

SUNWAYIAN

The Sunway Campus Magazine

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Passport To The World





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BE ONE OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Student contributors are
ALWAYS welcomed 😊

Email us at pr@sunway.edu.my

Hello Sunwayian!



UPDATES



HIGHLIGHT



FEATURES



FUN & GAMES

WELCOME ON BOARD



Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. On behalf of the entire crew, I would like to extend a warm welcome aboard to Issue 14, inbound to Sunway City, Kuala Lumpur.

We are currently cruising at an altitude of 33,000 feet, with a flight duration of 28 pages. The weather outside is looking splendid, so we are in for a smooth journey toward our Story Highlight, 'The Sunny Side of Sunway City.' Get ready to explore the city's scenic and vibrant destinations, including the world-renowned Sunway University, the thrilling Sunway Lagoon, and the iconic Sunway Pyramid.

With the tailwind on our side, we expect to land in the Sunway Stars segment 15 minutes ahead of schedule, shining the spotlight on A-Level alumnus John Choi Ching Jack, who proudly received the prestigious Freedom of the City of London award.

The cabin crew will be coming around after about ten pages of the magazine, with some refreshments to accompany our journey to 'Celebrating Sunway's Unsung Heroes.' We encourage all Sunwayians to show their appreciation for

our dedicated staff and learn more about their vital role in shaping the #MostHappeningCampus.

Before we take off, please take a moment to review the pamphlet in the seat pocket, which contains important information about Echo's Favourite Reads, Sunway alumni, international students, and The City of Tomorrow. If you have any inspiring stories to share, please do not hesitate to ask one of our cabin crew members in 'Be the Voice of Sunwayian,' for a great opportunity to be featured in our next edition.

As you look out to the left side of the aircraft, we are flying over the mighty Sunway International Schools with their freshly launched SIS News Bulletin. This vibrant monthly update brings you the latest happenings from both our Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru campuses.

For your safety, we kindly ask that you remain seated with your seatbelt fastened whenever the seatbelt sign is illuminated. The Sunwayian aircraft may experience a little turbulence before slithering into success with Fun & Games.

On behalf of the crew members on board, thank you for choosing Sunwayian Airline. We are excited to bring you to the #CampusWithAConscience, and we hope you enjoy the rest of your journey with us.



Sunway Sparks Action for ASEAN's Sustainable Future

Sunway University hosted the ASEAN Workshop on Sustainable Development 2025, organised by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN-SDSN) Asia headquarters. The event brought together senior Cabinet members, ASEAN delegates, and leading academics for discussions to advance UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.



Sunway College Welcomes the Snake Year with Red Packets

A-Levels Programme Director, Ruth Cheah, and AUSMAT Programme Director, Vanitha Satchithanadan, ushered in the Lunar New Year by presenting red packets to the wonderful parents of our Sunway students, who would fill them with blessings for their young ones. The Sunway community wishes you a prosperous year ahead.



Inception of the Challenge Cup

The first edition of the Challenge Cup brought together Elementary (Ontario) and Cambridge (Primary) students for a day packed with energy and excitement at Sunway International Schools (SIS) KL. Students participated in various challenging games that tested coordination, memory, and motor skills.



Sunway University Partners with Asia Pacific Retail Academy

Sunway University and Asia Pacific Retail Academy signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance ties with the retail industry and promote academic collaboration. This partnership signifies a milestone in Sunway University's commitment to bridging academia and industry, fostering innovation, and cultivating industry-ready graduates in retail management.

United Efforts Toward a Planetary Health Breakthrough

Sunway University and Fondation Hoffmann have signed a landmark grant agreement at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, launching a transformative partnership to tackle Southeast Asia's planetary health challenges. Through a strategic partnership with Sunway University, this collaboration focuses on advancing research, advocacy, and capacity development.

Sunway TES Celebrates Over 1,000 Yayasan Peneraju Graduates

Attended by the Guest-of-Honour, YB Rafizi Ramli, Minister of Economy, and YB Ibrahim Sani, CEO of Yayasan Peneraju, Sunway TES marked a milestone with 1,006 Yayasan Peneraju Professional Accounting graduates. Global accounting firms and professional bodies were also in attendance.



Sunway College Ipoh 20th Anniversary Art Exhibition

Sunway College Ipoh hosted The ESSENCE - 20th Anniversary Art Exhibition at Palo 101 Ipoh, marking a significant milestone of fostering creativity and artistic excellence. The three-day exhibition featured an impressive showcase of artworks created by our talented students, spanning various forms such as graphic design, figure drawing, and more.



SIS Gives Back to the Society

Grade 7, 8 and 9 students from SIS Iskandar Puteri organised a meaningful Service as Action project at Shi Fang Elderly Home, Mutiara Rini while integrating Mandarin learning in this community service programme. Students were able to apply their language skills in real conversations.



Ending the Year with a Milestone

SIS Iskandar Puteri's IBDP graduates closed out 2024 in the most unforgettable way, and we feel utmost pride and joy watching them step into their next chapter. We wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

CAMPUS UPDATES

The Sunny Side of Sunway City

Sunway City, Malaysia, is a vibrant destination that seamlessly blends education, entertainment, and sustainability. Known for its world-class institutions like Sunway University, the city is also home to Sunway Lagoon, a thrilling theme park, and Sunway Pyramid, a premier shopping and dining hub. With lush green spaces, sustainable initiatives, and modern infrastructure, Sunway City offers something for everyone—whether you are here to study, explore, or simply unwind. Its unique mix of urban convenience and natural beauty makes it a must-visit destination in Malaysia.

