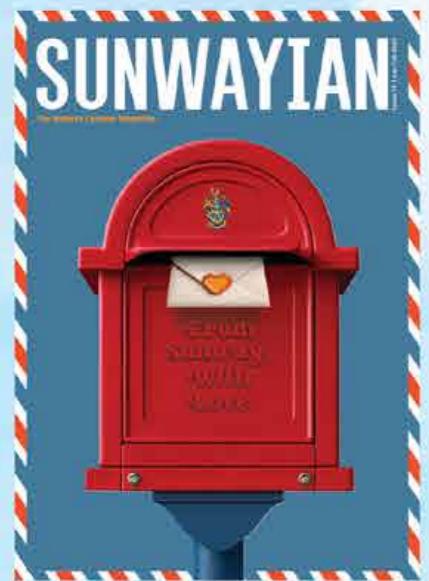


SUNWAYIAN

The Sunway Campus Magazine

Issue 19 | Jan-Feb 2026





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It is Cupid reporting for duty, though this time, the arrows are not aimed at just one heart. For our 19th issue, we are setting our sights wider, because love, in its truest form, has never been limited to romance alone.

This issue celebrates love in all its forms: love as curiosity, as commitment, and as the conscious choice to show up. As we step into the new year, we invite you to begin again; to extend love not only to yourself, but also to the people and communities that matter most.

Our story highlight, 'From Sunway, With Love', shines a light on the care, generosity, and affection our fellow Sunwayians share through specially designed Sunway University and Sunway College postcards. Watch out for these postcards on campus at different times of the year and send your messages to friends and family, a simple yet sincere reminder that love comes in many forms.

Across campus, love takes shape through wellness initiatives and charitable efforts that strengthen our #CampusWithAConscience. 'Santa Claws', a Christmas-themed charity claw machine, brought students and staff together to give back in a fun yet meaningful way, while Sunway Spotify supported the advocacy for every child's right to proper nourishment and a healthy life.

This issue also celebrates love in its most festive form through tradition and togetherness. In the warmth of Chinese New Year and the bonds strengthened during Ramadan, these moments remind us why Malaysia is so easy to fall in love with: its culture, diversity, and generous spirit. For our international friends, this is an invitation to explore Malaysia's charming quirks, a rojak-like mix of flavours, with savoury, sweet, and a touch of spice.

Even our little ones down at Sunway International Schools deserve much love. Flip through the pages to admire their incredible creativity and talented artworks.

Now, Sunwayians, love is also found in giving. At Sunway Education, this belief takes shape through a commitment to providing quality education and meaningful opportunities. In 'Scholarship Dreams in Action,' we celebrate several outstanding Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarship recipients who have not only excelled academically, but have also shown remarkable drive and a strong sense of purpose.

So in 2026, we invite you to rethink love. Let it be curiosity, resilience, celebration, and in so much more shape and form. At the #MostHappeningCampus, Cupid will be watching, arrows polished and ready, quietly celebrating every moment and success of the Sunway community.

No hearts were harmed in the making of this issue.

CAMPUS UPDATES



Show-Stopping Music Showcase at SIS Iskandar Puteri



From amazing singing to energetic dance performances, Sunway International Schools (SIS) Iskandar Puteri's talented students lit up the stage and wowed the audience with an unforgettable day of music, joy, and fun.

Sunway University Soars In QS Sustainability Rankings



Sunway University has reached a remarkable milestone in the Global QS Sustainability Rankings 2026, rising to #338 globally from #480 last year. This achievement positions Sunway University as a national and regional leader in sustainability, highlighting its role as a trailblazer in mission-driven, impact-focused higher education.

The Honourable Stephen Dawson Visits Sunway AUSMAT



The Government of Western Australia, represented by Minister for Regional Development, Ports, Science and Innovation, Medical Research, Kimberley, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, reinforced its partnership with Sunway Education Group during a visit to Sunway College AUSMAT. The visit focused on engaging with AUSMAT students and highlighting how the Western Australian curriculum prepares Malaysian learners with the best skills.

Empowering Education for All



Sunway Group founder and chairman Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah has pledged RM500 million over the next five years to build one of Malaysia's largest education endowments.

The announcement was made during the 2025 Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarships and Awards Ceremony, held in the presence of Her Royal Highness Tengku Permaisuri Hajah Norashikin, where RM75 million in scholarships and grants was awarded to deserving students and researchers.

VU @ Sunway Celebrates Top Achievers



The Certified Financial Planner Programme Graduation Ceremony 2024/2025 marked a significant milestone as it was held for the first time at Sunway University. The ceremony celebrated the achievements of approximately 200 graduates, a testament to their dedication and perseverance in pursuing professional excellence.

Introducing PAIGE, Our Smart Library Robot



Meet PAIGE, our Tun Hussein Onn Sunway Library Robot that uses RFID detection and SLAM navigation to keep shelves in perfect order. Developed by Sunway University's Faculty of Engineering and Technology, this student-led Malaysian innovation enhances efficiency and offers hands-on experience in human-machine collaboration.

Sunway TES College JB's Election and Townhall Meeting



Sunway TES College Johor Bahru wrapped up a month focused on strengthening student representation through its Student Representative Council (SRC) Election Month, where students elected peers to champion their voices and ideas. An SRC Townhall Meeting was also held to bring together the newly elected council and college leadership.

Young Storytellers Shine On Stage



Talented SIS Iskandar Puteri primary students brought the stage to life at the PYP Storytelling Competition, showcasing creativity through vibrant costumes and expressive performances. With confidence and imagination, these young storytellers brought their favourite tales to life.

Sunway University successfully hosted the AppliedHE Xchange 2025, a flagship gathering of higher education leaders, policymakers, and industry experts from across Asia and beyond. Building on last year's momentum, this year's theme "Together for Tomorrow: Excellence, Engagement, Evolution - Celebrating Leadership and Ranking Excellence" reflected a shared commitment to advance academic excellence, strengthen engagement, and champion transformative evolution within the global education ecosystem.

This year also saw the launch of the Academic Road Trip (ART), a bold initiative that brings academics and students together through collaborative learning journeys. Participants were engaged through inspiring keynotes, expert panels, and hands-on workshops featuring leading voices in educational innovation, rankings, employability, and future-ready skills.

A key highlight of the event was the official launch of the ALL ASIA Public & Private University Rankings 2026, which recognises 493 public and private institutions in Asia. The ranking evaluates institutions rigorously across six dimensions: Community Engagement, Employability, Student Satisfaction, Research Excellence, Internationalisation and Peer Recognition, placing student feedback and employability outcomes at the core of its methodology.

Responding to the growing demand for a more meaningful, student-centric evaluation of higher education in Asia, this new ranking marks a shift towards greater impact and real-world relevance. As the results were unveiled, Sunway University once again emerged as the top Malaysian private university in Asia, ranking sixth, and reaffirming its position as a rising institution of impact and innovation.

Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President and Vice Chancellor of Sunway University, shared, "The AppliedHE ALL ASIA rankings highlight the depth and diversity of excellence across Asian universities. For Sunway University, being recognised among the region's leading institutions affirms our purpose as a mission-driven 5th generation university, committed to empowering impactful research, building meaningful partnerships, and developing talent for the world. Hosting the AppliedHE Xchange reflects our shared commitment and underscores the importance of institutions coming together to advance a better tomorrow for future generations."

The AppliedHE Xchange 2025 concluded on an inspiring note, strengthening networks and reaffirming the region's shared pursuit of excellence, engagement, and evolution in higher education.

Sunway University Shines in Asia's Higher Education



AVENUE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Sunway Wins Big at AFECA 2025

Massive congratulations to our students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Callista Audrey Wibowo, Lee Xiao Xuan (BSc (Honours) in International Hospitality Management), Gan Yu Min (BSc (Honours) in Conventions and Events Management) and Wong Xu Xuan Sheanie (BSc (Honours) in Conventions and Events Management) for emerging as Champions at the AFECA 10th Asia MICE Youth Challenge 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Sunway College Johor Bahru Students Top I-RICE'25

Four Diploma in Information Technology students from Sunway College Johor Bahru brought home top honours at the 3rd International Research, Innovation, Creativity & Engineering Project Competition 2025 (I-RICE'25), earning a Gold Award and a Special Award for Best Elite Technology. Their project, "Smart Well", is a web-based health platform designed to promote proactive health management.



