



The FS116 students carried out hands-on chemistry and biology experiments that were adapted from DFC students' textbooks in the multidisciplinary labs at IMU.

Fun at the lab

TEXTBOOKS came alive when 17 students from the Dignity for Children Foundation (DFC) were invited to the International Medical University (IMU) on Jan 24 and 25.

As part of the course requirements for Semester 3 students of the Foundation in Science (FiS) programme for Cross Boundary Studies, the FS116 students decided to give the DFC students – aged 16 to 17 – an experience of a lifetime.

This was made possible through hands-on chemistry and biology experiments that were adapted from DFC students' textbooks, carried out in the multidisciplinary labs at IMU.

Through this project, the FiS students learnt the basic procedures of writing lab manuals, creating worksheets to reinforce DFC students' understanding and carrying out trial runs of the experiments they have written. The FS116 students learnt to hone leadership skills by guiding their younger mentees.

"For me, this project increased our personal and social responsibilities. It helped improve our planning, critical thinking and reasoning skills as well as creativity. This project also strengthened our communication skills, which is necessary for both interpersonal and presentation needs," said Abu Nowajish Siddique, a FS116 student from Bangladesh.

When asked of her experience in carrying out this project, FS116 student Racheal Ahn said, "This project helped me tremendously in building my confidence. It also taught me a lot about teamwork, time management and how to be a responsible person by carrying out the task that assigned by the group leader."

According to fellow FS116 student Kai Wen, the Cross Boundaries Studies enabled them to have a deeper interaction with each other as they lacked prior experience

working with some of the team members.

"Throughout the entire activity, my team learnt the importance of teamwork in ensuring that the entire activity runs smoothly. Through the brainstorming process, we also learnt to set aside any judgments because all ideas are welcomed, regardless if they are bad or good. We learnt to look at things from different angles and perspectives to have a better plan. Last but not least, we experienced teaching and guiding O-Level students to carry out an experiment and have discussions with the participants from DFC," said Kai Wen.

The FiS programme aims to prepare students academically and holistically for their undergraduate studies in IMU. With that in mind, the teaching and assessment methods employed are aligned to the methodologies used in the undergraduate programmes.

Students benefit from these as it gives them early exposure and a head start to the undergraduate learning environment.

At IMU, the programme is important as it aims to prepare students to be independent learners.

There are three intakes a year – April, July and September. These commencement dates will enable a smooth transition into the preferred degree courses upon successful completion of the programme.

Take this opportunity to find out about the scholarships and special bursary for those planning to join the FiS programme and continue their undergraduate studies at IMU.

Apply for the programme during the FiS Info Day and get a waiver (terms and conditions apply). Find out more about the FiS programme at the FiS Info Day on March 19 at the IMU campus in Bukit Jalil.

■ For more information, visit www.imu.edu.my, e-mail start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.