Sunway Resort Hotel, located just 35 minutes from Kuala Lumpur International Airport, is an integrated tourism destination which offers stylish rooms and suites with breathtaking views of the theme park and Sunway City skyline. With seamless connectivity between the shopping mall and theme park, visitors can effortlessly transition from upscale boutiques to thrilling rides, creating a perfect blend of leisure, entertainment, and convenience.

Sunway Lagoon Theme Park is Malaysia's premier multi-park destination, located in the heart of Sunway City. Spanning six adventure zones, it offers over 90 thrilling rides and attractions, including the world's largest surf pool, adrenaline-pumping water slides, wildlife encounters, and extreme adventure experiences. A top entertainment hotspot, Sunway Lagoon promises unforgettable fun for visitors of all ages.

Sunway Pyramid Mall is Malaysia's first themed shopping and entertainment mall, renowned for its distinctive Egyptian revival architecture, complete with grand sphinxes and intricate hieroglyphic motifs. A landmark destination, it offers a diverse retail, dining, and entertainment experience, featuring Malaysia's first world-class ice-skating rink.

Sunway XFarms offers a unique agrotourism experience where visitors can explore high-tech urban farms, participate in hands-on workshops, and enjoy fresh, pesticide-free produce. As a leader in sustainable farming, it transforms farm-grown superfoods into wellness foods and beverages, providing a farm-to-table experience that connects travelers with nature and eco-friendly living.

Sunway Square is a visionary hub blending arts, commerce, education, and business. It will expand Sunway University's School of Arts and Business School while housing the Jeffrey Cheah Culture and Arts Centre—the city's first world-class venue for performing and visual arts. With a dynamic calendar of local and international dance, music, theatre, and art performances, Sunway Square is set to be one of the nation's most vibrant venues of creativity and performance.

Sunway University, one of Malaysia's top private institutions, is globally ranked by QS and named #1 private university in ASEAN by AppliedHE 2025. It is also the #1 non-government linked private university in Malaysia by THE World University Rankings 2025. Sunway tops Talentbank's Graduate Employability Rankings in Malaysia for the third consecutive year.

Sunway College, a leading learning institution in Malaysia, has empowered students to pursue well-recognised qualifications from top universities in the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and beyond. Sunway College has also received 6-Stars in Malaysian Quality Evaluation System for Private Colleges (MyQuest) 2018/2019, in 5 core quality criteria – student profile, programme recognition, graduate recognition, quality of resources and soundness of governance.

Sunway University at the Forefront of Sustainability



The Sunway University building has earned the GreenRE Platinum certification under the Existing Non-Residential Development (ENRB v3.3) category. As the highest level of recognition within the GreenRE Green Building Certification framework, this accolade underscores the University's exceptional commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

This accolade, awarded by GreenRE, Malaysia's leading green building certification body, recognises developments that demonstrate exceptional environmental performance through energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable operational strategies. By attaining Platinum certification, Sunway University has solidified its status as a leader in sustainable infrastructure, setting a benchmark for environmentally responsible educational institutions in Malaysia and beyond.

Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University, shared his thoughts on the achievement: "This certification marks a significant milestone for Sunway University and reaffirms our dedication to embedding sustainability into every aspect of our infrastructure and operations. We are committed to leading by example and inspiring positive change within our community and beyond."

As Sunway University continues to evolve, its dedication to sustainability remains steadfast, ensuring that its campus serves as a model for green development and eco-conscious living. Through continuous innovation, sustainable practices, and strategic green initiatives, the University is committed to reducing its carbon footprint while inspiring future generations to prioritise environmental responsibility.

This achievement not only reflects Sunway University's unwavering commitment to

environmental stewardship but also reinforces its vision of a greener, more sustainable future. It also stands as a powerful call to action, urging institutions worldwide to embed sustainability into their core values, operations, and long-term strategies for the betterment of our planet.



Sunway University Rises in Global Subject Rankings

Sunway University excels in the THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025, ranking in 7 out of 11 subjects. Business & Economics and Engineering placed in the 251-300 range globally, while Medical and Health, Engineering, and Life Sciences debuted in the rankings. In Malaysia, Sunway ranks as high as 2nd in Life Sciences and Physical Sciences.



Celebrating Bristi Khatun's Contributions to Sustainable Agriculture

Congratulations to Bristi Khatun, an alumna of our Sustainable Development Management programme, who received the prestigious honour from the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. She was recognised for her outstanding contributions to Malaysia in sustainable agriculture under the Societal Service category, a testament to her unwavering commitment to sustainability and positive societal impact.



A-Level Goh Wen Hao's Success in Fencing Championships

Goh Wen Hao, an A-Level student from the September 2023 intake, delivered an unforgettable performance in fencing, clinching Gold with unmatched skill and precision in the Junior Category at the MFF Junior Men's Foil Competition. He also secured Bronze at the South-East-Asian Fencing Federation 2024 Championship.



