

All-round preparation

WHEN you make a choice, you change the future. This statement rings true particularly to most SPM students who are now making tough choices from an unprecedented variety of pre-university programmes. With options aplenty, how does one navigate a world of seemingly infinite alternatives?

For Asst Prof Mabel Tan, Director of Centre for Pre-U Studies at UCSI University, the answer is obvious, "When faced with a dilemma, students should carefully assess their options and choose a pre-u programme that will take them to the university they want to go.

"For those thinking of going overseas, A-Levels is a good start and an entry ticket to many of the top universities across the world. Our foundation programmes are comprehensive, dynamic and tailored to students who are confident with their study path for a degree programme at UCSI University," says Asst Prof Tan.

Preparing for university

Universities across the globe identify critical thinking as one of the most important skills needed for success in higher education.

"In this time of information explosion, students are guided to go through information and not just passively accept it. This is what we practise in our pre-university programmes as we



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promote critical thinking," she explains.

"We encourage our students to ask good questions and apply theory to practice so they will be able to make sound decisions when they enter university."

Aside from developing critical thinking, the university encourages students to be well-rounded individuals. With international students from more than 70 countries, UCSI University is a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities. Pre-university students are encouraged to mingle

with local and international students to learn about other cultures and languages.

A-Levels

For the past 18 years, UCSI students have successfully gained admission into top universities across the world, pursuing programmes in competitive fields such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering and actuarial science.

"This year, one of our students has been accepted into Cambridge

University. We have another student who became a scholar at the University of Melbourne. One of our top scorers, Keith Cheah, received the High Achiever Award for the GCE A-Levels June 2013 examination. We also achieved 37% straight As," Asst Prof Tan adds.

The A-Levels programme at UCSI University is available in four intakes. The January and July intakes are 18-month programmes, the April intake is a 20-month programme while the March intake is a 15-month

express programme.

"Currently, we offer biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and further mathematics. This July, we will include accounting and economics as well," says Asst Prof Tan.

Foundation programmes

Foundation programmes at UCSI University take one year to complete. Its Foundation in Science leads to degree programmes in medicine, pharmacy, nursing, optometry, biotechnology, food science, engineering and architecture.

The Foundations in Arts programme, on the other hand, leads to degree programmes in management, IT, logistics, actuarial science, architecture, English language and communications, psychology, mass communications and design.

"While a student who has completed a Foundation in Science may still be accepted into a business, IT or psychology degree programme, it may not be the case for a Foundation in Arts student who wants to pursue a medical or pharmacy degree programme," Asst Prof Tan explains.

On top of its science and mathematics, business, computing and social science components, the programme provides students with an additional extra-curricular component to provide them an all-rounded approach.