

Engaging with the community

DURING the final semester of International Medical University's (IMU) Foundation in Science (FiS) programme, students carry out community engagement projects for their Cross Boundary Studies (CBS) module – a two-credit hour module that teaches creative problem-solving skills, project management and teamwork.

The projects usually include tutoring students from national schools and the urban poor community. However, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that these physical engagements had to be halted.

This did not dampen the spirits of the FiS students. As schools nationwide closed and transitioned to online learning, they assisted SK Bandar Baru Seri Petaling 1 (SKBBSP1) teachers in creating online learning materials.

The FiS students created PowerPoint presentations, videos, quizzes and online worksheets for Mathematics, Science, English and Design and Technology for primary pupils.

It was an eye-opening experience for the FiS students as they mulled the best method to prepare online lessons for children of various age groups.

Prashwin Singh Tejpal Singh, from FS220 says, "The CBS project was an enriching experience and I feel euphoric knowing that our effort has somehow made a difference in the community. It truly is a privilege to serve them."

Martha Then Xin Yi, who completed her foundation studies



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in April and is currently pursuing her Dentistry degree in IMU, said, "It helped me understand online projects better while working with teammates and learning social skills. It also helped my undergraduate studies as we were required to submit a project for the MPU module."

Veronica Lim Ying Hui enrolled in the FiS programme in July 2020. However, due to the pandemic, classes were conducted online for almost the entire year with little interaction with her classmates.

"To me, the CBS project actually enabled me to make new friends

because I didn't get to meet all the members in my group in the earlier semesters. Through this project, we learnt to communicate and help each other," said Lim.

SKBBSP1 principal Norzila Otoh was recently asked to give an update to the District Education Office and the Federal Territory Education Department on the school's coping mechanisms for online learning.

Norzila presented the initiatives from IMU's FiS students, which were well received by the department.

All in all, the changes and

challenges brought about by the pandemic to the FiS students' learning experience didn't hinder them from engaging with and serving the community.

IMU's one-year FiS programme provides an early start to life as a degree student. Being offered and conducted in the same facilities and environment as the degree programmes, FiS students adapt at a much earlier stage.

IMU's current FiS team consists of carefully selected, qualified and experienced staff with specific skill sets that make them ideal pre-university level academicians.

The team has a clear understanding of subsequent undergraduate degree programme requirements and is assisted in this regard by degree-level academics, who also advise the students on their available undergraduate pathways while in the foundation stage.

Undergraduate lecturers and professors also advise on the design and content of FiS lectures, tutorials and assessments.

IMU's FiS programme has three intakes a year – March, July and August. These convenient start dates will enable a smooth transition to students' preferred degree courses upon successful completion of the programme.

■ Get more information or make an online application today via www.imu.edu.my. You can also email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.