AUSMAT Students Shine in ANU Business Case Study Competition

Proud students from the AUSMAT programme achieved champion at the ANU Business Case Study Competition 2024. Comprising students from the July 2024 intake—Wan Jee Cheng, Yong Zheng Kai Jovan, and Sofea Chang Hui Zhou—Team S Class emerged as the overall winner out of 60 teams representing 40 schools across 8 countries.



Matthew Skates His Heart Out

Sunway International Schools (SIS) KL's Matthew Kong absolutely crushed it at the Putrajaya Ice Skating Championship 2024 and took home three gold medals in footwork, speed racing, and open freestyle. We are beyond proud of our ice prince, keep up the amazing work!



Piano Queen Shines with Hard Work and Determination

SIS Iskandar Puteri's Anya Ong's unwavering dedication, countless hours of practice, and deep passion for the piano led her to earn the prestigious Gold 2nd Prize in the final round of the Taiwan International Music Competition. Her remarkable talent continues to inspire all those around her.



ARRIVAL

CELEBRATING SUNWAY'S UNSUNG HEROES

ARRIVAL

During this special occasion where love is in the air, join us as we shine a light on the unsung heroes who keep our Sunway campus going each day, showering them with gratitude and expressing our heartfelt thanks for their unprecedented dedication and admirable passion.

What is one thing about your role that you wish more people knew about?

2025 marks my 20th year here at Sunway Education. I'm from the Health and Safety department and I'm attached to the sick bay here on campus, also known as the Nightingale. I provide first aid in the event of a medical emergency. Additionally, our dedicated counsellors from Student LIFE provide emotional support to our patients, ensuring their well-being beyond physical care.

Valentine's Day is all about spreading love—how do you spread love and positivity in your role?

As a nurse, I want to be someone students feel comfortable approaching. I always try to welcome them with a warm smile, hoping it helps them feel at ease and open up about their concerns. It is important for them to understand that the information that they share is confidential.

What is the one thing that makes you truly 'fall in love' with your job every day?

I enjoy being a nurse because I like serving people. I feel privileged to have the chance to interact with students from various countries. On top of that, I have a helpful and supportive team whom I can share my ups and downs with after a hectic day. At the end of the day, I'm happy that I'm able to do something for someone every day.

**Kamala Devie M. Govindan,
Health & Safety Executive**



**Chin Seng Choy,
Assistant Manager
(Web & Digital Content)**



What is one thing about your role that you wish more people knew about?

I would appreciate if colleagues could give me more time as people may not have a clear idea on the amount of time needed for the preparation of an event. It would also be nice and much more helpful if I had more teammates.

Valentine's Day is all about spreading love—how do you spread love and positivity in your role?

By organising successful events for the community and guests to enjoy and have something to gain from.

What is the one thing that makes you truly 'fall in love' with your job every day?

After having worked here for 24 years, I enjoy the interaction with people around me – be it colleagues, students or even the general public. These daily interactions also make me feel welcomed and part of the Sunway community.

What is one thing about your role that you wish more people knew about?

I've worked here for 10 years and I'm in charge of setting up the necessary technical equipment in terms of audio and visual that are required for an event. This also includes day-to-day classes, ensuring everything is in order and functions well.

Valentine's Day is all about spreading love—how do you spread love and positivity in your role?

I find joy in ensuring user satisfaction. Seeing end users have a smooth experience because of my work motivates me to keep improving.

What is the one thing that makes you truly 'fall in love' with your job every day?

I enjoy the environment that is always buzzing with excitement throughout the campus. I also like that my job allows me to meet many people from various walks of life.

**Sakthivel Elaya Perumal,
Senior Technician (Audio)**



Amid life's whirlwind, it is essential to pause and find joy. As writers, reading is one of our greatest pleasures. Among the many books we devour, some leave a lasting mark—through their writing, characters, or profound lessons.

Curious about our favourites? Here is a collection of books that have captured our hearts. Happy reading!

Zhen Li:
The Fox Wife by Yangsze Choo

Love a good mystery wrapped in folklore? The Fox Wife transports readers to wintery Manchuria during the Qing dynasty's final years, weaving a tale of grief, revenge, and shapeshifting fox spirits.

This book was highly anticipated, at least for me, as I had thoroughly enjoyed Yangsze Choo's previous two books, *The Ghost Bride* and *The Night Tiger*. These books were set in Malaysia, offering great historical portrayals of life in British Malaya. Just like *Night Tiger*, this story is told from two perspectives.

First, we follow Snow, a mother on a vengeful quest after losing her daughter. She embarks on a quest for revenge while working for a cursed family whose eldest sons die before 24. On the other side of the story, we meet Bao, a seasoned detective investigating a mysterious death linked to foxes. Their stories intertwine, creating this narrative that ties everything together in the end.

Infusing folklore, historical fiction and mysteries is just the charm of Yangsze Choo's storytelling. A powerful lead female character is not new to the author, but I found some of Snow's inner dialogue to be slightly immature and out of place. Nonetheless, this was still an enjoyable read. I adore Yangsze Choo's magic of incorporating humour into the characters' inner dialogue. It is witty and charming, and all the beautiful things that drew me into her works in the first place.



