge and experience of these tasks when she returns to her village and sets up a kindergarten there.

"It is such a blessing that the head of the kindergarten fully supports this vision, and is sharing all she can with Nor Arima," shares Mr Tong. "God is so good!"

Of all three, Nor Arima was coping the best. Zufahadila struggled a little bit more with the adjustments than her niece, but will be completing her programme in early 2017. She is also looking forward to returning home and

contributing back to the community.

As Nor Arima and Zufahadila's journey at MCKL reaches its end, a new journey begins for the 2016 scholar from Cameron Highlands, Sutana a/p Bah Jalil.

Sutana had a bit of a headstart compared to the other three girls.



She had the privilege of doing her secondary education at SMK Convent Lebu Light in Penang, and with a good command of the English language, was able to commence the diploma programme straightaway in August.

As with the previous scholars, an arrangement was made

between MCKL, MCOE and the Wesley Methodist Church KL to provide for Sutana's time at the College.

Mr Khoo Teng Sooi, Director of Institutional Development at MCKL, has been heavily involved with the nitty-gritty details of the arrangements for the Orang Asli girls, and has been a lead negotiator for this and other similar education efforts at the College, including the MCKL ECE Joint Scholarship, a collaborative effort between MCKL and local Methodist Churches to invest in the formal training of new and existing early childhood educators at their kindergartens [see cover story].

"We (the College) are thankful that we have a meaningful role in providing higher education opportunities for Orang Asli children so that they can be trained and contribute back to their community," commented Mr Khoo.

With this in mind, it is imperative that the programmes selected under this scholarship initiative are those that provide both good academic qualifications and training in skills, offering the scholars immediate employability upon graduation. At MCKL, two such programmes are the homegrown Diploma in Early Childhood Education (2.5 years) as well as ACCA's professional accountancy qualification, the Certified Accounting Technician (1 year). MCKL is committed to this initiative, and looks forward to blessing more Orang Asli scholars who will then bless their communities in return.



## Exclusive Scholarship for MCKL from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia



lightly, which is why MCKL puts its vision of 'Excellence for Life' into practice by providing students with holistic education in a supportive and conducive environment. Aside from excellent academic achievements, the College aims to instil discipline and traditional values into students through co-curricular activities. This degree of preparation and support results in a roster of students who have gained entry into prestigious universities around the world.

This year's exemplary recipient of the MCKL-HWUM Scholarship is Khoo Wei Ning, who has completed her A Levels in MCKL and has entered HWUM to study Actuarial Science. She attributes her success in part to the quality of her experience in MCKL:

"I liked the close-knit community in MCKL. The relatively small population made it easier for us to get to know each other, even from different course, and we all supported one another in coping with the different challenges each course presented. Many of the lecturers also taught us life skills in addition to the academic content and showed us the best attitudes to adopt for moving into the working world. We were encouraged to pick up co-curricular activities, and as the President of the Economics Club and a regular member of the LEO club, I learnt a lot about teamwork and conflict resolution. I believe that all of this made a difference when I applied for the MCKL-HWUM Scholarship; I was prepared for the interview and essay, and two of my lecturers gladly wrote letters of recommendation in support of my application."

In essence, MCKL students will still see plenty of opportunities for excellent education and prestigious scholarships to suit their needs after their time in the College, and we hope that more will follow in the footsteps of our successful graduates.

Studying abroad is a very popular aspiration amongst young Malaysians; when asked, most students will express a desire to pursue their studies overseas. Every year, a large number of students apply for and successfully receive offers from prestigious universities in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and so on, but only a few of them manage to follow up on those offers due to financial constraints.

In response to this unfulfilled need, a number of foreign universities have recently set up branch campuses in Malaysia to extend the opportunity for quality education to such students. However, with the ever-increasing expenses of living in Malaysia, many parents are still struggling to finance their children's studies even in these foreign branch universities.

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) recognises this prevalent issue and works tirelessly to provide solutions for their capable Pre-U graduates. MCKL has formed partnerships with prestigious foreign institutions in Malaysia, offering special scholarships and waivers for MCKL graduates who choose to study in their universities. One such partnership is with Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM), whose Provost and CEO, Professor Robert Craik visited MCKL in March 2016 to present an exclusive MCKL-HWUM scholarship to one of MCKL's students, which is a full tuition fee waiver (up to approximately RM180,000) for any undergraduate course in its Malaysian Campus. One MCKL student may qualify for this each year.

Understandably, such generous scholarships from international universities are not given

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MCKL ALUMNI



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**\* 30% BURSARY**  
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FEBRUARY 2017 INTAKE, ANY DEGREE



**100% SCHOLARSHIP \***  
for MCKL students with high academic  
achievement and excellent extra-  
curricular involvement in MCKL  
limited to 1 qualifier  
SEPTEMBER 2017 INTAKE, ANY DEGREE



**\* RM2000 BURSARY**  
for all MCKL students

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2016 & 2017 INTAKES, ANY DEGREE



\* Terms and conditions apply.

For more info, contact us at :

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Tel: (603) 2274 1851 Fax: (603) 2273 6102 Email: ask@mckl.edu.my  
or visit our website [www.mckl.edu.my](http://www.mckl.edu.my)





## MCKL Students Secure 2015/ 2016 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, Malaysia



Proud recipients (left to right): Huey Teng, Yee Min, Shameera, Zheng Xin, Sue-Anne and Melanie with their certificates of recognition.

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) offers its congratulations to eight MCKL students with outstanding achievements in the November 2015 GCE A Level examinations who were honoured at the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, Malaysia ceremony held on 21 April 2016 at Sunway College.

This recent tradition was initiated to recognize students in Malaysia who have done exceptionally well in the IGCSE and GCE A Level Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), earning them the title of 'Top in the World', 'Top in

Malaysia', 'Best Across' and 'High Achievement', among others.

Top in the World awards were given to Tay Xuanken for A Level Mathematics, Melanie Lim Ee Ling for A Level Accounting, Yong Zheng Xin for AS Level Mathematics and Sue-Anne Tan Hsuyin for AS Level Psychology.

Top in Malaysia awards were secured by Chea Chia Ping for A Level Chinese and Wong Huey Teng for AS Level Literature in English. The High Achievement award went to Chia Yee Min for A Level Divinity and Shameera Nair Lin for A Level English Language.

"We are very proud of the students' achievements. They

worked hard and have achieved excellent results, which even the Cambridge International Examination Board has recognized", said Ms Betsy Li, Director of Academic Studies (External Programmes), who attended the ceremony representing the College. "We hope they will continue to pursue excellence beyond their A Level studies."

Wong Huey Teng is also the recipient of the Top in Malaysia award for A2 Level Economics in the June 2016 GCE A Level examinations.

## MCKL Forges Partnerships With Universities Locally and Abroad, Students Offered Exclusive Scholarships

Having garnered recognition from institutions around the world for its holistic education and outstanding students, MCKL continues to forge partnerships with local and foreign universities to the benefit of its students.

Benefits from the various institutions include application fee waivers, free accommodation, bursaries, discounts and even up to full tuition scholarships.

