

# Transforming obstacles into opportunities

JANET Ngu did her first two and a half years of studies at the International Medical University (IMU) before transferring to the University of Calgary for the completion of her degree.

She was awarded the Young Alumnus Award – Academic Achievements at the IMU Alumni Homecoming 2017.

This doctor has come a long way for someone who was born with moderate-to-severe sensorineural hearing loss and has to wear bilateral hearing aids.

She relates to us her journey to success.

“Since my childhood, I’ve always done things differently from my peers. So it was natural that when it came to the choice of partner medical school, I applied the same principle.

“I chose Canada – not a popular choice among my peers. Regardless, I still packed my suitcases and landed in Calgary,

Alberta, exactly 10 years ago,” said Ngu.

As it turned out, the journey since completing her studies at IMU has been exciting and fulfilling.

After obtaining her medical degree from the University of Calgary, Ngu was not able to apply for residency due to her immigration status.

She went on to pursue a post-graduate Masters of Science (MSc) degree in cardiovascular sciences.

“The experience was so phenomenal and taught me that life is not all about achieving goals with the shortest timeline possible, but rather to take advantage of every opportunity to seek excellence.

“I obtained Canadian permanent residence status during my graduate studies and in 2013, I was extremely fortunate to gain a cardiac surgery residency spot at the prestigious University of Ottawa Heart Institute.



Ngu was awarded the Young Alumnus Award – Academic Achievements at the IMU Alumni Homecoming 2017.

“This is definitely one of the best things that has ever happened as I have found my passion,” said Ngu.

At IMU, students studying medicine have the option to complete the entire degree or study the

first two and a half years of the degree in IMU.

They then transfer to one of its more than 20 partner universities in Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland or Canada for completion of the medical programme. These international partnerships mean that the IMU curriculum has been developed to meet these universities’ high international standards.

The medical curriculum also provides a pathway for its graduates to train and work in the United States with the incorporation of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 Preparatory Course into the IMU medical curriculum across semesters 1 to 5.

This is to allow future medical graduates to begin early preparation and be competent to sit for USMLE Step 1 examination that carves a path towards the US residency opportunities.

As a medical student in IMU, stu-

dents will receive clinical exposure as early as Semester 1 to ensure they gain sufficient skills before transferring to the clinical years.

Students who complete the entire degree locally in IMU will undergo an intensive six-month senior clerkship at Hospital Batu Pahat or Hospital Kluang in Semester 10, working in wards under the supervision of senior clinicians.

This early clinical exposure and intensive senior clerkship will better prepare them for patient care and housemanship training, enabling them to become better doctors.

Intakes for this programme commences in February and August each year. Those interested can make an online application today.

■ For more information, log on to [www.imu.edu.my](http://www.imu.edu.my), e-mail [start@imu.edu.my](mailto:start@imu.edu.my) or call 03-2731 7272.