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The Foundation Gazette

2024



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Malaysia

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MESSAGE FROM HEAD, GLOBAL COLLEGE



Warm greetings! I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you to The Foundation Gazette of Global College in Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM). As a proud parent or guardian, I am sure that you are as excited as your child who is embarking on a new and enlightening milestone in their life.

At HWUM, we strive to provide our students with positive learning experiences and a supportive environment that will enable them to readily bridge the transition between school and university studies while preparing them to embark on their chosen disciplines in our undergraduate degree programmes.

The Foundation Programme pathways at HWUM will deliver a rigorous curriculum that will fully prepare students to become independent and confident learners. My academic team and I are committed to the development and success of all our students.

In return, we expect students to actively participate in class, take responsibility for their own learning by undertaking all assigned tasks and projects with enthusiasm, and interact positively and courteously with all students and staff.

With this newsletter we aim to include parents and guardians to be part of their child's journey, and to keep you informed on important events and activities in the Foundation programmes that are driven by purpose.

We wish for a rewarding and successful experience for all at Heriot-Watt University!

Associate Professor Jasmine Low
Head of Global College, Malaysia

WELCOME WEEK - JANUARY

STUDENT FEEDBACK

By: **Clarrie Ariel Sim Siew Lian (FiS January 2024)**



Attending the Heriot-Watt Welcome Week was both a surprising and pleasant experience. The Welcome team comprising off seniors at the University, led by Ms. Crystal and Mr. Ken, were all very friendly, warm and welcoming, it made the experience of entering a new place and meeting new people much less daunting.

The sessions conducted by the seniors were all highly informative on student life here at Heriot-Watt and quite accurate in some cases, having the seniors share some of their current studying journeys made it easier to land on our feet when classes started. The team building activities were great ice-breaking sessions that helped in fostering new and hopefully long friendships with our cohorts. I would like to add one thing though, please do let the future students know to bring and wear sunscreen during any 'Treasure Hunt' activities. A huge thank you to the team, for arranging the Welcome Week and supporting us throughout!

The lake cruise was relaxing and a fun experience to cap off the week, and a good way to get some free hairstyling done.

All three of the workshops held throughout the Welcome Week were in some cases, eye-opening in understanding myself a bit more and learning, a little, ways of how to utilise my character strengths to become a Fit-for-Future student at Heriot-Watt. The DOPE and learning style sessions were good in showing my weaknesses, my strengths and what style of learning was best for me. The Successful Mindset and Rewiring & Gratitude workshops also taught me how to 'reset my brain' and being grateful for what I have and the people who support me both, old and new.

WELCOME WEEK - JANUARY



Living in the World of Business

By: Andrew Lee (Programme Director, Foundation in Business)

The January 2024 Semester 1 Foundation in Business (FiB) students were all excited during the first day of their Contemporary Business class when informed that they will run their own online businesses as part of their coursework. Despite barely getting to know their classmates well enough, they quickly formed groups of between 3 to 4 students and were eager to kick-start the venture. In just a short time, they turned their creative ideas into tangible products. Currently, they are marketing and selling a delightful variety of popsicle flavours, scented candles and beautifully crafted crocheted accessories, coasters and bookmarks. This 7-week project provides them an opportunity to display their creativity, work collaboratively with each other and hone their business acumen, hence offering a hands-on experience beyond the textbooks.



The online business enables students to put to practice the theoretical knowledge learned into practical business situations, in-line with the learning outcomes of the course. Each business showcases the drive and passion of each of these budding young entrepreneurs. With professional looking online store fronts, creative marketing strategies and uniquely designed and packaged products, one could easily mistake these ventures for the work of seasoned business owners. The Foundation in Business class of January 2024 is not just studying business; they are living it!



"The online business project has been a good learning experience. Coming up with an idea for the business was easy, starting it brings a lot of challenges. As group leader, I have learnt that you must have good communication with members as they depend on you to assign them tasks and listen to their ideas and suggestions. It has also taught me that there are many factors to take into consideration when starting a business, like marketing, pricing and more. Overall, it is a useful project and provides me a view to how much effort is being put into every business."

Mia Jassina Hamzarul Hazmir (FiB January 2024)

"I had quite a good learning experience when setting up the online business. I continuously discuss every detail of the business with my teammates to ensure that our business operations would be successful. To me communicating effectively with our customers is crucial in ensuring we understand their needs and wants better."

Abdullah Harith Azman (FiB January 2024)

Students' Feedback

Classroom Chronicles

Students Stories from the Classroom

One of the challenges I faced in accounting was the workload. I struggled to understand many topics in accounting. For example, in Semester 2, the topic Statement of Cash Flow was difficult so I frequently consulted with Miss Natasya, where she would guide me through the topic which greatly helped me.