Some of MCKL's newest partners include Monash University Malaysia, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, KDU University and UCSI University.

These new partnerships are in addition to the 28 universities that MCKL has an articulation with for credit transfer and scholarships through the American Degree Transfer Programme (ADTP@MCKL).

*Congratulations!*

**MOEY-PHIPPS SCHOLARSHIP OF DISTINCTION 2016**

Brian Ong Ghin Chuen  
Messiah College, US  
Business Administration (Entrepreneurship)

**UCO-MCKL GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP 2016**

Chong Yan Fay  
University of Central Oklahoma, US  
Computer Science

**MCKL-HWUM SCHOLARSHIP 2016**

Khoo Wei Ning  
Heriot-Watt University, MY  
Actuarial Science

## 2016 Cambridge A Level Results

Congratulations to the A Level students for an outstanding performance in the August exams of 2016. They have lived up to the College's vision of Excellence for Life, and we hope that they will continue to do so as they move in into the New Year. The statistics for the exams are as follows:

- 99% passing rate
- 1 student with 5A\*
- 23 students with 4A\*
- 35 students with 3A\*+1A
- 44% of students scored at least 3As
- 68% scored an A or A\* in Biology
- 63% scored an A or A\* in Chemistry
- 65% scored an A or A\* in Physics
- 61% scored an A or A\* in Mathematics
- 79% scored an A or A\* in Further Mathematics
- 40% scored an A or A\* in Psychology
- 38% scored an A or A\* in English Literature
- 36% scored an A or A\* in Economics



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

## Exclusive MCKL-IT Tralee Scholarship

Congratulations to Nadia Iman Binti Abdul Jalil, who has won an exclusive MCKL-IT Tralee Scholarship for her excellent academic achievements to pursue a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Care & Education in Institute of Technology Tralee, Ireland.

After developing close ties with MCKL in the last couple of years, IT Tralee now offers two types of scholarships, the first of which is very comprehensive and is given to the graduate with the best academic results, and the latter which is the 2016-17 Special Malaysian Citizen Scholarship, which gives all MCKL diploma graduates a fee waiver of 1,000 Euros and free accommodations for the duration of their course.

As a result, all MCKL students



entering Final Year in IT Tralee only have to pay approximately 9,000 Euros for their course, which makes it a more affordable option than even two years in a local institution.

## MCKL Supports External Education Funds

The College continues to support efforts by the STAR Education Fund, Stedfast Association KL and Sin Chew Education Fund. This year, we welcomed 14 scholars from these three scholarship funds.

### Sin Chew Scholars

Chin Khar Yhan  
Koh Mei Li  
Tan Guan Lin

### Stedfast Scholars

Brandon Tan Ee Sen  
Ong Zhexun  
Lim Zhu Yi

### STAR Scholars

Danielle Chow Yik May  
Daniel Cho Zhen Ming  
Hii Wann Shiuan  
Elaine Tan Yi Ling  
Nathanael Chuah Tze Ming  
Keok Le May  
William Tieu Sze Wai  
Leong Fang Yu





# stepping stones

College is often considered the next stepping stone in a student's academic experience to a successful career and life – it is about preparing for more advanced subjects and more rigorous academic hurdles as they take their first steps into a world that values hard work and independence.

However, MCKL aspires to be more than just a facility for academic learning. The College aims to be a safe place where students can balance learning with character development, social skills, friendship and for some, spiritual growth.

The effects of such an environment are evident in the testimonies

of our alumni. They have willingly done so in the interest of sharing their experiences with current and future students, and have helped to make MCKL a home away from home. Senior students often fill the roles similar to that of older siblings by guiding and inspiring their juniors by working in the Student Council, tutoring in the Psychology & Learning Centre, or simply leading by example.

There are many others with similar experiences shared here, and we hope there will be many more like them in the years to come. Enjoy reading!

## A Day In A Doctor's Work Life

Before committing to a career in medicine, I decided to take a look at what a doctor's daily work life would look like by taking part in a doctor shadowing programme at Damansara Specialist Hospital. There, I shadowed Dr Tamilselvan, a cardiologist, for two weeks.

I started by addressing formal letter to the Medical Director of the hospital to get approval, but since Dr Tamilselvan is a family friend, it was easier to get approval and the paperwork went through pretty quickly.

The usual work hours are from 7.30 AM to 8.00 PM. I got to see treatments and procedures for all sorts of medical conditions and I also got to meet other doctors with different specialisations. I was not allowed to handle patients, but I did participate in administrative work within the cardiology department.

- Within those two weeks, I learnt three important things:
- A doctor's life isn't as glamorous as shown on TV. It is a vocation and only people with true passion and dedication will succeed
- Doctors need a lot of patience when dealing with patients
- Time management, knowing how to compartmentalise and handle different parts of your life, is crucial in any area of medicine

Ultimately, I found it an enjoyable experience and it convinced me that medicine was the right choice for me. I would highly recommend it for any aspiring doctors, as you will get to see exactly how things work in the field, and it looks good on your resume, too. Most med-schools in the UK require applicants to have done it for at least a week, in addition to taking the UKCAT exams. In Australia (*I'm at Monash University Australia*), medical school applicants also do doctor shadowing and take the ISATS instead.

*Avyinaeesh Sitsabasan is from the A Level Class of 2015*



My friend, Chan Yen Ping, or Yen as I call her, has an interesting story.

Malaysian born and bred, Yen's early education journey was typical. She went to SJK(C) Kepong 2, a vernacular school for her primary education, and SMK Taman Bukit Maluri for secondary.

She then completed her A Levels at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur, or MCKL for short.

After her A Levels, Yen got accepted into a Bachelor of Arts programme at the University of Cambridge.

Yen never imagined she'd go abroad to study, what more the United Kingdom, and what more Cambridge.

It wasn't so much an issue of limited ambition, rather her stumbling block was financial.

Maybe financial considerations did affect ambition.

"Thankfully, I had a really good school counsellor (in MCKL) who encouraged me to aim high and see if I could get a scholarship from the university," said Yen.

"Cambridge happened to offer a course that attracted me (BA Education with Physical Sciences), and as I was always passionate about Malaysia's education landscape and the teaching profession, I decided to accept the offer," she adds.

"My family was planning to fund my Cambridge stint, however, more was needed to cover the costs".

Fortunately, MCKL became her knight in shining armour. They offered to assist Yen.

"MCKL has always had teaching and nation building

## Reaching High May Yield Surprising Results

by Danial Rahman, The Star Online  
Reproduced with permission. First published on 5 August 2016.



at the core of its institution, and when the CEO, Miss Moey Yoke Lai found out I was short on funds, the College immediately offered financial assistance".

"Suffice to say, Cambridge was one of the best experiences of my life".

Since that event in 2013, the MCKL Teaching Scholarship was established.

It functions as a partial support scholarship to fund the studies of MCKL alumni who are passionate about education, want to become teachers and contribute back to the College and Malaysian education.