International Gold Triumph for SIS Iskandar Puteri

Michelle Liu Xuan Tong from Sunway International Schools (SIS) Iskandar Puteri first secured the Gold Award at the Asia Pacific International, Malaysia Preliminary Round, before bringing home the 3rd Prize Gold Award at the Grand Finals in Shanghai, China.

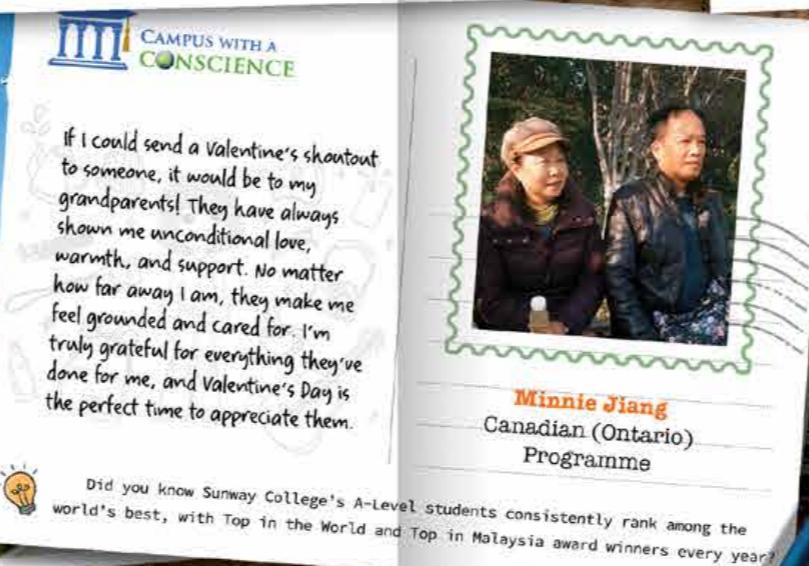
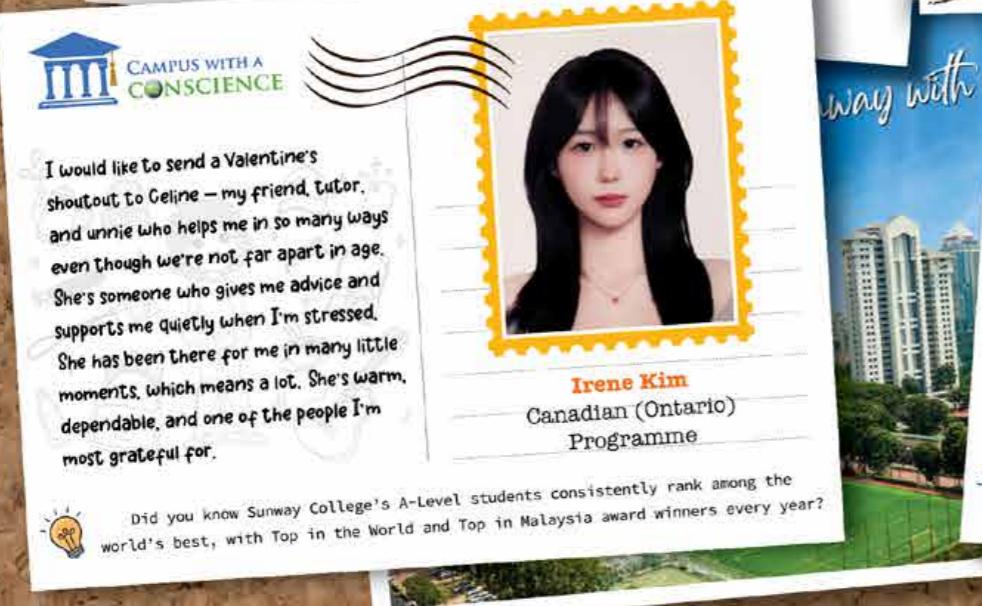
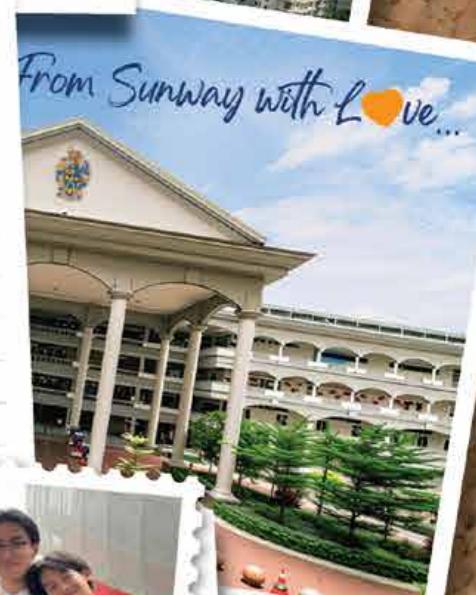
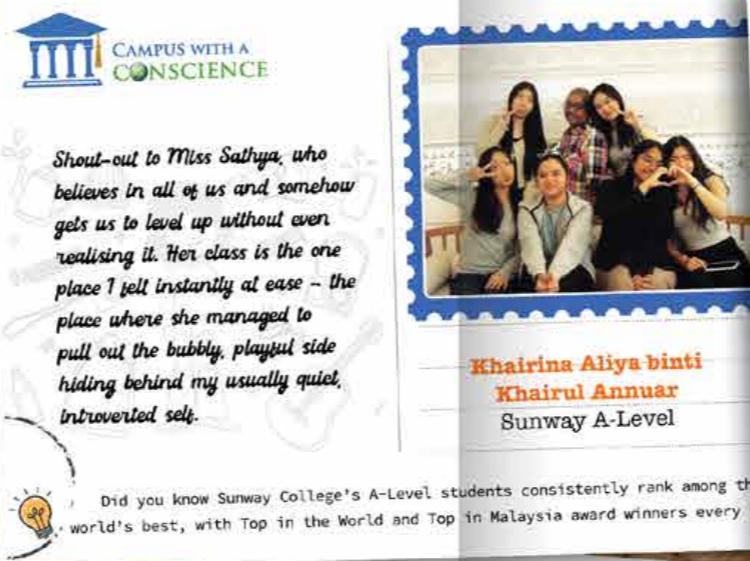
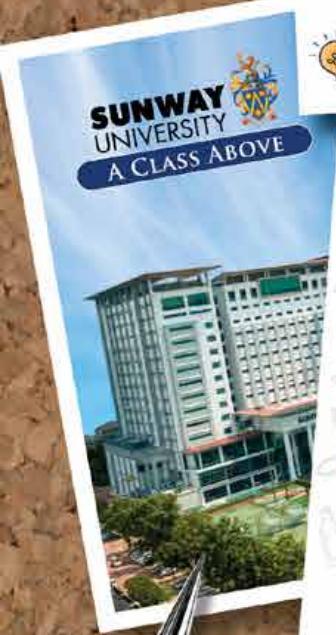
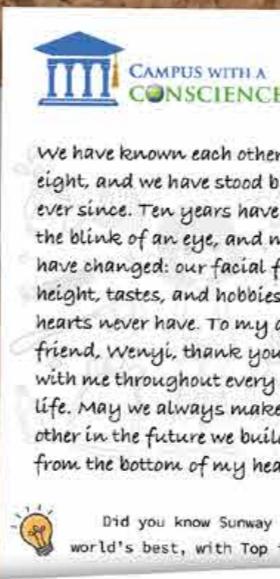
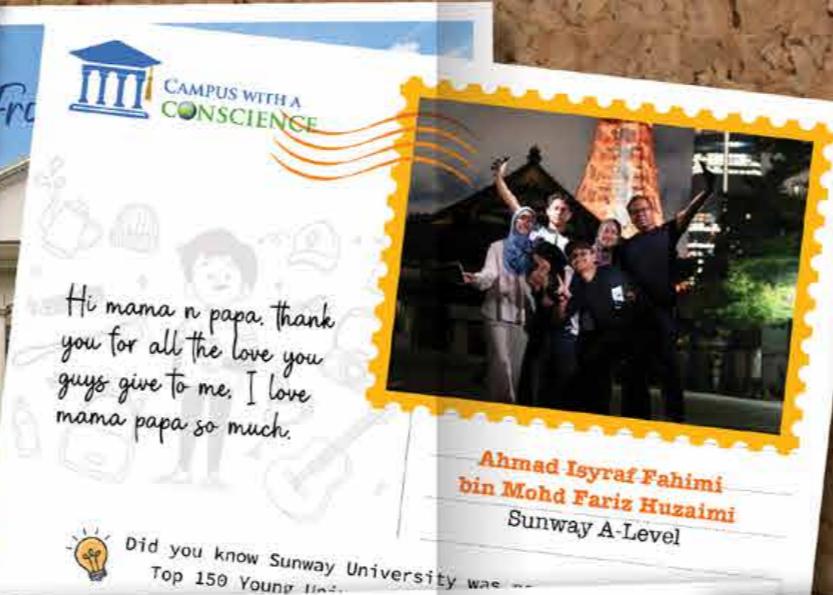
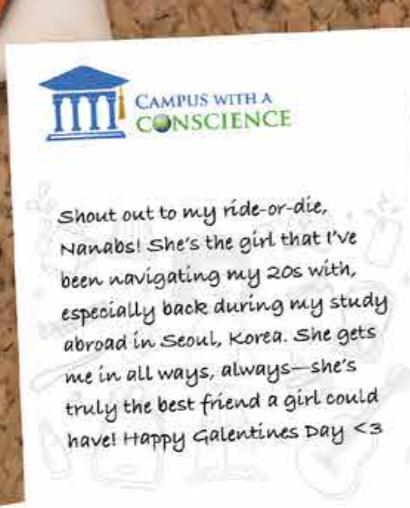