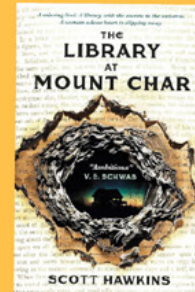
Ryan:
The Library at Mount Char by Scott Hawkins

Carolyn, blood-drenched and barefoot, walks along Highway 78, known to her and the other Librarians as the Path of Tacos, after murdering Detective Miner. She smiles, the obsidian knife hidden at her back.

So begins *The Library at Mount Char*, a dark, bizarre tale of murder, betrayal, and family. The book explores the fraught relationships between abusive parents and victimised children, tracing the way household trauma can shape children into people like their abusers. It unfolds like a puzzle, with scattered details slowly revealing Carolyn, her enigmatic family, and the supernatural Library at its core.

A blend of fantasy, mystery, and horror, *Mount Char* is as confounding as it is compelling. It shifts between terror, heartbreak, and humour, creating a surreal, emotional experience. It is hard to sum up in one page what the book is about. As cliché as it sounds, but the journey really is more important than the ending here. There is a central mystery, and there is a plot that drives towards a climax, but the stops along the way are far more enjoyable. I felt confused at times and delighted at others.

I would recommend it to anyone in the mood for something weird and uncategorisable. It is a story you will be digesting for a long time.



Natasha:
Open City by Teju Cole

I found Teju Cole—or rather, he found me—at a time when my mind was overwhelmed by noise. When I started reading *Tremor*, his words became an anchor. The chaos quieted, the world slowed, and for the first time in a while, I could read again. *Tremor* offered comfort, a gentle pat on the back, but *Open City* went further. It understood me, meeting me where I was instead of demanding my full attention.

Open City is a meditative journey with Julius, a Nigerian-German psychiatrist in New York City, as he reflects on his past, identity, and the histories of the places he visits. Through his introspective walks, he explores themes of race, immigration, and cultural identity.

This introspective novel felt like a comforting weight, a warm hand guiding me through different places while reminding me of the interconnectedness of history. The overlap of the past and the present is a constant reminder, every place you go to and step foot into is a palimpsest of past histories, and our identities are very much shaped by where we come from as by where we are. Julius' reflections on identity, memory, and history echoed in me, and through his own meditations, I was also given permission to wander on my own inside my mind. I was allowed to think and to ask without begging for answers, to know that it is enough just to sit with things and let it unfold or not unfold.



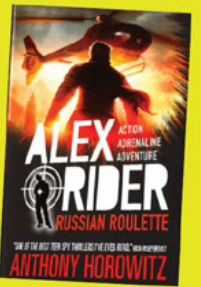
Trishta:
Russian Roulette by Anthony Horowitz

It can be said that I enjoy a good tragedy. My taste in literary preference always lay most prominently with the genres of the unknown, the knife-edge thrill of a mystery, the fevered pitch of suspense leading up to a crescendo... splashed with a tinge of the esoteric, eerie or inexplicable.

One of my favourites is *Russian Roulette*, the 10th book in Anthony Horowitz's *Alex Rider* series. While the premise of a fourteen-year-old spy may seem typical, Horowitz's writing immerses you in the harsh, traumatic realities of espionage.

Although most of the series follows the perspective of Alex Rider, the tenth book is vastly different. It is set pre-series, with a glance into another character entirely—Yassen Gregorovich, contract killer and assassin. Instead of a one-dimensional villain, Horowitz reveals Yassen's painful backstory, making him a memorable and tragic character. His journey is mirrored with Alex's, both trapped in their fates, unable to escape their circumstances.

It is a poignant, heart-wrenching, and surprisingly emotional book that does not hold back and packs quite a painful punch chapter by chapter. The book is exceptional at balancing both intricate themes and grey areas that many novels often struggle to expand upon. I adore the style in which he writes, incorporating tension and beautifully written action scenes without ever forgetting the undercurrent of humanity.



VISA
APPROVED

Echo
MEDIA

Books That Stay: Echo's Favourite Reads

Written by:
Zhen Li, Ryan,
Natasha and
Trishta
Edited by:
Ryan

ARRIVAL

SIS NEWS BULLETIN

Brings the Latest Buzz

E-BULLETIN WHAT'S THE SCOOP?



Sunway International Schools (SIS) is entering the new year with the freshly launched SIS News Bulletin—your go-to source for the latest happenings from both KL and JB campuses. This fun and engaging monthly update keeps all Sunwayians in the loop, with three exciting editions already out on the @sunwayschools Instagram page. Each edition brings fresh faces of our very own talented students, new energy, and a mix of important reminders and thrilling announcements.

As we glide through 2025, get ready for even more updates and surprises—because at SIS, every month is an adventure. Stay tuned and stay in the loop 📱

JANUARY PRESENTERS:

Sadie Grace Speck, Grade 5

Charlotte Bryn Speck, Grade 3



FEBRUARY PRESENTERS:

Mia Shin, Year 9

Guo Hanchen (Max), IBDP



@sunwayschools

SUNWAY STARS

In this series of Sunway Stars, we share the story of John Choi Ching Jack, who proudly earned the Freedom of the City of London award. Currently a trainee solicitor at an international law firm in London, he completed his A-Levels at Sunway College in 2018 before going on to study Law at University College London (UCL), followed by a Master's at Oxford University and his Legal Practice Course (LPC) at BPP University.

Congratulations John! Could you please share more for our readers who might not be familiar with the award?