To date, six MCKL alumni have benefited from the Teaching Scholarship, and the universities they have gone on to study at are Cambridge (2 people), Gloucestershire, York, Institute of Technology, Tralee, Ireland and Wheaton College, USA.

MCKL may just be the only Private Higher Education

Institution in Malaysia to support their students to pursue teaching/education degrees abroad.

According to Mr Khoo Teng Sooi, Director of Institutional Development, MCKL, "We view teaching seriously. We want to encourage students who have interest in teaching and possess good academic qualifications to pursue their training in their field of study which is related to the need of education."

Yen adds, "I personally liken it to football clubs, where you can always buy and sell players, but nothing beats homegrown team players who live and breath the football club's spirit and ethos."

Yen has since graduated and has just started teaching at MCKL, serving a 4-year bond.

Excitedly, she tells me "Being young and foolish, I would love to apply everything I've ever learnt into teaching locally, but I get that some things are more

*continued on page 18*



# Congratulations to Our Alumni Graduates 2016 on Their Academic Excellence



**SAMANTHA LEONG  
SZE YEN,**  
University of Bristol, UK,  
Medicine



**CELESTINE NEO XING-YI,**  
London School of  
Economics, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Actuarial Science



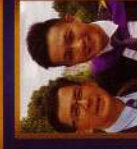
**ALEXING YAO QIAN**  
University of Kent, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Clinical Psychology



**EUGENE YU TZE PING,**  
University of Manchester, UK,  
Medicine



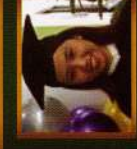
**KAMILIA KHAIRUL ANUAR,**  
University College London, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Law



**CHEONG W LIC,**  
London School  
of Economics, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Accounting and Finance



**SU MYAT NOE,**  
University of  
Manchester, UK,  
Medicine



**LEONG WING YIE,**  
Imperial Medical  
University, MY,  
Medicine



**ELAINE YAP SIM YEE,**  
National University  
of Singapore, SG,  
1st Class Honours,  
Bachelor of Music



**TEH HWEE PHEN,**  
University of  
Birmingham, UK,  
Medicine



**JOEL NGUI KAI YI,**  
Messiah College, US,  
Magna Cum Laude,  
Mechanical Engineering



**TAN SHEN WEN,**  
Kent State University, US,  
Summa Cum Laude and  
Phi Beta Kappa,  
Teaching English as a  
Second Language (TESL)



**PHOEBE CHUA KAI YEE,**  
Messiah College, US,  
Summa Cum Laude,  
Mathematics



**BRYAN LEONG JI YANG,**  
Messiah College, US,  
Magna Cum Laude,  
Bachelor of Arts in Politics  
and International Relations,  
and Bachelor of Science in  
Psychology



**JOSHUA WONG LI JEN,**  
Nanyang Technological  
University, SG,  
1st Class Honours,  
Aerospace Engineering



**ING TONG WEI,**  
Imperial College, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Biomedical Engineering



**LEONG CENG YEW,**  
Nanyang Technological  
University, SG,  
1st Class Honours,  
Aerospace Engineering



**Erica Subhas,**  
Monash University  
Malaysia, MY,  
Medicine



**JIN YEH,**  
University of  
Portsmouth, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Petroleum Engineering



**ROY HO WEY ERN,**  
University of  
Melbourne, AU  
1st Class Honours,  
Commerce



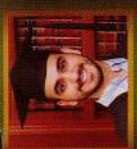
**JAMES TAN SHOU EN,**  
International Medical  
University, MY,  
Dentistry



**SOPHIA WAN SHIN HUEY,**  
International Medical  
University, MY,  
Medicine



**FAITH CHONG WEING YEN,**  
University of Melbourne, AU,  
1st Class Honours,  
Psychology



**ALI MUSTAFA HAMID,**  
City University of Hong  
Kong, HK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Civil & Structural  
Engineering



**LIM ERI WEI,**  
International  
Medical University,  
MY, Medicine



**RUKSHANI MICHELLE  
PERERA,**  
Messiah College, US,  
Marketing



**JASON LING YEW HING,**  
International Medical  
University, MY,  
Medicine



**JONATHAN WU,**  
University of Portsmouth, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Engineering



**AMANDA SIM YI YIN,**  
City University  
London, UK,  
1st Class Honours,  
Financial Economics



**WEE SZE LING,**  
International Medical  
University, MY,  
Dentistry



**JOEL HAN SHENG FENG,**  
University of Melbourne, AU,  
Commerce



**CHAN YEN PING,**  
University of  
Cambridge, UK,  
Physical Sciences

The real test of whether Methodist College is providing excellent education to the students is seen when the student succeeds in the university to which he or she goes.

- Datin Nesamalar Nadarajah, Former Director of Academic Studies, MCKL



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theoretical than practical, and others things more culturally bound.

"Nevertheless, I definitely see the value in training students to think independently through verbally asking them lots of guided questions in class, and also hopefully this leads to me asking myself bigger questions on how education can help develop Malaysia as a whole."

Curious, I asked her what she thinks of our education system.

"So, I used to think our education system was bad, until I went to the UK and realised locals there complained about their own education system in exactly the same way as we do.

"I think no system is ever perfect, and especially if you are living in and feeling some attachment towards the country and its people, the (education) system's flaws tend to appear more obvious compared to an outsider.

"What is important however, is for everyone to get involved and be on the same page to collaboratively improve the system.

"For example, if a parent came up to me and asked "Why doesn't my child seem to be thinking like a chemist?" rather than, "Why isn't my child getting As for chemistry?", I believe it will help change my approach as a teacher.

Yen however, isn't as optimistic on whether the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 can succeed.

Having read it from end to end, Yen feels that the Blueprint needs to be communicated clearly and that its spirit adopted by the wider community.

"If not, all the efforts will just depend on the government and Ministry of Education to execute, and that is a hefty burden to bear, especially when we are talking about the education of an entire nation".

"All Malaysians, from the greatest to the smallest must

sincerely ask themselves what they think should be the outcome of a Malaysian education experience and from there, actively try to make it a reality.

"For example, I have a friend who is encouraging fellow university students to go back to their schools during term break to give tutoring and reduce the teachers' workload.

"I believe the efforts of people like her and many others, put people like me, who constantly sit around and complain, to shame," Yen says with a smile.

I met Yen when she was interning with my office at the Ministry of Education back in 2014 as a Perdana Fellow. It's heartening to see a private college support such endeavours to develop top teachers. This can only bode well for the future of the teaching profession in Malaysia, a step at a time.

*Chan Yen Ping is from the A Level Class of 2013*

# Aeronautical Engineering and Research Opportunities in the USA

A career in research is not commonly explored by many, but it is one of the most rewarding experiences for someone who seeks to challenge preconceived notions and expand the knowledge base of a particular discipline. My interest in research stems from a passion for science and engineering in general, particularly physics and natural phenomena.

