

Joy in studying Chinese medicine

EVERYONE is ruled by habits and most people are comfortable doing things the same old way.

It is hard to break out of this comfort zone and pushing beyond these boundaries may take some time and practice, but the rewards will be worth it.

This is especially so when you try to achieve your career and life goals.

Someone who has gone beyond her comfort zone and has done something out of the norm is Amiera Mat Aziz, one of the few non-Chinese students at the International Medical University (IMU) who is studying Chinese medicine.

She decided to embark on this journey at IMU in 2014 and is currently in her seventh semester.

This is miles away from the norm.

Amiera decided to study Chinese medicine because of her exposure towards alternative medicine since childhood.

She believes that Chinese medicine is effective for restoring and maintaining the body.

She also believes that combining Western and Chinese medicine can enhance the healing process and maybe cure untreatable and new diseases.

More opportunities

Amiera revealed that her decision to study at IMU was because the university could provide her with more opportunities to engage with students from different healthcare professions. Besides that, the main medium of instruction at the university is English (even for the Chinese medicine programme) and there is an opportunity for students to credit transfer to Melbourne.

As part of the requirement for the programme, Amiera needed to learn Mandarin in IMU during her first semester.

To her, learning Mandarin was difficult as she had no exposure to the language at all.

However, after learning it, she realised that it



Amiera is one of the few non-Chinese students studying Chinese medicine at the International Medical University.

has helped her with her studies, especially in studying acupuncture, classical books and herbal formulae.

Language advantage

In addition, she also thinks it is an advantage to have Mandarin as a third language.

In terms of skills, Amiera believes the university enhanced her clinical skills and soft skills in a study environment that is comfortable and conducive for students.

Additionally, IMU provides students with

many hands-on practices and engagements with other Chinese medicine students from different universities in Malaysia and China.

Amiera is appreciative of the assistance and support extended to her by all IMU staff especially lecturers in Chinese medicine.

They have always made themselves available for students and are willing to answer questions regardless of the time.

In the future, Amiera hopes to transfer to RMIT, Melbourne, to complete her degree.

She then plans to work as a Chinese medicine physician for a few years to gain experience in clinical practice before furthering her studies.

IMU offers a four-year BSc (Hons) in Chinese Medicine. It also has partnerships with several universities in traditional Chinese medicine in China (Shanghai University of TCM, Shandong University of TCM, Guangzhou University of TCM) and RMIT University, Australia, whereby students can transfer after three years in IMU's Chinese medicine programme.

After an additional two years, graduates will be awarded the Bachelor's degree in Chinese medicine from the respective partner universities.

Commencement for the Chinese medicine programme is in February and September of each year.

IMU welcomes students with pre-university qualifications to join the university as a start to a promising and rewarding, yet challenging future with a career in Chinese medicine.

Those who have a pre-university qualifications can make an online application today.

Those have just completed their SPM but do not have pre-university qualification can consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science (FIS), the direct route for entry into any of the university's local degree programmes.

■ For details, visit www.imu.edu.my, e-mail start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.