The Freedom of the City of London is an ancient status granted by the City of London Corporation. Once offering trade rights and privileges like toll-free sheep driving across London Bridge, it is now largely symbolic but remains a prestigious link to the City's rich history.

How do you feel about this wonderful achievement?

I am truly honoured. The city's rich history as a hub for trade, law, and liveries has shaped my journey into a trainee solicitor. I feel privileged to have pursued this path while also giving back to the Malaysian diaspora in the UK. Although launching a legal career can be all-consuming, I have always believed in making time for meaningful civic engagement.



As an A-Level alumnus at Sunway College, how has your experience here shaped your journey and success?

During my time at Sunway College, I was fortunate to have knowledgeable educators who genuinely cared about the well-being of their students. I want to particularly highlight Ms. Ida, my Psychology tutor, who is still teaching at Sunway College today. The writing classes she led to help us prepare for long essay questions continue to benefit me in my legal writing. More importantly, she took a genuine interest in my future and always lent a listening ear when I needed one.

How do you promote Malaysian culture and values in the UK through the British Malaysian Society BMS and the Malaysian Lawyers UK Network?

I volunteered at events and co-lead a mentorship programme for the British Malaysian Society, fostering UK-Malaysia connections and linking students with industry leaders. I also co-chair the Malaysian Lawyers UK Network, an organisation I co-founded last year with fellow Malaysian legal professionals. We established it upon realising there was no dedicated networking society for Malaysian lawyers practicing in the UK.

Is there any advice you would like to offer aspiring students?

My advice to all Sunwayians is to recognise that every organisation can benefit from the perspective of youth. Don't be intimidated by seniority—you deserve to be heard. Seek committee roles early to build your professional network, amplify the youth voice, and create meaningful impact.



What are some of your personal goals for the future, both professionally and in terms of giving back to the community?

Looking ahead, I'm eager to continue building my legal career and explore opportunities to serve on the boards of charities in London, using a youth perspective to positively shape governance and drive meaningful change.



SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

GURPRIT KAUR

IND ----- SUNU
INDONESIA



My name is Gurprit Kaur, and I am from South Tangerang, Indonesia. I am currently in the 11th semester of pursuing BA(Hons) in Interior Architecture. My passions mainly lie in woodworking, especially furniture design and product design. Lately, I have also developed a keen interest in live sketching and street photography, often exploring Kuala Lumpur on foot and by public transport.



I chose Sunway University primarily because of its outstanding reputation for education, which I first encountered at education fairs in Indonesia. The curriculum intrigued me, and I was eager to learn more. The campus facilities and architecture

are also thoughtfully designed. Even during peak class hours, the campus never feels overcrowded, offering a comfortable and welcoming environment. Additionally, I found Sunway to be incredibly international student-friendly, which was important to me as I was studying abroad for the first time.

One of the most important factors in my decision to study here was the library. As an avid reader and a bookworm, I was immediately drawn to it. I have never encountered such a well-maintained and welcoming library space before, and it was incredibly satisfying to study there. Since enrolling in my programme, I have spent countless late nights working on assignments in the library, finding it to be a place of comfort and focus that has truly supported my academic journey.

Sunway has also helped me achieve my goals and aspirations. Through the various competitions I have participated in as part of my programme, I have gained invaluable insights and experiences that have helped shape my career direction. More

importantly, being an international student here has taught me the value of self-improvement and discipline, which I believe are essential for success.

Living in Malaysia as an international student has been an eye-opening experience. There were moments of culture shock, particularly in how people communicate and socialise, as well as how things work with public transport and local authorities. Despite this, I have come to appreciate the food and beverages here, with my favourite dishes being Pan Mee and Nasi Ayam Gepak. If I were to rate my overall experience, I would give it a solid 9 out of 10—losing a point because I occasionally miss my hometown in Indonesia.

After completing my studies, I plan to pursue a postgraduate degree in Interior Architecture in the UK. I have developed an interest in education and research, and becoming a lecturer is one of my long-term goals. I know this path requires further education and experience, but I am eager to take on the challenges ahead.



To fellow international students, when the journey feels tough and you are feeling lost, keep pushing forward. You might face moments where it seems like you are heading in the wrong direction or have hit a dead end but remember that perseverance is key. Even when you feel lonely or overwhelmed, trust that the struggles you face now will only make you stronger. If things do not work out the way you expect, keep believing in yourself, stay confident, and have faith that, eventually, you will reach your goals.



SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

HANI SAAD ALI HAIDAR DAJANI

SA ----- SUNU
SAUDI ARABIA



My name is Hani Saad Ali Haidar Dajani. I am a Jordanian national, but I was born and raised in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Currently, I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in International Hospitality Management at the School of Hospitality and Service Management at Sunway University.

When I was finishing high school and completing my International Baccalaureate, I started looking for a university in a country that was both Muslim-friendly and outside the Middle East. A friend told me about Malaysia and how her relative was studying there, which piqued my interest. From

that point, I began researching universities that offered strong business and hospitality programmes. Sunway University stood out to me, and the rest is history.

One of the biggest reasons I chose Sunway University was the dual degree programme. As a hospitality student, I will receive degrees from both Sunway University and Le Cordon Bleu, which is known as one of the best hospitality schools in the world. After looking into the course material, I knew that this programme would give me the best opportunity to build a strong foundation in the industry and develop the skills I need for my career.

