

Journey back to her alma mater

INTERNATIONAL Medical University (IMU) alumna, Freya Tang Sin Wei is currently a lecturer at her alma mater. She shares her journey and experiences:

"Growing up with chronic illness, I was not a stranger to Chinese herbal medicine. The astounding effects amazed me as a child, and I was very curious to learn about it.

"One night, my mother asked if I wanted to study the Chinese Medicine programme at IMU after she saw an advertisement in the newspaper. I answered 'yes' and that started my journey towards my Chinese Medicine career.

"My undergraduate degree years at IMU were challenging yet fruitful. Besides the classroom, there were plenty of hands-on practical sessions and attachments, which prepared us to become independent and competent practitioners.

"I also had the opportunity to attend a one-week novitiate programme in Guangzhou arranged by IMU, where I was able to observe special acupuncture techniques such as apitherapy (bee sting acupuncture) and catgut embedding therapy. These experiences helped me in my career path later on.

"When I graduated from IMU in 2015, I decided to go to Shandong for a one-year clinical training programme.

"Prior to this, I had a three-month gap, which I spent working as a herbal



IMU alumna Freya Tang is currently a lecturer at her alma mater.

dispenser and clinical assistant in the Chinese Medicine Department of Lam Wah Ee Hospital Penang. I was able to familiarise myself with the job quickly, thanks to the clinical training at IMU.

"In Shandong, I was attached to the Shandong Province Chinese Medicine Hospital, spending about a month each

in every crucial department, including the intensive care unit (ICU). I was exposed to both Chinese Medicine and allopathic medicine in terms of diagnosis, examination and management as practiced in China.

"As I'm more academically inclined, I decided to continue pursuing my master's degree in acupuncture and moxibustion at Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TJUTCM) on the China Government Scholarship.

"During my three years in Tianjin, I pursued my postgraduate studies in acupuncture and moxibustion, and successfully completed my dissertation with my supervisor, Prof Xu Li (TJUTCM School of Acupuncture-Moxibustion dean) and fellow colleagues.

"While training, I assisted them in translating what was being taught to international students or fellow visitors. It was not difficult, as I learnt Chinese Medicine in English during my bachelor's degree at IMU.

"It was a great opportunity to share my knowledge with people of different nationalities and professions, while learning about their healthcare professions such as homeopathy, traditional Mongolian medicine, anaesthesiology and allopathic medicine.

"This is what makes studying abroad a valuable experience. Now I am a lecturer at the university I graduated from.

"Being back in IMU, I am continuing to broaden my knowledge and improve

myself, as lifelong learning is what IMU-ians strive for."

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

Students will then be awarded the bachelor's degree in Chinese Medicine of the respective partner universities upon completion.

The commencement for the Chinese Medicine programme is in February and September.

IMU welcomes students with pre-university qualifications to start off to a promising and rewarding yet challenging future with a career in Chinese Medicine.

If you have pre-university qualifications, apply online today.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science (FIS) – the direct route for entry into any of the university's degree programmes.

■ For details, refer to www.imu.edu.my or email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.