After finishing my high school education, MCKL was my choice

of institution in preparing for university because the small class sizes and higher teacher-student ratio were advantageous in learning. I completed my A Levels there in 2012 and transferred up to a year's worth of credits to the University of Minnesota (UMN), Twin Cities, USA to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering. Good grades will help with transfers and can also improve chances of getting



financial aid, as I managed to acquire the following:

- University of Minnesota Gold Global Excellence Scholarship (2012 - 2015)**
- Chester Gaskell Aeronautical Engineering Scholarship (2013 - 2014)**
- Robert H. & Marjorie F. Jewett Scholarship (2014 - 2015)**
- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Scholarship (2014)**

Those scholarships covered almost 40% of my tuition fees, and like many others, I was able to take up part-time student jobs to earn about \$400 a month. I do recommend students to transfer here (UMN or any other college) after maximizing their credits in an ADTP, which I understand that MCKL does offer now. If the school permits, living in an off-campus apartment is way cheaper than living in the school dormitories and gives you more control over your finances as well.

During my three years of undergraduate education in UMN, I had the privilege of learning through both classroom and hands-on experiences. Besides engineering classes, I have also taken courses in cultural anthropology, black literature and rock music, which expanded my worldview and gave me new insights into racial issues and cultural identity.

In the spring of my junior year, I was scouted by newly-arrived Professor Filippo Coletti and was invited to collaborate with him in building an experimental facility for research in fluid mechanics. That was two years ago. I am now a PhD-track graduate student on a Teaching Assistant Fellowship with the Department, which covers my tuition fees and provides



a living stipend. Professor Coletti and I have even designed and built lab equipment for studying concepts such as particle-laden flows in the Laboratory of Complex Flows.

Every November, we graduates get to attend conferences to present our work to be scrutinized by other experts, and one such conference for us is the American Physical Society Division of Fluid Dynamics General Meeting. We often provide data for computational experts to compare their work with and validate their models, which is how we contribute to advancements in our field, from combustion engines to climate

modeling.

It has been quite a journey, and I would like to thank my former teachers in Methodist College, Ms Lim and Mr Lopez in providing me with a solid foundation in mathematics and physics, on which I have built a career in engineering physics research. Should any MCKL alumni have questions about graduate school or engineering school in the United States, please do not hesitate to contact me at keeonnfong@gmail.com.

*Fong Kee Onn is from the A Level Class of 2012*



## Making It To Georgia Tech

After completing her A Levels programme in MCKL, Lucienne Loo went on to pursue a degree in Industrial Engineering in Georgia Institute of Technology, which is one of the leading universities in the USA for research in science and technology. With a ranking of 7th amongst top public universities in the USA and number one for its industrial engineering programme, gaining entry into Georgia Tech is no easy feat, and Lucienne is more than happy to share her experiences leading up to her enrolment there.

**1. What course are you doing in Georgia Institute of Technology? Are you on any scholarship?**  
Industrial Engineering. I did not apply for any scholarship.

**2. Why did you choose Georgia Tech?**

It is number one in the US for Industrial Engineering and for the past 26 years without fail, has been ranked one of the top public universities in the US and among the best engineering schools worldwide. It was also the cheaper and more value-for-money options among the other schools I applied to and got into.

**3. What did you have to do to gain entry into Georgia Tech?**

Pray, ha ha! I did not have to go through an interview for Georgia Tech. The admissions process was mostly similar to that of most other US schools. I took the SAT and scored a 2310 out of 2400, had 1A\*, 2As and 1B in the A Levels, and 7A\*s, 3As in O Level and had to write a few essays. Extra-curricular activities had a part to play in it too. I founded and held presidency in the Rock Climbing Club of MCKL and vice-presidency in the Music Club and was very involved in community service and other activities outside of school. Georgia Tech places much

importance on a well-rounded education and not just good grades.

**4. Why did you choose to do your pre-U course at MCKL?**

I liked the idea of a smaller community, Christian Fellowship, and the opportunities that MCKL offered for me to found my own club and be involved in student life. And of course, the track record of great academics. MCKL is also comparatively more generous with scholarships than other institutions in KL.

**5. Did MCKL meet your expectations and prepare you for the challenges in gaining entry into Georgia Tech? If so, how?**

In many ways, yes, MCKL did meet my expectations in terms of the opportunities to be involved in non-academic life and a close-knit community. However, going into Pre-U was very different from my O level days. There were times when I found it difficult to keep up with all my extra-curricular activities and academics. The rigor of academics and the ability to be involved in all the societies and clubs in MCKL allowed me to learn to better manage my time to prepare



me for life in university.

**6. What did you like most about MCKL?**

Christian Fellowship, the friends I made there and extra-curricular opportunities.

**7. What are your plans after completing university, if any?**

God-willing, I will work in the US for a while then return to Malaysia.

**8. Do you have any advice for pre-U students who want to follow in your footsteps?**

Get involved! Don't just focus on academics. Getting involved in community service and leadership opportunities allows you to broaden your mindset and learn time management and gain skill-sets that you cannot get from the classroom. But remember to prioritize your academics over all your extra activities. (Tip: sometimes just one strong leadership role is good enough to support your application to the top schools.)

*Lucienne Loo is from the A Level Class of 2016*

## A Practical, Affordable Pathway from College to University

Three years ago, studying abroad was something that I really hoped for but knew that my family could never afford. I attended many foreign university education fairs hoping that I would be able to find an affordable university, but I was always disappointed. Just as I was about to give up on my dream, the program counselor at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur recommended that I apply to Tennessee Technological University (TTU), USA after matching it with my A levels results and financial background.

I am glad I tried, because I was awarded the Honors and Multicultural Diversity Scholarship to study Chemistry at TTU and I also found a part-time job on campus as a tutor to help offset my expenses. The International Education Office also helped me to adapt to local culture by hosting many activities and events in the first few weeks.

Many universities in the US offer summer research programs for undergraduate students to gain hands-on experience working in a real laboratory. During the summer break, I was given a stipend to work as a research assistant in the lab of my Chemistry professor. I was able to collaborate with the top scientists/researchers in my field, work with many advanced scientific instruments, and present my research work in various state and national Chemistry conferences around the US. It was amazing to learn so many techniques and acquire knowledge that would not have been available in a normal undergraduate class.

Subsequently, my two-year research was successfully published in a few scientific journals. During my senior year, I was very delighted and thankful to be chosen as the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Liberal Arts 2014-2015, which is the highest award in the College of Arts and Sciences in TTU.

I am currently pursuing my PhD degree in Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh after graduating from TTU with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. (Yes, in the US you can apply to a PhD program directly with a Bachelor's degree!) With all my experience in research, I was granted a full tuition scholarship and a research fellowship.

I firmly believe that my pre-U studies in MCKL had been a great stepping stone for my tertiary education. MCKL is where I learned to discover my interests and to pursue my ambition fearlessly. I am forever grateful for God, my family, professors and staff members from Tennessee Tech, as well as those who have prepared me at MCKL. Without their support along the way, I would not have been where I am today.



*Serene Tai is from the A Level Class of 2011*



Many students are under the impression that although the US is a great place to study in, having 26 out of the top 50 universities in the world (according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-2016), their prospects of doing so are marred by the apparent distance and costs involved. However, there are educational programs designed specifically to cater to such students, and these can actually be more efficient at getting them to the US in terms of both time and expenses, as opposed to other popular educational pathways.