Sunway University has played a huge role in helping me achieve my goals. The University provides countless opportunities to explore the hospitality industry through different avenues, ensuring that I gain the best possible learning experience. This exposure has allowed me to grow both professionally and personally.

One of the things I appreciate most about the University is the affordability and variety of food. Whether it is the stalls around campus or nearby restaurants, there are plenty of delicious and budget-friendly options. This convenience saves me time and allows me to focus on my studies, participate in university activities, and enjoy my daily life without worrying too much about cooking.

Living in Malaysia as an international student has been a great experience. The country's welcoming environment and diverse culture made it easy for me to adapt and feel at home. I have built meaningful friendships with both locals and fellow international students, which has made my journey even more enjoyable.

After completing my degree, my main goal is to gain as much international work experience as possible.



Eventually, I want to return to the Middle East and contribute to improving the tourism and food and beverage industries. I hope to play a part in changing the perception of tourism in the region and helping it grow.

To other international students, my advice is simple—Malaysia is a beautiful country, so make sure to take the time to explore it while you can.

Empowering Change through Sustainable Development Leadership

A Transformative Chapter at Sunway University

Zoel's journey at Sunway University began with a rare opportunity - securing a scholarship with the support of YB Steven Sim, Malaysia's current Human Resource Minister. Reflecting on her time at Sunway, Zoel describes it as a nurturing environment that encouraged intellectual curiosity and bold exploration.

As part of the inaugural cohort for the Master in Sustainable Development Management programme, Zoel initially did not fully grasp the depth of the course. However, the University's emphasis on sustainability and its diverse community planted the seeds for her future success.

Pioneering Change with the SDGs

Zoel's passion for sustainable development was fuelled by her curiosity about the synergy between the terms "sustainable," "development," and "management." Guided by mentors and motivated by a desire to create positive change, she embarked on a career dedicated to empowering youth and communities.



Zoel Ng Yuet Yeng

Master in Sustainable Development Management, 2019-2020

Director of Corporate Communication of APPGM-SDG Secretariat & Director of MySDG Academy

At APPGM-SDG, Zoel leads initiatives that localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malaysia. Notably, her efforts have culminated in building Malaysia's largest database of localised SDG stories, documenting challenges and solutions from communities across the nation.

In a career marked by achievements, Zoel's selection as a member of the Obama Foundation Asia-Pacific Leaders community stands out as a pinnacle of recognition. She describes the experience as surreal, humble, and deeply inspiring. She attended exceptional training sessions, coupled with well-structured weekly sessions and personalised coaching.

During a workshop in Cambodia, Zoel had the privilege of sharing Malaysia's innovative use of AI and digital tools for SDG localisation with policymakers and diplomats. This opportunity reinforced her belief in the transformative power of technology and collective action.



Overcoming Adversity to Empower Others

Zoel's journey to success was not without challenges. Growing up in a family affected by drugs and gangsterism, she was almost a school dropout during her teenage years. Those struggles led her to service in the Penang State EXCO office for youth development. She described it as fate as her journey instilled in her a deep empathy for at-risk youth and fuelled her determination to create opportunities for young people to thrive.

Among her impactful projects, Zoel highlights the "Program Inspirasi Anak Muda," which equips at-risk youth with life skills, helping them discover their strengths and identities. She also helped establish the "Youth SDG Agents" initiative, which trains young people to engage in community projects and SDG research.

On a personal level, Zoel recounts supporting a refugee youth who had dropped out of school to pursue his passion for photography. She helped organise his first exhibition for his 20th birthday, in hopes of encouraging him to dream big. This led to his second exhibition at Rex KL and opportunities to sell his work. Upon witnessing his newfound confidence and drive, Zoel recalls the experience being incredibly rewarding.

Leadership Rooted in Humility and Collaboration

For Zoel, leadership is about inspiring and guiding others toward a shared vision, providing clarity, resources, and encouragement along the way. She strives to constantly improve as a leader, emphasising the importance of humility, reflection, and continuous learning in her approach.

Her vision is to create a platform that fosters love, hope, and peace - empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities. "I believe in the power of small actions to create meaningful change," she shares.

Looking ahead, Zoel is focused on developing a sustainable ecosystem for community engagement, building strong partnerships, and creating accessible platforms for collaboration.

For current Sunway students and alumni, Zoel's advice is simple yet profound: "Embrace exploration and never stop striving to be the best version of yourself. Leverage Sunway's resources and community to build meaningful connections and always stay attuned to the needs of your community."

Zoel summarises her journey with the word "Zoel," which means "life" and "abundance in God" in Greek. This encapsulates her belief in growth, transformation, and living a life of purpose and positive impact.

Through her unwavering dedication and inspiring leadership, Zoel continues to make an indelible mark on her community and beyond, proving that with resilience and a strong vision, anything is possible.



Chef Soon Pau Voon, a prominent figure in the global culinary community, who is also a senior teaching fellow at Sunway University's School of Hospitality and Service Management, has been awarded the Worldchefs Lifetime Achievement Award at the 40th Worldchefs Congress & Expo. The award highlights his contributions to culinary arts, education, and sustainability, as well as his efforts to promote Malaysian cuisine internationally.