SIS KL Gymnast Nailed the Routine and the Gold

SIS Kuala Lumpur's Yoong Tsu Qi made the nation proud when she won the Gold Medal at the Aesthetic Group Gymnastics competition.

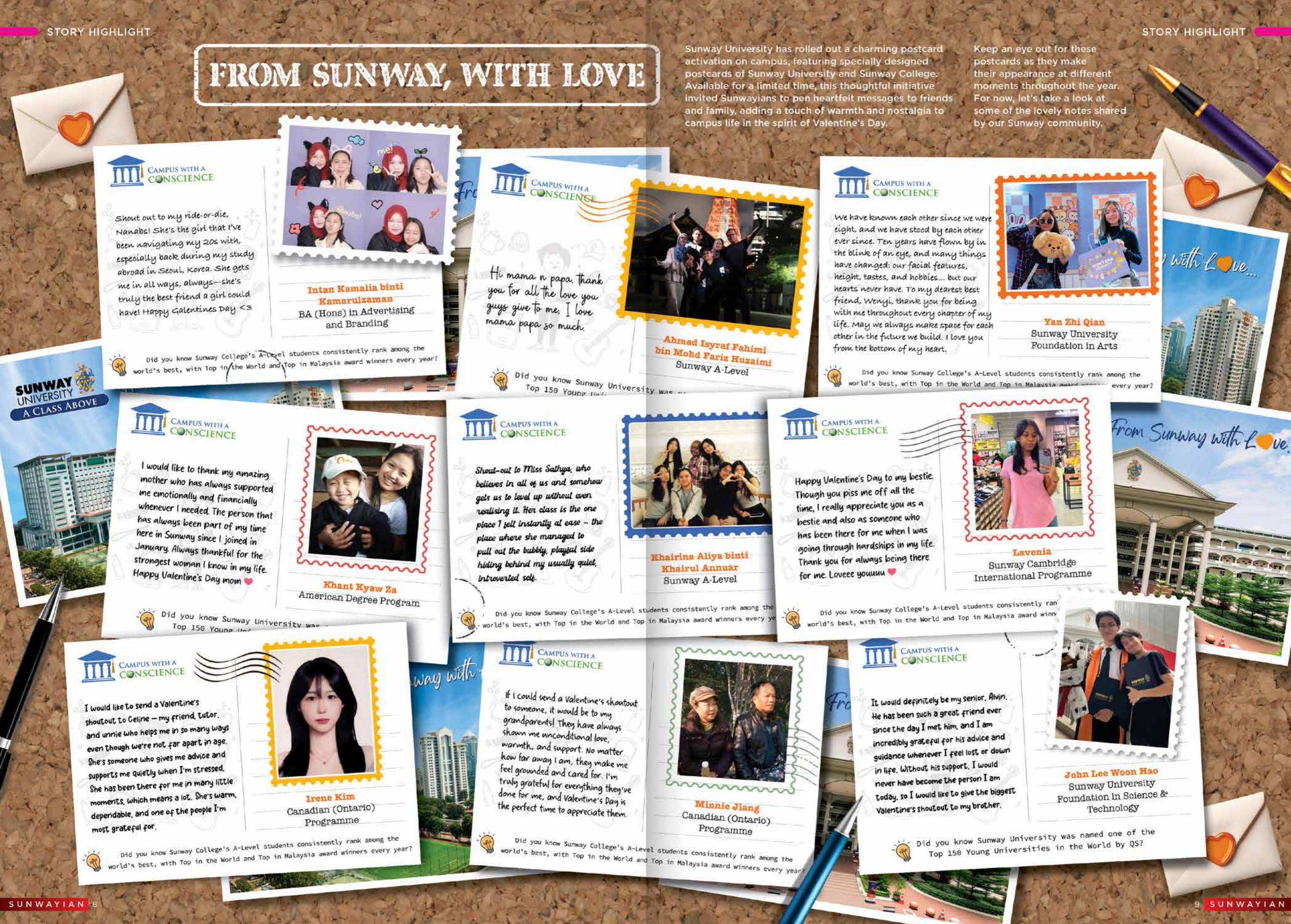


FROM SUNWAY, WITH LOVE



Sunway University has rolled out a charming postcard activation on campus, featuring specially designed postcards of Sunway University and Sunway College. Available for a limited time, this thoughtful initiative invited Sunwayians to pen heartfelt messages to friends and family, adding a touch of warmth and nostalgia to campus life in the spirit of Valentine's Day.

Keep an eye out for these postcards as they make their appearance at different moments throughout the year. For now, let's take a look at some of the lovely notes shared by our Sunway community.



Imagine a place so ambitious it tried to gather all human knowledge. Every scroll, every manuscript, every fragment of thought from the known world, all collected under one roof. That was the Library of Alexandria, a centre of scholarship and curiosity like no other.

Founded in the 3rd century BCE under the Ptolemies in Egypt, the Library was more than a building; it was a mission. Ships docking in Alexandria were reportedly searched for manuscripts to copy, ensuring the Library absorbed ideas from across the Mediterranean. Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and scholars from elsewhere all converged here, creating a rare hub of intellectual and cultural exchange.

Separating fact from legend is tricky. The Library probably housed thousands of scrolls, but claims that it contained all human knowledge are likely exaggerated. Some myths suggest it held works lost to history — treatises predating known civilisations, secret inventions, or forgotten philosophies. Plausible? Perhaps. Certain? Almost certainly not.

Its destruction is equally mysterious. Fires, wars, and neglect erased much of the collection, possibly more than once. What vanished is unknowable: scientific ideas, literary works, philosophical debates. Did it contain knowledge we no longer have? Possibly, but we can never know for sure. And maybe that is exactly why the Library has captured the imagination of so many. A mix of ambition, loss, and mystery that feels timeless.

But here is the thing: the Library of Alexandria was not just about physical books. It was about the audacity to imagine a world where knowledge could be gathered, shared, and built upon. It was about human curiosity, obsession, and ambition. And in that sense, it is not entirely lost. Every time we read, research, or debate, we carry forward a tiny spark of that same spirit. Every library, bookshelf, and online archive is a tribute to that "lost and unfound" ambition.

And let us not forget the mystery. Some of its legend is probably exaggerated. It might never have contained everything. There are no blueprints, no final inventory. Fires, multiple destructions, and rebuildings over centuries mean we will never know exactly what it was like. Maybe that is the point: the Library exists as story, dream, and cautionary tale rolled into one. It reminds us that the pursuit of knowledge is as important as the knowledge itself, and that even when things are lost, ideas have a stubborn way of surviving.