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) offers one such programme – the American Degree Transfer Program (ADTP), and already has a steady record of sending its graduates on to pursue degree programs in the US.

With over 25 partnered universities, MCKL's ADTP features many comprehensive courses designed to allow students to explore a variety of interests and maximize up to two years' worth of their credit hour requirements whilst in Malaysia before transferring to one of many reputable US universities to complete their degree.

Ling Wen Hoong is one of MCKL's current students from the ADTP who transferred to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to pursue a Major in Economics, on a Bank Negara Scholarship. According to him, "Public Ivy' universities rarely accept credit transfers, but I

# 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE ADTP@MCKL

1. Smooth and quick pathway from MCKL to selected US colleges and universities
2. Students can select from a wide variety of courses before deciding on their major area of study
3. Students have a high degree of flexibility in changing their course combination if they shift their interest to other majors
4. Students are motivated to actively participate in group discussions, presentations, workshops and projects
5. High achievement through continuous coursework, class assessment and examinations
6. Students are nurtured to be well-rounded individuals
7. American Universities offer many opportunities for scholarships
8. American Universities offer many opportunities for research, internship and practical training
9. Many major companies and brands in the world are US-based and actively recruit graduates from top US colleges and universities
10. MCKL has an excellent track record in preparing students for top universities overseas in a variety of areas of study

was pleasantly surprised when they accepted 1.5 years of credit hours from MCKL's ADTP."

For those with financial concerns, MCKL offers many scholarships options to deserving students in addition to its affordable fees to smoothen their educational journey. As James Lim puts it, "I joined MCKL because I received good feedback about the lecturers there, and the fees were reasonable. The Merit Scholarship that partially covers my tuition fees is a nice bonus." In addition to that, there are several options for mitigating costs even after transferring to the US. James Lim will soon pursue his degree in Music Theatre in Messiah College, and he has been granted the Daniel-Vollmer Scholarship

which can cover up to 20,000 USD. Other students such as Serene Tai in Tennessee Technological University chose to work part-time on campus to help offset expenses.

If there are any students wondering if ADTP is worth their time, Eric Chong, who will soon transfer to Drake University to study Data Analytics and Computer Science, has a few words: "If you plan to study in the US and want the chance to explore your academic interests in a small community that feels like a second home, I would recommend MCKL as the place to start it."

# ADTP @ MCKL

Fall 2016

Congratulations to our American Degree Transfer Program Students on their University Transfer



Ling Wen Hoong  
Economics and Political Science  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
on Bank Negara Scholarship



Chong Yan Fay  
Computer Science  
University of Central Oklahoma  
on UCO-MCKL Global Leadership Scholarship



Brian Ong Ghin Chuen  
Business Administration (Entrepreneurship)  
Messiah College  
on Moey-Phipps Scholarship of Distinction



Lekshna Rubini a/p Muralivaman  
Psychology  
Truman State University  
on International President's Honorary Scholarship



Toh Zhi Yi  
Business Finance  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
on International Student Scholarship



Sarah Marie Alicia Anthony  
Theology & Criminology  
Loyola University Chicago  
on Transfer Dean's Scholarship



Lim Ee Ren James  
Musical Theatre  
Messiah College  
on Daniel Vollmer Theatre Scholarship



Lim Jie Wen  
Robotics Engineering & Artificial Intelligence  
Minerva Schools at KGI  
on Minerva Scholarship



Vidyia Rubbini a/p Muralivaman  
Chemistry  
Truman State University  
on International President's Honorary Scholarship



Chew Jian Hang  
Computer Engineering  
Iowa State University  
on Presidential Transfer Award for International Excellence



Chong Weng Shin  
Data Analytics (Computer Science) & Quantitative Economics  
Drake University  
on Presidential Transfer Award



Teoh Cheng Cheng  
Theatre  
Northern Arizona University  
on New International Student Presidential Scholarship

Name	University Placement	Major	Scholarship
Faith Wong Pey Yi	University of Central Oklahoma	Elementary Education & Family Life Education - Child Development	Transfer University Global Scholar
Ching Shi	Messiah College	Sociology & Anthropology and Psychology	Provost's Scholarship
Joshua Lee Jian Kai	Messiah College	Psychology	Provost's Scholarship
Leong Kai Yuen	Messiah College	Film and Media Arts	Provost's Scholarship
Lee Jieng Sheng	Messiah College	Computer and Information Science	Provost's Scholarship
Linus Chin Yi Ern	Messiah College	Psychology	Messiah College Scholarship
Chan Jia Hui	University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire	Business Finance	International Student Scholarship
Wong Foong Min	University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire	Computer Science	International Student Scholarship
Samuel Chua Hsien Heng	San Francisco State University	Communication Studies	



... and many more



After completing her Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) in 2014, Ng Xu Xuan took a couple of months off to work before advancing to the Institute of Technology Tralee (IT Tralee), Ireland in order to upgrade her Diploma in ECE to an Honours Degree in Early Childhood Education. According to her, it was a very challenging and enriching experience:

"The staff at MCKL advised me to consider IT Tralee for further study, and I eventually chose it because they only required me to study for one more year to get my degree. I also liked the environment in a small and peaceful town.

"Getting First Class Honours wasn't easy, as I needed to perform above an average of 70% in my coursework and exams to qualify, and although the professors were very helpful, spoon-feeding was out of the question. We all had to be hardworking, independent learners in order to make use of the huge amount of resources online and in the library.

"In addition, jumping into the final year meant that I had a lot of catching up to do because their ECE was so much further ahead of my experience level. But once I had put in the hours and effort to keep up, I realised that I had learned so much."

Indeed, her trials in MCKL and IT Tralee had prepared her well, as Xu Xuan soon found opportunities for work within Ireland itself. Right after completing her degree, she began working as an au pair for a local family and spent up to seven months taking care of their young children, making full use of everything that she had learned in college and university. She described the experience as such: "It was like being an in-house

## Opportunities in Early Childhood Education: The Journey to Ireland



babysitter, although I felt more like a part of the family than it being a worker/employer relationship. I received a basic allowance and accommodations for my work, and it was a much more fulfilling arrangement than just studying because you can absorb the local culture and get hands-on experience whilst you are at it."

Ng Xu Xuan has since returned to Malaysia, and is currently working in IGB International School as a classroom assistant for children in the 3-6 age range. She considers the international school system and facilities as something worth aspiring to, since it does a great job of balancing childcare with education in a supportive and well-equipped environment.

For those who wish to follow in her footsteps, she has this to say:

"If you are interested in caring for children, consider doing an ECE programme. ECE is not just about looking after kids; you also have to teach them effectively, and places like MCKL and IT Tralee can help a lot in preparing you for that one day."

For those who share Ng Xu Xuan's passion for teaching



children, MCKL offers an affordable and comprehensive Diploma in Early Childhood Education programme that aims to prepare students for both work and further studies. MCKL has several partnered universities like IT Tralee, Ireland that allow advanced entry of MCKL graduates into 2nd or even 3rd year for their degree programmes, thus offering cost-effective pathways in terms of time and expenses to a career in educating young children, with plenty of job opportunities along the way.