The Worldchefs Lifetime Achievement Award is a prestigious recognition given by the World Association of Chefs' Societies (Worldchefs) to individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the culinary industry throughout their careers, signifying exceptional leadership and dedication to the culinary profession. It is considered the highest honour within the Worldchefs organisation.



Chef Soon, who joined the School of Hospitality and Service Management in 2009, plays a key role in developing future culinary talent. His research includes studies on the anthropology of food, exploring themes such as feasting, commensality, and the social history of Malaysian cuisine. He has also authored and co-authored works such as *The Edible Waste: A cookbook* (Best Food Waste Book In The World, Gourmand Book Awards 2022), *Planet Saving Meals* (2024) and *Stripes of Glory: Malaysian Chefs in Action on the Global Culinary Stage* (2023).



As a certified trainer South East Asia's Pioneer for the Worldchefs Sustainability Education for Culinary Professionals curriculum, Chef Soon has been a strong advocate for environmentally friendly practices in the culinary field. His initiatives focus on reducing food waste, supporting local producers, and encouraging sustainable sourcing.

Savouring Success: Chef Soon's Lifetime Honour

"I was surprised when my name was called to the stage to accept the award. As a proud member of Sunway University, I am grateful that my work and contributions to Worldchefs are acknowledged and recognized. May this award be an inspiration to my peers and my fellow young chefs," said Chef Soon.

The Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledges Chef Soon's extensive contributions to the culinary arts and his efforts to integrate sustainability and cultural preservation into his work.



Sunway University Hits the Right Notes at PALMA 2024



Sunway University's international students proudly represented the University at the 2024 Inter-Varsity PALMA (Pertandingan Nyanyian Lagu Melayu Antarabangsa) singing competition, bringing home multiple awards. Jointly organised by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Dewan Bahasa & Pustaka, and Asia Pacific University, the competition saw international students performing Malay songs.

Sheena Labonte (School of Engineering and Technology) from Seychelles and Praachi Bhawnani (Sunway Diploma Studies) from India participated in the preliminary rounds. Nurana Gafurova from Turkmenistan, also from Sunway Diploma Studies, qualified for the finals but unfortunately had to forgo her spot due to a scheduling conflict with an examination.

Six universities qualified for the finals, with Sunway University represented by Yee Mon Oo and May Myat Noe Chit from Myanmar, who are from the A-Levels programme and the School of Arts, respectively, alongside Quinsley Ryan Pynam from Mauritius, also from the School of Arts.



Quinsley earned 1st place with an outstanding performance of Sheila Majid's *Sinaran*. He also won the Best Duet Performance award with a partner from Albukhary University.

Meanwhile, Yee Mon's rendition of *Bunga-bunga Cinta* by Misha Omar earned her the 3rd place. May Myat Noe Chit was awarded with a consolation prize for her performance of *Ku Bersuara* by Ernie Zakri.

Quinsley shared the challenges of balancing training sessions with academic responsibilities. "During training week, we would often wake up at 7.30am and finish at 11pm. I even had to do one of my assessments online to accommodate the training."

"There were times when the feedback was hard to hear, the coach was strict. The most challenging part was trusting my own voice, especially during moments of self-doubt. But I choose to see them as an opportunity to grow," Yee Mon expressed.

May Myat Noe Chit thoroughly enjoyed the competition season: "I've met and made many friends who have taught me to be a better person. I'm very proud of myself and everyone for stepping out of our comfort zones." Her song, *Ku Bersuara* by Ernie Zakri, held personal meaning for her as it symbolises woman empowerment, strength, and independence.

It was inspiring to see students from diverse cultures and nationalities come together to form such strong bonds in pursuit of their dreams. Quinsley summed up the experience in a simple yet powerful way: "Never limit yourself to only the things that you already know and never let anyone stop you from becoming who you really are."

THE CITY OF TOMORROW

By: Professor
Ts. Dr.-Ing.
Lau Sian Lun,
School of
Engineering
& Technology,
Sunway University

Most important of all, this city of tomorrow will have Artificial intelligence (AI) to be the brain of the smart city, driving unprecedented optimisation and automation. For example, AI algorithms can analyse traffic patterns to optimise traffic flow, predict when infrastructure needs maintenance, and even personalise public services based on individual needs. This will help cities to become more efficient, responsive, and sustainable.

To realise this vision, we need to invest in STEM education and encourage public engagement in science. By fostering a passion for science and technology in future generations, we can ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to build a truly sustainable future. Also, the development of AI and technologies must be guided by ethical considerations. Protecting data privacy, ensuring fairness and transparency, and preventing bias are crucial to building trust and ensuring that the smart city of the future benefits all citizens.

Smart cities, powered by science, engineering, and technology, have the potential to empower individuals and communities in unprecedented ways. By providing access to information, improving healthcare, and enabling greater participation in decision-making, smart cities can create a more equitable and inclusive society. The city of tomorrow is a place where technology enhances our lives while protecting our planet. It is a city where science and innovation drive progress, creating a more peaceful, just and sustainable world for all.

Imagine a city where resources are used efficiently, waste is minimised, and citizens enjoy a high quality of life with minimal environmental impact. This is the promise of a smart sustainable city, driven by advancements in science and technology.

Scientific research fuels this vision, from sustainable construction materials to renewable energy and urban ecosystem studies. Engineers bring it to life by designing smart transportation, optimising energy grids, and innovating waste management solutions.