So the next time you wander through a library or scroll endlessly online, imagine yourself in Alexandria. Imagine the scholars, the stacks of scrolls, the tiny victories of copying a rare text, the frustration of losing one. And smile a little: humanity has always been obsessed with learning, with understanding, and with building something bigger than itself. The Library of Alexandria may be lost... but its spirit? That is unfound in the best possible way, waiting for us to keep chasing it.

Lost and Unfound: The Library of Alexandria

A Campus Celebration of Wellness and Charity

Sunway Sportify 2025 brought the campus community together for a vibrant charity sports fun fair. Organised by a student-led team under the Events Management module by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the initiative united students and staff through sports and music, all while contributing to a meaningful cause.

At the heart of the event was a shared commitment to charity. Sunway Sportify supported World Vision's One Goal Malaysia initiative,

a non-governmental organisation dedicated to advocating for every child's right to proper nourishment and a healthy life. By incorporating fundraising efforts into the fun fair activities, participants supported a meaningful cause in an engaging and enjoyable way.

Beyond its charitable purpose, Sunway Sportify promoted health and wellness through more than 15 interactive fun fair booths and sports



activities. Students from diverse faculties, clubs, and backgrounds took part at their own pace, creating an inclusive environment that encouraged teamwork, strengthened connections, and reinforced the idea that wellness can be both accessible and enjoyable.

Here's a look at the key highlights of Sunway Sportify 2025.

Zumba Mania!

One of the exciting highlights was Zumba Mania, which kicked off with an energetic dance fitness session set to lively, upbeat music. This activity encouraged everyone to break a sweat and stay active while having fun, allowing students to let loose and enjoy a dynamic workout in a vibrant group setting. Zumba Mania added an extra burst of energy and fostered a sense of community throughout the event.



Pull of War!

An all-time classic and crowd favourite, the intense Pull of War showcased strength, strategy, and unity. Participants came together to develop game plans, highlighting the spirit of teamwork and bringing participants closer through shared effort and enthusiasm.



Relay Rumble!

Next up was Relay Rumble, a team-based relay game where participants completed a series of fun challenges. This activity emphasised teamwork and active participation, encouraging connection among team members while adding extra energy and excitement throughout the event.

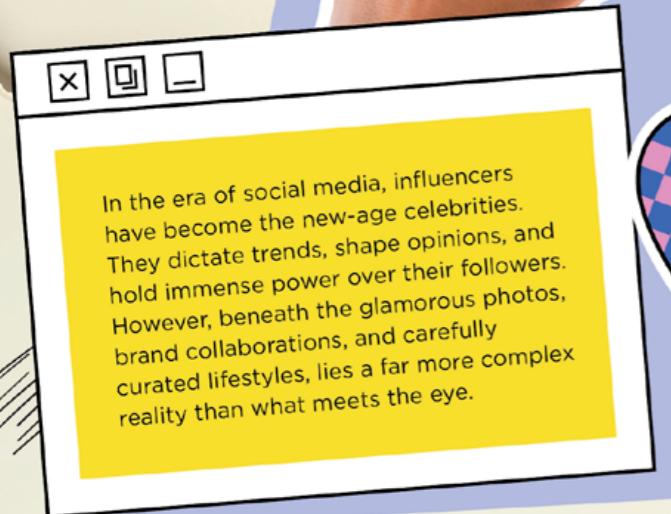


Badminton Boleh!

Showcasing a sport close to every Malaysian's heart, Badminton Boleh was held at the badminton court and open to participants throughout the event. The activity offered an active and friendly setting for everyone to play, interact, and make new friends.

In the evening, Sunway Sportify concluded on a high note with a lively performance by DJ Hera, who energised the crowd with a set of 2000s modern hits. The upbeat music created an exciting atmosphere that drew participants together, offering students a well-deserved break from academic stress and daily routines. The closing DJ session turned the venue into a vibrant space for dancing, unwinding, and connecting through music. This final highlight provided a memorable and uplifting conclusion to a day filled with sports, music, and community spirit.

The Reality



The Allure of Influencer Culture

Social media influencers hold an enormous amount of power in shaping the public's opinion. Whether it is in beauty, fitness, travel or lifestyle, their ability to connect with the audiences on a personal level creates a sense of trust that traditional advertisements tend to fail to achieve. More brands are recognising this and investing millions in influencer marketing to promote their products through seemingly organic recommendations.

Moreover, influencer culture has democratised fame. Anyone with a smartphone and a unique personality has the potential to build a platform, thus challenging the exclusivity status of celebrities. The easy access to being an influencer has made it an attractive career path, promising financial success and social validation.

However, this allure can be misleading. Much of what is presented on social media is carefully curated, and edited to sustain audience engagement. Behind the polished content, many influencers experience immense pressure to uphold their online personas, often leading to burnout, anxiety, and even identity crises. Some also struggle with abusive relationships, toxic environments, or personal hardships, forcing them to suppress real emotions and blur the line between authenticity and performance.



of Influencer Culture

Written by:
Alishbah Amir

Edited by:
Tisyha

Echo
MEDIA



For instance, the LaBrant family. On camera, they look like a big happy family with many kids. However, when their oldest daughter Everleigh turned nine, they transitioned her into homeschooling. Homeschooling itself is a controversial decision for some, but the reason her parents gave was that they wanted an extra set of hands to raise her younger siblings. In recent vlogs, viewers have also noticed that Everleigh often appears distant and overlooked, casting doubt on the family's seemingly perfect image.

Additionally, the financial reality of influence is not always as glamorous as it seems. While top-tier influencers bathe in lucrative brand deals, many small influencers struggle to make ends meet.

Authenticity vs Commercialisation

One of the biggest debates in influencer culture is the battle between authenticity and commercialisation. Followers are drawn to influencers because of their reliability, yet as influencers grow, they inevitably engage in brand partnerships that may compromise their original goal. This dilemma is further worsened by the prevalence of fake followers and engagement manipulation, with some influencers resorting to buying likes and followers to maintain brand partnerships.

The influx of paid promotions, sponsorships, and affiliate marketing has led to scepticism among audiences. When every other post is a sponsored ad, it becomes harder for followers to know whether an influencer genuinely supports a product or is promoting it for money. Some influencers have faced controversies for misleading advertising, failing to disclose sponsorships, or endorsing low-quality products. A perfect example of this is the Pink Sauce by Chef Pii, who did not fully disclose information about her product, and even selling it without FDA approval.

The Impact on Society

Influencer culture shapes societal ideas, promoting unrealistic beauty standards, excessive consumerism, and the pressure to project a "perfect" life. The constant exposure to highly curated content can fuel comparison culture, leading to feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem as audiences measure themselves against influencers with perfect bodies, thriving careers and luxurious vacations.

Furthermore, influencer culture has reshaped consumer behaviour. The traditional advertising model has shifted, with brands now relying heavily on influencers to market products. This has led to the rise of excessive consumerism, where people are constantly encouraged to buy the latest trends or items because their favourite influencer endorses them. The fast-paced nature of social media trends has also contributed to overconsumption, waste, and financial strain for individuals trying to keep up.

At the same time, influencers also wield the power to drive positive change. Many use their platforms to raise awareness about social issues, advocate for sustainability, and promote mental health conversations. This demonstrates that despite flaws, influencer culture has the potential to be a force for good.

Influencer culture is a double-edged sword, offering both opportunities and challenges. While it has redefined modern marketing and given individuals a platform to share their voices, it also presents significant ethical and societal concerns. As the industry continues to evolve, both influencers and viewers must navigate the landscape with a critical eye, striving for authenticity, balance and meaningful engagement in the digital world.

EMBRACING THE AI FUTURE

YB Gobind Singh Deo Minister of Digital

Recently, I spoke at a conference on a question that is increasingly urgent: "AI: To Adopt or to Adapt?". The answer, I believe, is not a choice. We must do both, and we must do them well. Because adoption and adaptation are not competing choices, they are two wings of the same bird. One drives innovation, the other secures trust, and together, they are uplifting Malaysia's digital future.