*Ng Xu Xuan is from the ECE Class of 2014*

## Wising Up Financially Through Money & Me

Financial problems plague the youth of today. The number of Malaysians under the age of 35 going bankrupt has been steadily rising in the past few years, and so has the number of secondary school dropouts.

In light of this problem, The Edge Education Foundation has organised the Money & Me: Youth Financial Empowerment Programme, which is a free financial literacy programme designed to equip youths with financial literacy as a basic life skill and to equip low and lower-middle income youths for better economic opportunities through teaching basic entrepreneurship skills. Participants will be taught knowledge-based content through activities that have been approved by the Division of Co-curricular and Arts of the Ministry of Education Malaysia.

Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) recognises this growing issue in Malaysia and has partnered with the Edge Education Foundation to support this endeavour. As a project partner, MCKL



facilitated the sessions on campus as part of its Service Learning subject, placing an emphasis on teamwork and collaboration through group activities. The students who attended the sessions then went on to deliver a series of workshops on the same topics to students in La Salle Secondary School in Petaling Jaya over a course of several weeks.

Overall, it is our hope that this partnership will enable students to navigate the financial perils of adulthood in order to become independent and productive members of society.



On the 3rd of September, a group of 26 MCKL staff and students embarked on a 45 minutes journey where sight was none. All they had to rely on was their sense of hearing, touch, smell and the voice of their guide.

The Dialogue in the Dark (DD) tour is a global organisation that aims to provoke a change of perspective for the participant and provides employment for blind and visually impaired people around the world.

In particular, this core value activity on Celebrating Volunteerism challenged the

students and staff to not only sympathise people with disabilities but also to empathise, understand and experience the world from their perspective. When we are able to do so, volunteerism becomes more meaningful.

The Dialogue in the Dark (DID) tour, is housed in the Sunway University Experiential Learning Centre. The specially designed darkened rooms convey the characteristics of daily environments- for example a park, the market, the local kopitiam etc.

In the darkness of the room, a reversal of roles was created: the MCKL group were now 'blinded'

by darkness. The blind guides were now the experts of their living circumstances, providing the group with a sense of security and orientation by transmitting to them a world without pictures. "It was an okay experience," shared Sonia. "I can't imagine my life blind. I don't think I'd be strong enough to continue. A world without reading, without colours... seems meaningless to me. I think Sam (the guide) and everyone at DID are extremely brave for being strong."





## Modelling After the United Nations

The Model United Nations (MUN) club of Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) was formed in 2012 as a platform for acquainting students with how the UN functions and to gain experience in resolving global issues through diplomacy.

To that end, the club organised its third Annual MCKLMUN Conference on the 15th of July 2016, bringing together participants from various schools and institutions for the opportunity to gain experience in the process of promoting a better and more peaceful world. The theme for this year's conference was Redemption, and focuses on the need for forgiveness and the acceptance of the human potential to succeed after facing failure in a world filled with war, poverty, human rights violations, pollution and climate change.

Tan Sri Razali Ismail was the Guest of Honour during the Opening Ceremony. He is a notable and distinguished Malaysian diplomat, having served in various positions in the Malaysian Diplomatic Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the actual United Nations (UN). He has also been actively involved in various government-linked and non-government organisations for a variety of issues such as development, sustainability, human rights and environmentalism to the present day. As part of the Opening Ceremony, he delivered an inspiring speech to encourage attendees to make the most of their chances to make the world a better place.

The MCKLMUN stretched from 3.00pm all the way to 9.00pm, and featured a number of committee sessions in which participants from various councils could simulate UN negotiations on a variety of topics, such as refugee crises, media censorship and information brokering.



Each session was filled with lively debate tempered by an undercurrent of solemnity, as befitting such serious issues.

Roughly 150 participants attended the conference, and we hope that they learnt a great deal from the experience and will go on to make a positive difference in the world.

## MCKL Debating Championship 2016

The Debate Club of Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL) organised a Debating Championship held on the College campus from 15 to 17 July 2016. MCKL fielded eight out of the total of 40 teams that gathered on campus from all over the region, lending a heated atmosphere to the tournament which was hosted in the British Parliamentary format.

It was an intense series of debates where team members brought all of their skills in reasoning and articulation to bear, and all of the participants displayed a degree of



intellectuality and perseverance that lived up to MCKL's motto of Excellence for Life. Three out of MCKL's eight teams made it into the semi-finals, and one of them managed to clinch the title of Grand Champion. Levinthran (1507S) won the Overall Best Speaker Award whilst his partner, Wong Kah Hoong (1501A) attained the Finals Best Speaker Award.

MCKL's Debate Club is proud of its

teams' achievements and hopes to maintain and improve upon its performance in the Malaysian debating scene. The College supports this endeavour and hopes that the youth of Malaysia would aspire to the excellence displayed by all of the participants.

## National Chemistry Quiz Winner

Tee Jing Yi participated in the Kuiz Kimia Kebangsaan Malaysia (K3M) 2016, and we would like to congratulate her on doing the College proud by winning one of the K3M Top Scorer Awards 2016, which comes with a certificate and a cash prize of RM500.



## Australian National Chemistry Quiz



## Parent-Lecturer Conference



## Accommodation Welcoming Party



## Economics Competition Winners







*All Clubs' Day*



*CF 'Meat & Greet'*

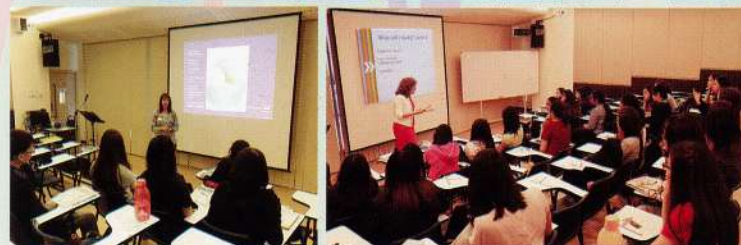
*Easter Rally*



*ADTP Science Camp*



*Midsummer Le Reve*



*Guest Lectures & University Visits*

*Japanese School Visit*



*Suit Up Day*



*Orientation Ball*



*Scholarship Info Day*



*12th Annual Treasure Hunt (Hunt for HOPE)*



*ECE Children's Day*





# METHODIST COLLEGE KUALA LUMPUR

## Celebrating 33 Years of Academic Excellence



**Chew Kwang Liang, Class of 2011**  
Economics & Applied Mathematics  
Yale University, US  
(the only Malaysian admitted in 2011)  
Yale University Scholarship



**Tong Kin Seng, Class of 2012**  
Medicine  
University of Oxford, UK  
(the only Malaysian admitted into the medical programme in 2012)



**How Han Ming, Class of 2013**  
Film Studies & Economics  
Wesleyan University, US  
Freeman Asian Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2013)  
& AMCHAM-MACEE Scholarship



**Liew Jin Soong, Class of 2014**  
Economics & Literature  
Wesleyan University, US  
Freeman Asian Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2014)