What will also be needed is the contribution from the computer scientists. Imagine this smart city has a connected system, much like the nervous system of a smart city. Devices and people are interconnected, and data is constantly exchanged. This smart city will allow the collection and analysis of data from sensors embedded in infrastructure and used by citizens. Through such technologies, everyone can be empowered through data-centric decision making, creating a smart city that is more responsive and efficient.




SSSUNWAY SSSLITHERSSS TO SSSUCCESSSS

Can You Slither Your Way to Success? 🐍




Start the new academic year with a fun challenge 🎲. Navigate through the ups and downs of university life. Players begin at space 1 and take turns rolling a die to move forward the number of spaces shown. Landing on a ladder allows you to climb up to the designated higher space, but landing on a snake sends you down. The first player to reach space 25 exactly wins the game. If a roll would take you beyond space 25, remain in place and roll again on your next turn.






Hari Raya is all about family, food, and...unexpected oral exams. No matter how much *kuih raya* you munch on, there is no escaping the relatives' interrogation panel. Here is a fun guide on how to survive the classic *Raya* questions:

-  What they really mean
-  Safe response
-  Savage response




"Belajar macam mana? Result okay ke?"
(How are your studies? Are your results good?)

-  Are you secretly failing?
-  "Alhamdulillah, semua okay." (Praise be to God, everything's fine.)
-  "Result okay, tapi lecturer okay ke dengan saya, tu saya tak pasti." (Results are okay, but whether my lecturer is okay with me, that I am unsure.)




"Bila nak habis belajar?" (When are you graduating?)

-  How much longer are you going to take to finish your studies?
-  "Tak lama lagi, doakan ya!" (Soon, pray for me.)
-  "Mungkin satu dekad." (Maybe a decade.)

"Lepas ni nak kerja apa?" (What is your career plan after this?)

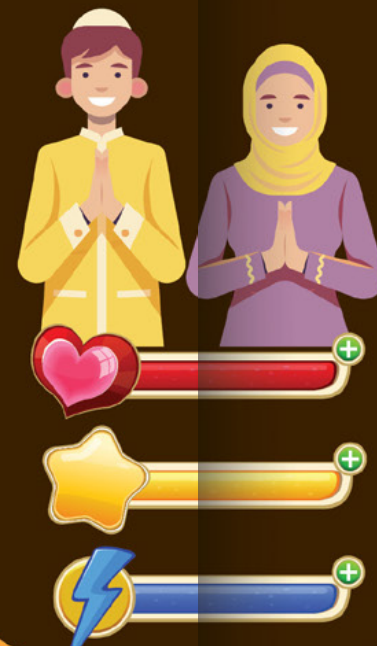
-  Have you figured out adulthood yet?
-  "Tengah explore peluang, nak cari pengalaman dulu." (I am exploring opportunities and gaining experience first.)
-  "Nak jadi influencer, buat unboxing duit raya." (I want to be an influencer and do duit raya unboxings.)

"Sudah 20 tahun, nak duit Raya lagi?"
(You are 20 years old, you still want Raya money?)

-  You are too old for duit Raya.
-  "Student masih dalam kategori kanak-kanak, kan?" (Students are still in the 'kids' category, right?)
-  "Kita belajar guna duit PTPTN, duit raya ni lah penyelamat." (We are under student loans, duit raya is our only hope.)




Survival Guide:

How to Answer Tough Raya Questions






Bonus Tip:
How to Escape Further Questions




"Dah ada boyfriend/girlfriend ke?"
(Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend yet?)

-  Time to publicise your love life.
-  "Fokus study dulu, nanti baru fikir." (I am focusing on my studies first, will think about it later.)
-  "Ada, nama dia 'Final Year Project'." (Yes, their name is 'Final Year Project'.)




"Kenapa makin kurus/gemuk?"
(Why have you lost/gained weight?)

-  Let us discuss your body even if you do not want to.
-  "Biasalah bagi student. Kadang makan banyak, kadang lupa makan." (This is normal for us students, sometimes we eat a lot, sometimes we forget to eat.)
-  "Ni hasil diet assignment. Stress je makan notes." (This is the 'assignment diet.' Stress makes me eat notes.)

"Kenapa tak balik kampung lama sikit?"
(Why are you not staying back here longer?)

-  Stay longer so we can keep asking you questions.
-  "Kena balik awal untuk kelas." (We need to go back early for classes.)
-  "Kalau ada Wi-Fi laju, mungkin boleh consider." (If the Wi-Fi here was faster, I might consider.)

"Kenapa asyik tengok telefon je?"
(Why are you always on your phone?)

-  Are you even paying attention to us?
-  "Tengah reply mesej kawan-kawan ucap Selamat Hari Raya." (I am replying to my friends' Raya greetings.)
-  "Cari resepi rendang sebab takut tak cukup makan nanti." (Looking up rendang recipes in case there is not enough food later.)

- Pretend to get a call and walk away, even if your phone is on silent 📞
- Shove some kuih into your mouth and chew dramatically.
- Casually shift the attention: "Baju raya Mak Cik cantik, mana beli ya?" (Your outfit is beautiful, where did you get it from?)

Now you are ready to face any Raya Q&A session like a pro. Selamat Hari Raya, and may your kuih stash be endless 🍪🌟

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