Not long ago, Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a concept for the future. Today, its use is becoming widespread. In Malaysia, we are already seeing its transformative power. Roughly 27 percent of enterprises in Malaysia have adopted AI, although most applications are still at an early stage of implementation.

AI adoption is already delivering progress across critical sectors. In healthcare, AI is helping doctors detect diseases earlier and improve patient outcomes. In agriculture, it is guiding precision farming and optimising yields. Even within the standards and quality ecosystem, AI adoption is quietly reshaping practice by automating inspection and certification, improving consistency in testing and identifying defects that the human eye might miss.

The public sector is seeing gains as well. The Ministry of Digital ran a pilot with 270 officers last year to test how AI could improve daily work. Today, that pilot has grown into a nationwide rollout reaching 445,000 officers.

We must also recognise that AI is not just transforming surface-level applications. It is also reshaping the very foundations of how our economies function, how decisions are made and how trust is built in a digital society.

The promise of AI is accompanied by a new class



of risks. There are questions about data integrity, algorithmic bias, accountability and the transparency of decisions made by machines. As AI becomes more deeply embedded, we must ask how we ensure that what is efficient also remains ethical?

How do we balance automation with human oversight, innovation with inclusion and speed with safety? And how do we preserve trust, not only in the technologies we build, but in the institutions that govern them?

Malaysia is adapting with foresight and wisdom through three important ways. We are focusing on infrastructure, digital trust and talent.

Let me break this down for you.

On infrastructure, we are strengthening the foundations that make AI innovation possible. This means the data, connectivity and compute capabilities that form the bedrock of our digital economy. This is about ensuring our technology stack is future-ready and meets the needs of our homegrown innovators.

On digital trust, AI can only create value when people have confidence that it is used safely and ethically. We are reinforcing governance frameworks through the Cyber Security Act 2024 and safeguarding personal data through the Personal Data Protection Act 2010. We have also developed the National AI Action Plan (2026-2030) to guide our journey toward becoming an AI Nation by 2030. This is complemented by a Digital Trust and Data Security Strategy (2026-2030), ensuring our progress in AI is matched by the strength of our governance and integrity of our digital ecosystem.

And finally, on talent. In an era where AI is reshaping the very nature of work, adaptation is not an option, but it is a necessity. To prepare for any potential impact, the government has established the MyMahir National AI Council for Industry to coordinate AI talent development, adoption strategies and cross-sectoral collaboration. These efforts are complemented by strategic collaborations with global technology partners aimed at upskilling and reskilling Malaysians in AI fluency and skills.

When we ask, "To adopt or to adapt?", the answer is both in balance. Adoption drives progress. Adaptation secures trust. Both are needed for a flourishing AI ecosystem that serves the greater good of all.

To the students of Sunway who are passionate about technology and innovation, your generation, holds the key to guiding this evolution. I urge you to study, to question, to innovate and to be the responsible stewards of the technologies you build.

This Sunway Stars story follows Amber Chong and Ooi Jin Ming, our proud Cambridge GCE A-Level alumni who charted their path to Oxbridge. The road was not always smooth but filled with perseverance and remarkable growth. Today, Jin Ming is pursuing a Master of Engineering in Materials Science and Engineering at Oxford, while Amber is studying her Bachelor of Arts in Education at Cambridge under the Maybank scholarship.

SUNWAY STARS



AMBER

A: It still feels surreal to this day! I owe so much to my lecturers and classmates. When I had to take weeks off to recover from emergency lung surgery, they offered exceptional academic support and encouragement through countless consultations and group study sessions to help me get back on track. Our programme director, and even a lecturer outside my subject area, provided additional guidance throughout my Cambridge application process.



JIN MING

JM: I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to join a world-class academic environment. Sunway College played a significant role in my journey. My lecturers are deeply dedicated and supported me through my university applications, research interests, and personal development.

How has Sunway College helped you on your A-Level journey?

JM: Sunway has attracted many passionate individuals with diverse interests, and interacting with them has played a major role in shaping the collaborative mindset I believe top universities value. It has been a blessing to be surrounded by such incredible people, and I am sincerely grateful for all the support I have received from everyone.

A: Aside from the world-class academic experience, I would love to attend choir performances in the Cambridge chapels and catch some West End theatre productions. I am also incredibly excited about contributing to Magdalene College and joining various societies.



Do you have any goals, bucket list items, or experiences you hope to accomplish?



JM: I hope to meet many more people and make new friends when I go overseas, and to learn how individuals from different cultures approach various situations. This will not only help me understand the world better but also strengthen my problem-solving skills both inside and outside of academics.

What were your preparation steps before heading off to Cambridge/Oxford?



JM: Preparing for Oxford involves both academic and personal aspects. Strengthening my foundation in physics and mathematics during my break before university has helped ensure a smoother transition into my studies. Preparing for independent living overseas will be a challenge, but I believe it will train me to adapt to unfamiliar situations and ultimately build greater confidence.



Studying and living in Malaysia has been a journey of discovery and growth. My first Malay word was *menara*, meaning tower, which reflects the new heights I have climbed in culture, learning and personal development. From getting lost in Kuala Lumpur's humidity to discovering the joy of *roti canai* and *nasi goreng ayam kunyit*, each experience has shaped my perspective. Beyond the food and festivals, Malaysia has been special because of its strong sense of community. Whether at church or among students from around the world, I have found spaces that feel like home.



as designing intelligent networking systems for an artificial intelligence powered library stock taking robot at the Sunway HOME Lab. I have also explored research areas such as edge intelligence for IoT systems, artificial intelligence in human resource analytics and smart city innovation through talks and workshops organised by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology. These experiences align with my dream of developing sustainable urban solutions for communities in Africa.

To international students considering Sunway or Malaysia, come ready to grow; not just academically, but personally. In leadership, you may face opposition, and you will not always meet people who agree with you. But every challenge teaches you something important about yourself. In the end, everything works together to shape you into someone stronger, wiser and more grounded. Malaysia's diversity is its greatest classroom, so embrace it, learn from it and let it shape you into a stronger, wiser version of yourself.

Leadership has been a defining part of my Sunway experience. I began in the Student Council and am now serving my second year as International Student Relations Director. Building on this foundation, I founded the Sunway African Culture Association to create representation and a sense of belonging for African students. Today, it brings together more than 80 members from 19 countries, and has hosted events such as Afroconnect, while actively engaging African embassies in Malaysia. I also serve as the President of Sunway International Students Association, where my focus is on strengthening community bonds, amplifying international student voices and promoting cultural understanding. Through these roles, I have learned that true leadership is not about authority but about creating systems and communities that continue to grow even when you step aside. Sunway has also shaped my academic pathway by nurturing both curiosity and innovation. My lecturers have encouraged me to explore beyond the classroom, leading to projects such



My name is Natsai Chidavaenzi, a 21-year-old student from Zimbabwe pursuing a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Information Technology (Computer Networking and Security) at Sunway University. I am passionate about the intersection of technology, sustainability and leadership, especially in understanding how innovation can help build smarter and more equitable cities.

I chose Sunway because of the specific degree it offers. In a world where the IT space can feel quite saturated, Sunway stands out by offering industry-relevant programmes with pathways to earn professional certifications while studying. Having worked in the computer networking space before this, I wanted a degree that combined technical depth with real-world application. What drew me even more was Sunway's commitment to innovation and sustainability. Here, technology is taught not as an isolated skill but as a tool to solve real problems, which aligns perfectly with my vision of building solutions that make communities more liveable.



Sunway

International Students

My name is Ivan Zhuravlev. I am 20 years old, I come from Russia, and I am currently completing my Bachelor of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (Hons) at Sunway University.

I chose Sunway University because of its strong international reputation and high-quality engineering programme. Another key reason is its long-standing partnership with Lancaster University in the UK, which allows me to receive two degree certificates upon graduation: one from Sunway University and one from Lancaster University.

