

An enriching educational journey

THE next step after completing SPM is a crucial moment and Nur Nabila Nasharuddin opines that it would carve her career and future.

Nur Nabila, who just completed her medical degree, shared that she was fortunate to receive a scholarship from Yayasan Khazanah which was inclusive of a pre-university course and an undergraduate degree. She was also given the choice to pick a university and programme.

"Among the different universities that I can choose from, the Foundation in Science Programme (FIS) at International Medical University (IMU) is the most promising for me as it has a great reputation, has the earliest intake date as compared to other foundation programmes in Malaysia and caters directly to the medical curriculum in IMU MBBS programme.

"Besides that, I am assured that doing both my foundation and undergraduate course at the same institution would result in a trouble-free journey; I would not have to worry about acclimating myself to the new environment and can focus on the bigger issue at hand – the MBBS degree," she said.

She added that her transition from high school to pre-university was turbulent.

"I quickly found a family that helps me breeze through it: friends from the same FIS cohort and my housemates.

"I chose to stay under IMU's accommodation for my foundation year and was introduced to four other students who are in their first year of undergraduate degrees.

"I was able to form a formidable bond with these seniors and my friends from the same cohort and they act as safety nets for me," she said.

IMU's core teaching philosophy, she said, includes self-directed learning that was instilled in FIS' students.



Nur Nabila chose the FIS at IMU as it has a great reputation.

"I believe that this catalyses my learning experience in the MBBS programme as I could familiarise myself with this philosophy earlier compared to the other students.

"The lecturers in the FIS programme are thoughtful, and one of the perks of being in the same institution include the ability to reach them even after I completed my course," she said.

She shared: "I was able to get my previous FIS lecturer, Parkash Mathivanan, as a mentor for a humanitarian module in MBBS as my project involves an English education outreach to primary school students.

"The connection would otherwise be

difficult to establish, had I not done my foundation programme in IMU.

"The long hours and packed schedules in FIS are gruelling at first as we have to complete the course in the span of 11 months, but they turn out to be blessings in disguise as they helped me to have a better outlook on time management skill – an important ability for my dream undergraduate course, MBBS."

Apart from that, she shared that she was an ardent supporter of a balanced lifestyle.

"The myriads of activities in and outside of campus and relentless support from IMU's Student Services Hub allow me to

dabble in various activities, both academic and non-academic. These activities are fundamental for my growth as a medical student and an individual.

"With the support given, I was able to make notable achievements in various fields and was chosen to represent IMU in several academics-related programmes.

"For these achievements, I was the first winner of IMU Sportswoman Award, the highest recognition in IMU for co-curricular achievements and I believe that the rapport and cooperation with colleagues, students from other healthcare courses and the lecturers that I fostered during my foundation year are pivotal to all my extracurricular achievements," she said.

More recently, she shared that she was chosen as the winner for IMU Aflame Award that was created to honour a graduating student from any one of the IMU programmes that aims to emphasise, reinforce and enhance the importance of humane principles and practices for her contribution in several non-governmental organisations.

"Looking at my journey introspectively, it has been a gratifying one and I hope to soar higher in the future," she said.

IMU's one-year FIS provides its students 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 to the facilities and environment at a much earlier stage.

The Foundation in Science at IMU has three intakes a year – March, July and August.

Students are encouraged to make an online application via www.imu.edu.my

■ For more information, log on to www.imu.edu.my or email start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.