

An exciting career in logistics

WHEN Yeah Nyoke Kim attended the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Malaysia (CILT(M))'s Convocation Ceremony 2015 in November upon completing certain components in her degree, she did not expect to receive the top student award. The honour meant that she had the best grades for the BA (Hons) Logistics Management programme in UCSI University (UCSI).

The award had a special meaning for her, because she did not originally intend to pursue logistics. She was enrolled in a business administration degree but did not find the programme stimulating enough. Her sister read about the growing potential for logistics careers and suggested it to her.

"I am more of a hands-on person, so I get bored easily. Logistics is always changing and exciting with great career potential," she explained.

Once she decided to pursue logistics, UCSI was the standout choice for her.

UCSI is one of the first private universities to be a Corporate Affiliate Member of the CILTM, since 2014. CILTM is the Malaysian chapter of the international professional body for the logistics sector.

The university also has the distinction of being awarded full exemption for the Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE), by the CILTM, for its BA (Hons) Logistics Management programme.

This means that graduates of UCSI's BA (Hons) Logistics Management are permitted to use the letters MILT – the Member status that is the first step towards a Chartered Membership. The MILT status provides local and international recognition. UCSI is also appointed as a CILTM Training Provider.

"Not many universities qualify for this professional membership, and I am confident this MILT status will help me stand out once I enter the working world," said Yeah.

On top of this recognition by CILTM, UCSI is well known for its close partnership with logistics giants who host UCSI's logistics students during industry visits.

Among these names are PKT Logistics, West Port and Maskargo.

The visits are often organised by the students themselves, through the Logistics Students Association.

The experience of seeing how logistics work first-hand made a deep impression for Yeah and her friends as they were able to understand the entire process instead of just one component.

They would then try to implement what they learned at these multimillion-dollar companies during their presentations and assignments.

First-hand knowledge

The experienced lecturers is another strength of UCSI's Logistics Management department. Most of the lecturers teaching Yeah have worked in the industry for years and have first-hand knowledge of what logistics companies need and want from their staff members.

"My lecturers have been in the industry so they can really link theory with reality.

"They communicate clearly and are very approachable too," said Yeah.

Currently in her second year of the three-year programme, Yeah's fascination for logistics is still going strong. If she had to pin down the reason for her passion in this field, it would be the wide array of knowledge that she learns.

Speaking enthusiastically, she pointed out that the field of logistics involves a wide

range of knowledge. This includes learning about land, air and maritime transportation, warehouse management, customs, law, and even finance. She also learns about management which can lead to a logistics manager career.

This breadth and depth of the knowledge learned provides her the opportunity to either specialise in logistics or even venture into another field.

Her passion for the industry and her academic success has allayed the fears of her parents, who were initially worried about her career prospects.

With a laugh, Yeah explained that her parents did not understand logistics at first.

"I constantly shared with them what I learned in class and they were also fascinated. Now they are happy I enjoy studying a degree that is in great demand and are 100% supportive," she said.

Does she have any advice for high school students who are interested in logistics?

According to Yeah, those who are fascinated with the whole idea of online shopping will enjoy studying logistics. Through the BA (Hons) Logistics Management programme, they will understand how ingenious the various behind-the-scenes processes are.

Continuing the success of the BA (Hons) Logistics Management programme is UCSI's latest offering, the BA (Hons) Supply Chain Operations Management. It is designed to enable students to understand operational strategies and manage supply chain activities.

With globalisation shrinking borders, the world will need qualified people like Yeah to ensure the smooth movement of goods across countries.

■ To find out more about UCSI University's Faculty of Business and Information Science and its logistics or BA (Hons) Supply Chain Operations Management programme, call 03-9101 8882 or e-mail www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/onlineenquiry. You can also visit their Open Day on Dec 19 and 20.



Yeah with her best student award from the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Malaysia.