Beyond that, the welcoming campus environment, modern facilities, and industry-focused teaching played a major role in my decision. I was also inspired by the strong emphasis on student support and hands-on learning. At Sunway University, I have benefited from a rigorous academic environment, excellent laboratory facilities, and numerous opportunities to engage in practical engineering projects. The structured curriculum has helped me build strong foundations in electronics, programming, and instrumentation, while also fostering independent thinking and problem-solving skills. These experiences have contributed significantly to my growth academically, professionally, and personally.



The lecturers here have also played an important role in my development, especially those teaching Electrical Circuits, Engineering Mathematics, and Control Systems. Their passion for engineering, and willingness to support students beyond class hours have motivated me to work harder. I am equally grateful to my classmates, who have been supportive during labs, group projects, and exam preparations. The strong teamwork culture here at Sunway has made a meaningful difference in my learning journey.

Studying and living in Malaysia has been a very positive and eye-opening experience for me. I enjoy the multicultural environment, the friendliness of the people, and the overall comfort of living in Sunway City. Life here is convenient, affordable, and filled with diverse experiences ranging from food and nature to technology and modern city life. Being here has helped me

become more independent, adapt to new environments, and grow both academically and personally.

My advice to future students is to remain open-minded, proactive, and willing to step out of your comfort zone. Malaysia is a safe, welcoming, and multicultural country, which makes the transition much easier for international students. Sunway University offers

many valuable opportunities, from academic support and student clubs to campus events and industry engagement, so make the most of them. Do not hesitate to explore the campus, meet new people, and reach out whenever you need help. Studying here can be an incredibly rewarding experience when you embrace it fully.



Ivan Zhuravlev



On top of that, Sunway's vibrant international community stood out to me as a place where cultures, ideas and perspectives come together every day. The opportunity to study in one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic and multicultural countries made the choice even more compelling, offering an enriching experience both inside and outside the classroom.

CELEBRATING SUNWAY ALUMNI, FORGING OUR FUTURE

What a year of celebration 2025 has been!

From celebrating our ever-growing Sunway Alumni family to honouring their exceptional achievements, it was truly a year of Sunwayian pride, filled with new memories and joyful reunions.

A headline event was the annual Sunway Alumni Homecoming, which reached a special milestone. We debuted a brand-new family festival concept, FamFest 2025. The campus burst with energy as our Sunwayian families, spanning generations, came together to reconnect, reminisce, and create unforgettable moments.

- As crowds gathered, the first lucky draw gave attendees the chance to win a round of prizes to start the day.
- The main event was the Amazing Race Challenge, expertly orchestrated by ATAG Team Building, founded by School of Mathematical Sciences alumnus Arthur Woo. A hit with attendees, the race saw families and friends teaming up to complete campus-knowledge tasks and creative photo challenges such as capturing group photos with the iconic "I ❤ SU" sculpture, and our beloved mascots, Samson and Sophia.

All in all, the Alumni Homecoming FamFest 2025 was truly a heartwarming and unforgettable day.



The day kicked off with bustling registration, where attendees received exclusive goodie bags. The campus soon came alive with diverse booths featuring games, activities, and showcases from Sunway's schools and programmes. Key highlights included a nostalgic campus tour, allowing alumni to explore the transformed grounds, and an interactive wildlife encounter.



The closing ceremony was graced by the Chief of Student LIFE and Services, Ms. Lee Siok Ping. In a heartfelt address reflecting on her more than 35 years with Sunway, she expressed profound joy at welcoming alumni and their families to the inaugural FamFest. She noted it was a special blessing to see former students return with their own children, warmly reaffirming that the campus will always be a home for its alumni, and encouraged continued engagement by giving back through the 5Ts.



Another pinnacle was the Celebration of Impact, a day brimming with pride, joy, and inspiration. We gathered to honour exceptional alumni who are actively shaping a brighter future, celebrating their unwavering dedication, remarkable achievements, and profound contributions to their professions and to our institution. The ceremony commenced with opening remarks from Sunway University's President and Vice Chancellor, Professor Sibrandes Poppema. This was followed by the presentation of the 2025 Sunway Alumni Awards, recognising alumni who have set a new standard of excellence, distinguishing themselves in their chosen fields and bringing honour to the Sunway community.



We are proud to congratulate the 2025 distinguished winners:

Karen Lee See Bee
Giving Sunwayian Award

Mohammad Irwan Hakeem Bin Mohd Arif
Sunway Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Yong Yee Siang
Sunway Award for Excellence in Sustainability

Her Excellency Cham Nimul
Sunway Distinguished Alumni Award



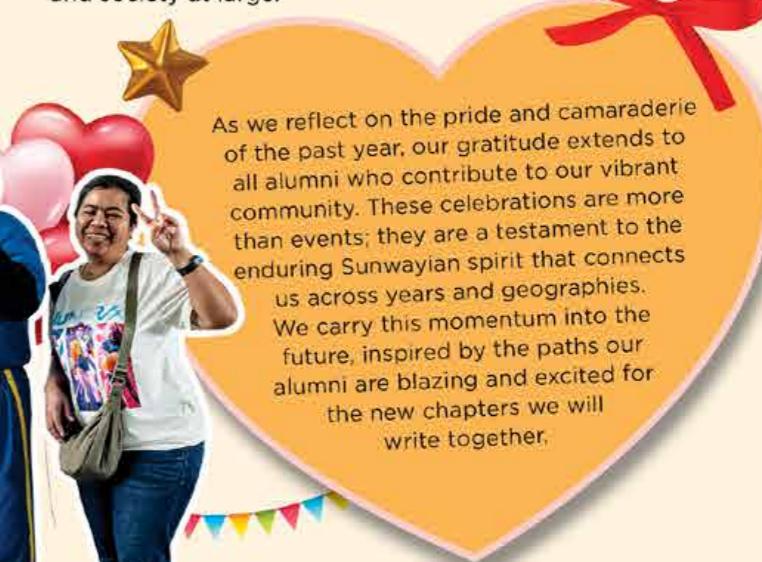
We were especially honoured that Her Excellency Cham Nimul, Minister of Commerce of Cambodia, who was in Malaysia for the ASEAN Summit, took time from her busy schedule to join us on campus to receive her award and share her words of wisdom.

The event also welcomed back the generous alumni donors of our "Name A Chair" initiative: Adrian Cheah, Bristi Khatun, Lee Pik Shin, Lyu Zihui, and Yvonne Tan. Their contributions directly support our Community Scholars who are Malaysian youths aged between 18 and 25 from underprivileged backgrounds, including those from residential care homes, community centres, or low-income families, pursuing their education on full scholarships at Sunway institutions. In recognition of their support,

we honoured these donors with named chairs in the JC1 Auditorium. Their generosity is the cornerstone of opportunity, transforming lives and building futures. We are truly in awe of our alumni's accomplishments and lasting impact on both the Sunway community and society at large.



As we reflect on the pride and camaraderie of the past year, our gratitude extends to all alumni who contribute to our vibrant community. These celebrations are more than events; they are a testament to the enduring Sunwayian spirit that connects us across years and geographies. We carry this momentum into the future, inspired by the paths our alumni are blazing and excited for the new chapters we will write together.



Scholarship Dreams in Action



The Chancellors Scholarship

Kashveeny Punniya Seelan, BSc (Hons) in Artificial Intelligence

"I've always looked up to my brother, a high achiever who's active in leadership roles. His drive inspired me to push myself, and once I started my own journey, I realised I genuinely enjoyed it. I loved picking up new skills and met people who shared the same goals, and we motivated each other to keep improving. This eventually led me to pursue the highest scholarship at Sunway University. For me, the scholarship is not just about financial support; it's about the opportunities to learn, connect, grow, and make an impact."



The Chancellors Scholarship

Intan Kamalia binti Kamarulzaman, BA (Hons) in Advertising and Branding

"As an Arts student, I feel truly seen knowing that Sunway recognises my potential through this highly prestigious scholarship, and it gives me such a huge boost of motivation! This scholarship is the stepping stone I've been hoping for. Not only does it ease the financial burden on my family, but Sunway's programme, together with Lancaster's curriculum, offers me the foundation I need to grow in the creative and communication industry. I hope to use everything I learn here to build meaningful, impactful campaigns, with hopes to especially empower young women around the world, and allow me to give back to the community."



This year, RM75 million worth of scholarships and grants have been awarded, benefitting over 6,700 students and giving countless young people the chance to realise their potential.