**Eunice Lim Yuying, Class of 2015**  
Medicine  
Penang Medical College-University College Dublin, IE  
on UCD Full Tuition Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2015)



**Sya Mun Kit Julian, Class of 2015**  
Medicine  
Penang Medical College-Royal College of Surgeons, IE  
on RCSI Full Tuition Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2015)



**Tan Yu Kai**  
Arts  
Wesleyan University, US  
on Freeman Asian Scholarship  
(the only Malaysian recipient in 2016)



**Evelyn Chua Shwu-Lyn**  
Engineering  
University of Cambridge, UK



**Lim En May**  
Biochemistry  
University of Oxford, UK



**Soo Yi Yun**  
Music  
University of Oxford, UK  
on YTL Scholarship



**Mohamad Arif Syazwan bin Shahrum**  
Science  
University of Melbourne, AU  
Commonwealth Supported Student

## Students Admitted to Top Universities in 2016\*



**Jerry Tan Hai Kok**  
Medicine  
Newcastle University Medicine, MY  
on JPA Scholarship



**Melissa Mae Gabriel**  
Medicine  
Penang Medical College, MY  
on RCSI-UCD Dublin Scholarship



**Avyinaeesh Sitsabasan**  
Medicine  
Monash University, AU



**Emmeline Ting Shing Ying**  
Medicine  
Monash University, MY  
on JPA Scholarship



**Lucienne Loo**  
Industrial Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology, US



**Bryan Lim Wei Tern**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Imperial College, UK  
on World Scientific Scholarship  
Award & Gamuda Scholarship



**James Pradeep Nayagam**  
Civil Engineering  
University of Nottingham, MY  
on Gamuda Scholarship



**Catherine Mei-Yan Bakewell**  
English in Education  
University of York, UK  
on MCKL Teaching Scholarship



**Christina Chang Qian Ying**  
Economics  
University of Sydney, AU  
on MCKL Teaching Scholarship



**Khoo Wei Ning**  
Actuarial Science  
Heriot-Watt University, MY  
on MCKL-HWUM Scholarship



**Choong Sze Chee**  
Medicine  
Queen Mary,  
University of London, UK

NAME	UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT	PROGRAMME	SCHOLARSHIP
Khor Wen Jiat	McGill University, CA	Food & Nutritional Science	McGill Entrance Scholarship
Jasher Han	University of Queensland, AU	Economics	Tuition Scholarship
Promila Anne Thiagarajan	University of Tasmania, AU	Biomedical Science	Tasmanian International Scholarship
Julius Yap Jin Shen	Heriot-Watt University, UK	Actuarial Science	Undergraduate Overseas Scholarship
Ta Mae Ann	Cardiff University, UK	Architectural Engineering	Cardiff International Scholarship
Jolyene Leow Xuan Ai	Bangor University, UK	Psychology with Clinical & Health Psychology	International Scholarship
Lee Guang Yang	University of Hong Kong, HK	Engineering	HKU Entrance Scholarship
Tan Wen Yang Justin	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK	Engineering	University Admission Scholarship
Lim Jit Jean	Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK	Economics	CUHK Entrance Scholarship
Zebedee Cheah Rui En	Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK	Psychology	CUHK Entrance Scholarship
Choong Ming Li	Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK	Law	University Admission Scholarship
Melissa Chan Wei Ling	Limerick Institute of Technology, IE	Pharmaceutical & Forensic Analysis	Partial Scholarship from Limerick
Phuah Yan Cheng	Dundalk Institute of Technology, IE	Computing	Academic Merit Scholarship
Andrea Ho Su Jean	Newcastle University Medicine, MY	Medicine	JPA Scholarship
Lim Tai-Jie	Monash University, MY	Software Engineering	JPA Scholarship
Joy Ann Lim Ee Hsien	Taylor's University, MY	Architecture	JPA Scholarship
Alvin Ng Wei Yan	University of Nottingham, MY	Finance & Banking	JPA Scholarship
Siew Viann	University of Nottingham, MY	Economics	JPA Scholarship
Chen Sharon	University of Nottingham, MY	Chemical Engineering	JPA Scholarship
Cheong Zhi Xiang	University of Nottingham, MY	Chemical Engineering	JPA Scholarship
Sia Hee Nee	University of Nottingham, MY	Electric and Electronic Engineering	High Achiever's Award
Jonathan Tee Wei Hsien	University of Nottingham, MY	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	High Achiever's Award
Shannon Wong Zo Ee	Monash University, MY	Business & Commerce	YTL Foundation Scholarship
Carmen Hoong Jia Bei	Monash University, MY	Business & Commerce	High Achiever's Award
Wong Vui Yean	Sunway University, MY	Business	Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship
Emmeline Ong Yixuan	Sunway University, MY	Actuarial Science	Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship
Ng Wei Jun	Sunway University, MY	Actuarial Science	Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship
Lee Su Wen	Sunway University, MY	Accounting & Finance	Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship
Sean Ng Jia Sheng	University of Southampton, MY	Mechanical Engineering	Top Achiever's Scholarship
Timothy Leong Zi Jian	Xiamen University, MY	New Energy Sciences & Engineering	Full Tuition Scholarship
Lee Xuan	University of Nottingham, MY	English Language & Literature	Sin Chew Daily Education Fund
Lim Li May	University of Nottingham, MY	Finance, Accounting & Management	The Star Education Fund
Ho Zhi Syuen	University of Nottingham, MY	Biotechnology	The Star Education Fund
Hooi May Teng	Taylor's University, MY	Chemical Engineering	The Star Education Fund
Basil Cha Jiehan	IACT College, MY	Advertising & Design	ImPossible Scholarship
Justin Shi Zen Lee	Australian National University, AU	Science	
Daven Rajan William Gopalan	Australian National University, AU	Physics	
Ding Zu Ron	University of Melbourne, AU	Commerce (Accounting & Finance)	
Phan Li Shen	University of New South Wales, AU	Psychological Sciences	
Praveena Shanmugam	University of Queensland, AU	Science	
Jonathan Ting Yik Chang	University of Queensland, AU	Chemistry	
Chou Sing Yean	University of Canberra, AU	Education	