In this special segment, we shine a spotlight on four outstanding Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarship recipients who have not only excelled academically but also demonstrated remarkable drive, resilience, and purpose. Their achievements reflect the true spirit of the scholarship, empowering deserving students to pursue excellence and create meaningful impact in their fields.



Sunway University Excellence Scholarship

Vong Jun Yi, BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies

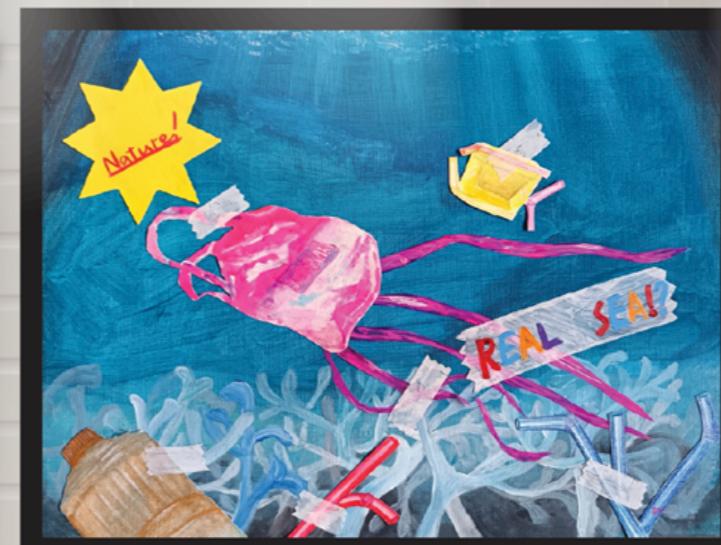
"This scholarship has encouraged me to push my boundaries by giving me the confidence and financial freedom to pursue opportunities I might otherwise have hesitated to try. It has motivated me to set higher academic and personal goals, take on challenging projects, and actively seek experiences that broaden my perspective. Knowing that I am trusted and supported inspires me to work harder, step out of my comfort zone, and contribute meaningfully to Sunway University as well as my community."



Sunway-VU Excellence Scholarship

Lian Yong Hern, Victoria University Bachelor of Business

"Receiving this scholarship felt surreal. I truly never expected to be awarded with something so prestigious. It was a mix of disbelief, gratitude, and relief. Personally, it reminded me how far I've come since my pre-u (STPM) days at Catholic High School PJ, where I was given opportunities to lead, grow, and push beyond my comfort zone. This achievement feels like a meaningful recognition of my hard work and the people who have guided me along the way. It motivates me to continue striving and to make the most of the opportunities ahead."



Through two rich and meaningful art units, our SIS Iskandar Puteri students grew as risk-takers, communicators, and reflective thinkers. In the Art for Awareness and Change unit, they created impactful artworks that address pressing social issues aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Little Big Voices

Using the combination of colour, texture and visual storytelling, students communicated powerful messages with purpose and clarity, pushing their creativity beyond aesthetics and into meaningful, message-driven expression. This collection captures the unique perspectives and emotions of its young creators while raising awareness and inspiring action.

Chinese New Year and the Luck of Ang Pao

Chinese New Year is approaching, and one of the most iconic traditions is the giving of red envelopes, or *ang pao*. These bright little packets are more than just money. They are filled with symbolism, blessings, and a touch of luck. Let's take a closer look at some fun facts you might not know about them.

Red is Luck

The colour red is everywhere during Chinese New Year and for a good reason. Red envelopes are not just festive; they are believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good fortune. Every time you hand one over, you are not just giving money, but also a bundle of blessings wrapped in crimson luck.

Different Names Same Tradition

Depending on where you are in the world, you might hear different names. In Malaysia, it is *ang pao* (红包), in Mandarin it is *hóng bāo* (红包), and in Cantonese, it is *lai see* (利是). No matter what you call it, the tradition is the same: a little red packet that carries wishes of happiness, wealth, and luck for the year ahead.

Even Numbers are Lucky

Most red envelopes contain even numbers of notes because even numbers are considered auspicious and are associated with the saying, "good things come in pairs". But watch out for the number four. It is avoided because it sounds like death in Chinese (四 "sì" sounds like 死 "sì"). So next time you prepare your *ang pao* stash for friends or classmates, check the count carefully.

New Notes

Not all cash is created equal when it comes to *ang pao*. Traditionally, new, crisp bills are used because wrinkled or torn notes are considered unlucky. Giving fresh notes is thought to bring more luck and prosperity to the recipient, making the gesture even more meaningful and auspicious.

Digital Ang Pao as the New Trend

Technology has given a modern twist to this ancient tradition. Digital red envelopes are now popular on apps and e-wallets, allowing you to send luck to your family and friends anytime and anywhere. It is like sharing fortune at the speed of Wi-Fi, and yes, the luck is very real.

Words of Blessing

Most envelopes are more than just red paper; they are printed with phrases like *Gōng xǐ fā cái* (恭喜发财, Wishing you wealth) or *Xīn nián kuàilè* (新年快乐, Happy New Year). These little blessings are just as important as the money inside, reminding us that Chinese New Year is all about blessings and joy.

Ramadan and the Ties That Bind

Ramadan is a month of reflection. From the sighting of the new moon that marks the start of the fast to the vibrant nightly bazaars and the growing digital trends of Ramadan, there is much to discover about this special time. Let's explore some fascinating facts that make Ramadan unique and memorable.

Night Prayers

During Ramadan, many Muslims perform Tarawih after the evening prayer. These special prayers involve reciting the Quran and are often done in congregation, making it a peaceful and communal way to end the day's fast.

Ramadan Around the World

Did you know that the fasting hours during Ramadan vary depending on where you live? In some countries, people may fast for up to 20 hours a day, while in others, it can be closer to 12 hours. This makes Ramadan a unique experience no matter where you are in the world.

The Spirit of Bazaars

One of the most colourful parts of Ramadan in Malaysia is the nightly bazaars. They pop up in towns and cities, offering a dazzling variety of food, clothes, and festive goodies. These bazaars are not just about shopping; they are a social hub where friends and families gather to enjoy the festive spirit.

Suhoor and Iftar

Suhoor is the pre-dawn meal eaten before the fast begins, while Iftar is the sunset feast that breaks the fast. Around the world, people enjoy dates, samosas, and sweet drinks to mark the end of the day's fast. Many Malaysians look forward to Iftar at home or at Ramadan bazaars, which are a highlight of the month.

The Moon Decides Ramadan

The start and end of Ramadan are guided by the lunar calendar, which is why the month shifts about 10 to 12 days earlier each year. This means fasting hours, weather, and Iftar timing can change yearly, keeping the tradition fresh and closely tied to the moon's cycles.

The Science of Fasting

Fasting is not just a spiritual practice; it also has physical effects. Studies suggest that it can help boost focus, reset metabolism, and improve self-discipline. This is one reason why many people find fasting to be both a mentally and physically refreshing experience.

Festive Spirit of Giving

Sunway University, through its Campus With A Conscience initiative, partnered with Halolo Park to launch Santa Claws, a Christmas-themed charity claw machine placed on campus for a week. The festive initiative invited students and staff to give back in a fun and meaningful way.

The initiative successfully raised RM5,200, which was donated to Pusat Penjagaan Kanak-Kanak Cacat Taman Megah to support the education and healthcare needs of the underprivileged children at the centre.

Madam Umah Devi Rajamanikam, co-founder of Pusat Jagaan Kanak-Kanak Cacat Taman Megah, expressed her appreciation, saying, "Every child deserves love, dignity, and a safe place to grow. Our children inspire us every day, and every act of support helps us give them a brighter future, as we strive to provide an environment where young disabled children are understood, supported, and given equal status in society. We are grateful that Sunway students have shown such compassion to support our children in meaningful ways."



Mr Tee, representative from Halolo Park, stated, "We at Halolo Park feel truly honoured to have been part of this heartfelt initiative, bringing joy to students while supporting those in need. It is heartening to see how this collaboration shows our shared belief that fun can spark kindness and make a real difference in lives."

Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President and Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University, elaborated, "As a mission-driven fifth-generation university, Sunway University is committed to nurturing compassionate, socially responsible global citizens. Initiatives like Santa Claws demonstrate how small acts, rooted in kindness and creativity, can create real impact. We are proud of our students and partners for coming together to uplift the community and brighten the lives of these children."

The Santa Claws project reflects Sunway University's ongoing commitment to community engagement, inclusivity, and purposeful action.

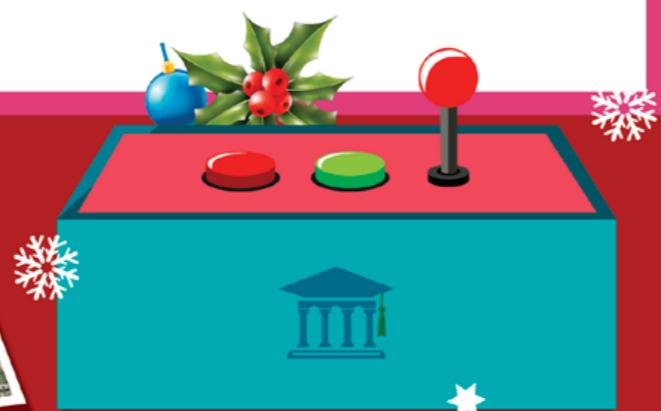


Chart Your New Adventure

As we step into 2026, the horoscope opens a new chapter filled with possibilities. Let Sunway remind you of how far you can go.

Your energy surges forward in 2026. Take the lead in class assignments, be bold and confident in sharing your ideas. Embrace challenges and use your drive to turn plans into action. This year is yours to spark change and make a lasting impact.

ARIES 21 Mar - 19 Apr

Patience and consistency guide your year. Focus on long-term growth by joining Campus With A Conscience initiatives, including the Sunway Desa Mentari Community Development Programme. Every deliberate step you take strengthens your skills and lays a solid foundation for the future.

TAURUS Apr 20 - May 20

You thrive in environments that celebrate conversation and collaboration, much like Sunway's Most Happening Campus filled with bustling clubs, group activities and student-led ideas. Share freely, listen openly and embrace the vibrant exchange of ideas.

GEMINI May 21 - Jun 20

This year invites you to focus on your inner world and nurture your peace. Take time to unwind and relax at the Student Hub or enjoy a quiet stroll around campus. Engage in activities that restore your energy and support your well-being. Caring for yourself strengthens your empathy and allows you to uplift those around you.

CANCER Jun 21 - Jul 22

You find inspiration in expressive spaces across campus, especially at the Observation Deck, where wide views mirror your expansive ambitions. Grab opportunities to showcase your talents, whether through performances, leadership roles or creative ventures that put your brilliance centre stage.

LEO Jul 23 - Aug 22

Order and clarity guide your path this year. You may find yourself drawn to the structured calm of the Tun Hussein Onn Sunway Library, where focus comes naturally. With Sunway's research-driven environment backing your discipline, this is the perfect year to refine routines, strengthen systems and perfect your craft.

VIRGO Aug 23 - Sep 22

Balance is your theme for 2026. You flourish when surrounded by diverse voices and shared values, much like Sunway's inclusive and multicultural community. Spend time mingling with friends at the Brain Forest to boost creativity, exchange ideas and have fun. Seek harmony in your friendships, studies and personal pursuits.

LIBRA Sep 23 - Oct 22

You are ready to let go of what no longer serves you and welcome meaningful transformation. Let Sunway's Campus With A Conscience spirit inspire you to channel your energy into something purposeful by joining a charity or volunteering at an animal shelter, where acts of service help you heal, grow and rise stronger.

SCORPIO Oct 23 - Nov 21

Adventure calls you loudly in 2026. Whether through global mobility programmes or local discoveries, you are eager to expand your world. Look far, dream big and explore opportunities that broaden your horizons, both on campus and beyond.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22 - Dec 21

Ambition steers you toward meaningful achievements. Leave your mark on the Avenue of Achievements, where each step reflects determination and progress. With Sunway's mission-driven purpose fuelling you, this is the year to build goals that create results that define your legacy.

CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your ideas break boundaries in 2026. You gravitate toward unconventional thinking, making Sunway iLabs your innovation playground. Experiment, collaborate with changemakers and bring futuristic solutions to life.

AQUARIUS Jan 20 - Feb 18

Imagination becomes your greatest strength this year. Let your ideas flow through performances, visual arts, writing or design, and consider submitting your work to Sunwayian Magazine to get featured. Turn your dreams into meaningful work that inspires others.

PISCES Feb 19 - Mar 20

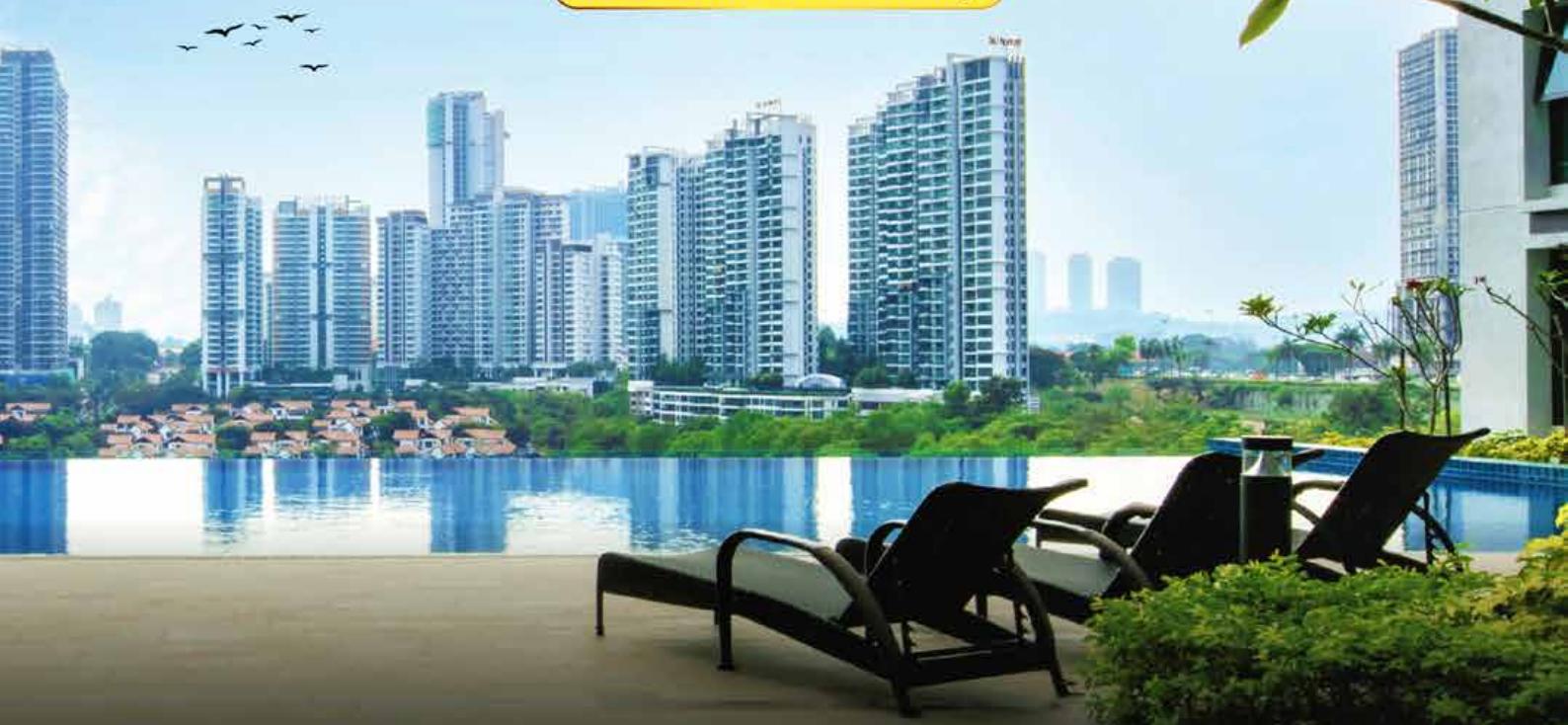


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