NAME	UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT	PROGRAMME
Yee Hong Hui	Imperial College London, UK	Aerospace Engineering
Han Chang Eu	Imperial College London, UK	Chemical Engineering
Loo Wei Bin	Imperial College London, UK	Civil Engineering
Han Mun Mun	Imperial College London, UK	Mechanical Engineering
Low Jess Lyn	Imperial College London, UK	Geology
Yu Yi Qing	Imperial College London, UK	Physics
Odelia Loke Li - Ern	London School of Economics, UK	Accounting & Finance
Poh Sie Yin	London School of Economics, UK	Accounting & Finance
Joshua Lee Cheik Chang	London School of Economics, UK	Finance
Ch'ng Yu Ru	University of Edinburgh, UK	Veterinary Medicine
Esther Khoo Ai Ling	Queen's University Belfast, UK	Medicine
Rebecca Khoo Lian Hui	Penang Medical College, MY	Medicine
Melvin Hoo Chuin Shen	Penang Medical College, MY	Medicine
Tiang Wen Sze	Newcastle University Medicine, MY	Medicine
Lee Jia Shuiuan	Monash University, MY	Medicine
Emily Jean Pau Jion Wee	International Medical University, MY	Medicine
Annabelle Lai Siew Ying	International Medical University, MY	Dentistry
Phang Wen Teng	Vinayaka Missions University, IN	Dentistry
Lim Jie Lay	Kaohsiung Medical University, TW	Pharmacy
Daniel Khairin Tiang	University of Manchester, UK	Chemical Engineering
Fok Mun Heng	University of Manchester, UK	Aerospace Engineering
Dhanya Laxmi Sivanantham	University of Manchester, UK	Law with Criminology
Chong Han Siang	Nanyang Technological University, SG	Civil Engineering
Lee Chungwoo	National University of Singapore, SG	Science
Brian Lee Zi Feng	University of California, San Diego, US	Mechanical Engineering
Qwah Kai Ping	Purdue University, US	Engineering
Ryan Alex	Pennsylvania State University, US	Engineering
Chan Kai Mun	University of Tasmania, AU	Maritime Engineering
Naveen Sivaneswaran	Heriot-Watt University, MY	Chemical Engineering
Joshua Khor Chen Tung	Heriot-Watt University, MY	Actuarial Science
Lee Kok Xin	Heriot-Watt University, MY	Actuarial Science
Ernest Wong Yue Ern	Heriot-Watt University, UK	Actuarial Science
Abdul Hafiz bin Abdul Rashid	University of Warwick, UK	Mathematic
Zachary Luke Chee Keng Jin	University of Warwick, UK	Philosophy, Politics & Economics
Sachin Jay Sriskanda	University of St. Andrews, UK	Computer Science
Jaclyn Lim Jo Yee	University of Waterloo, CA	Psychology
Foo Vy Gin	University of Auckland, NZ	Psychology & Economics
Wan Jo Yi	Universiti Malaya, MY	Genetics
Chi Zi Yuan	Universiti Malaya, MY	Law
Meythini Uthaya Kumar	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, MY	Speech Therapy
Michelle Lim Hui Qi	City University Hong Kong, HK	Biomedical Sciences
Goh Sze Way	City University Hong Kong, HK	Business Economics
Au Kai Zen	Hanze University of Applied Sciences, NL	Physiotherapy
Christine Wong Wen Gin	University of Kent, UK	Architecture



**Catherine Mei-Yan Bakewell**  
English in Education  
University of York, UK  
on MCKL Teaching Scholarship



**Christina Chang Qian Ying**  
Economics  
University of Sydney, AU  
on MCKL Teaching Scholarship



**Khoo Wei Ning**  
Actuarial Science  
Heriot-Watt University, MY  
on MCKL-HWUM Scholarship



**Choong Sze Chee**  
Medicine  
Queen Mary,  
University of London, UK



**Reuben Colin Lim Meng Zhin**  
Mechanical Engineering  
University of Nottingham, MY  
on Gamuda Scholarship



**Ng Zen Ian**  
New Energy Sciences & Engineering  
Xiamen University, MY  
on Full Tuition & Accommodation  
Scholarship



**Wong Yee Jinq**  
Pharmacy  
King's College London, UK



**Lee JiaXin**  
Economics  
Nagoya University, JP  
on Monbukagakusho (MEXT)  
Scholarship



**Dawn Han Chenxi**  
Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Waseda University, JP  
on Monbukagakusho (MEXT)  
Scholarship



**Shalini Samudri Ananda Rao**  
Accounting and Finance  
London School of Economics, UK



**Christina Ramani**  
Economics  
University of Warwick, UK



**Lim Jiun Yiang**  
Actuarial Science  
University of Hong Kong, HK  
on HKU Entrance Scholarship



**Ambrose Yee Zi Qian**  
Economics and Finance  
University of Hong Kong, HK  
on Full Tuition Scholarship



**Wong Chun Shen**  
Computational Finance  
City University of Hong Kong, HK  
on HKSAR Scholarship



**Ananya Chakraborty**  
Life Sciences  
Queen's University, Kingston,  
Ontario, CA



**Ong Jia Hui**  
Chemical Engineering  
Nanyang Technological University, SG



# Australia's Most Innovative Engineers 2016: Damien Balachandran

as published on [www.innovativeengineers.com.au](http://www.innovativeengineers.com.au)

Damien Balachandran has recently been named as one of 'Australia's Most Innovative Engineers' for his work in tackling accidents caused by driver fatigue.

He says studying a Bachelor of Engineering at ANU has been one of the best experiences of his life.

"Studying engineering at ANU allowed me to learn about myself in a safe environment. This led me to being a more confident individual overall and gave me a desire to empower others to feel confident about their own lives!"

Damien received the International Undergraduate Scholarship Award from the University and moved from Kuala Lumpur to Canberra in 2009. The combination of the University's reputation, the opportunity to study overseas in a safe and supportive environment and the scholarship led Damien to study at ANU.

"I came to ANU because of its top ranking in Australia and I also wanted to take up the challenge of studying in one of the best universities in the world," he said.

Damien lived in Bruce Hall while studying at ANU and made the most of his time living on campus by being involved in campus activities and taking advantage of the many opportunities available to students including international study.

"I was an academic mentor, a bass player for the Bruce Band and the Buttery Coordinator (the bar man) for the hall.

"I was also fortunate to be part of the Global Summer Programme which took me to the University of Tokyo for a few weeks."

Since graduating, Damien has been working as a Hardware Engineer at Seeing Machines, a start up from ANU. He played a key role in the development of 'Guardian', a product that can manage driver fatigue through computer vision.

"I've been extremely fortunate in being able to be part of this innovative company and have been working on a product that can manage fatigue of a driver through computer vision."

Guardian can reduce fatigue events by up to 90% and saves lives through prevention and protection. The product has been recognised



nationally, leading to Damien recently being named as one of Australia's most innovative engineers from Engineers Australia.

"I was very thrilled to be able to represent ANU and Seeing Machines on a national level."

"I've always been fascinated with trying to find out how the world worked together and how we interacted with the world through our inventions. Engineering gave me the skills I needed to continue learning to improve our way of life through science and technology."

Damien said his university experience helped him to develop skills that are essential to the workplace and also helped him start his career as an engineer.

"The systems engineering approach that ANU instilled in me, has allowed me to ensure that I consider the wider factors of a decision before coming to a conclusion. This has been beneficial for me as I continue my development as an engineer to better understand how to design products for the benefit of society and the environment."

"The skills I acquired at ANU have allowed me to hone my soft skills through networking and constant interactions during group assignments and in college. This has allowed me to better dialogue with colleagues, customers and management in a manner that is suitable for each situation."

His advice to students is to work hard but make sure you make time to have fun.

"Work hard to understand what you are doing because the details matter. That being said, don't forget to have a good time with the people around you because they matter too!"

*Damien Tony Balachandran is from  
the A Level Class of 2008*