Mohamed Shafiq Irfan (FiB July 2023)

What impressed me most in the psychology class was the tutorial activity on the memory topic. The activity of this class is for a group of 5 people to take turns to go outside to receive information and then come back to convey it to the group members. I think this activity stands out the most because it cultivates our team spirit, memory and communication skills. After this activity, I also understood the knowledge and I learned better.

Faith Qistina (FiB July 2023)

In order to achieve better communication skills, one has to practice talking to one another. English lessons have been a great tool for peers to talk to each other in a more controlled and supervised environment where students can feel safe and confident to try their skills and enhance it. Same goes to writing skills.

Lohitaruben (FiS July 2023)



Introduction to the Foundation Club

By: The President of Foundation Club

My name is Ahmad Zharfan Naim, thrived as President of the Foundation Club, spearheading transformative initiatives, fostering a dynamic community, and amplifying student voices. Led with passion, collaboration, and dedication, driving positive change and leaving an indelible mark on the student experience.

Embarking on a journey of leadership and impact as I step into the role of President of the Foundation Club. Ready to inspire, innovate and empower fellow students to create a brighter tomorrow together.

I call to all students from different backgrounds to endure this journey together as we build ourselves with confidence and a determined goal at the end of the finish line.

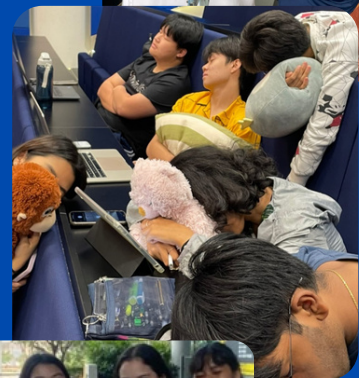
SPIRIT WEEK

By: The Foundation Club

Spirit Week is an event organised by the Foundation Club to promote school spirit and unity amongst students across the campus. This 4-day event was held to boost morale and for the students to creatively dress-up according to the theme given for the day.

For example, on Monday, the theme was Pyjamas Day, so students were encouraged to come to campus in their pyjamas. As for Tuesday, the theme was Dress Up as Your Friend Day. On that particular day, students were to dress up mimicking their friends' outfits or hairstyles. However on Wednesday, the theme of the day was Crazy Hat/Hair Day, where participants came with crazy hats and hairstyles to campus and took many goofy pictures with their friends to commemorate the day.

Lastly, Thursday was Halloween Day. Many participants came in with fun and creative costumes. The event managed to uplift the spirits of students which was one of the primary motives why this event was held. Spirit Week helped further strengthen bonds between friends and everyone involved. Participants were excited to be at campus despite the event being held during a busy period. Thankfully, Spirit Week instilled a renewed sense of pride and enthusiasm amongst students which is an integral part of university life. Every student had extreme fun capturing memories with their friends and even new acquaintances. All in all, Spirit Week successfully enhanced team spirit in the university.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Academic Calendar

Academic Calendar for Foundation Programmes

January 2024 intake

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| Dates | Activity |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2-5 January 2024 | Welcome Week |
| 8 January – 29 March 2024 | Semester 1 teaching |
| 12 – 16 February 2024 | Reading Week |
| 1 – 5 April 2024 | Semester 1 Exam |
| 8 – 12 April 2024 | Break |
| 15 April – 12 July 2024 | Semester 2 teaching |
| 20 – 24 May 2024 | Reading Week |
| 15 – 19 July 2024 | Semester 2 Exam |
| 22 – 26 July 2024 | Semester 2 Break |
| 29 July – 25 October 2024 | Semester 3 teaching |
| 2 – 6 September 2024 | Reading Week |
| 28 October – 2 November 2024 | Semester 3 Exam |
| 4 November 2024 – 3 January 2025 | Break |
| 9 – 13 December 2024 | Resits |
| 6 – 10 January 2025 | Undergraduate Welcome Week |

Student Information

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

1 F2F SEMINARS, TUTORIALS AND LABS

Attend all scheduled learning sessions.



2 VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CANVAS)

- Read the weekly learning materials.
- Complete the learning activities and tutorials.



3

ASSESSMENTS

- Manage time to complete the assignments and projects and submit by given deadlines.



Additional Learning Support

To ensure the learning success of our students, there is support available for students to come and seek guidance for their tutorial questions and assignments.

I can & I will

JOIN US NOW
MON SUN

ALL MFP Students

Physics & Mathematics & Accounting **LEVEL UP** CENTRE

EVERY WEDNESDAY 2-4PM
(2 JAN ~ 31 MAR 2024)

VENUE : LS5
(WEST WING LEVEL 1)

- 1-to-1 coaching by Physics & Maths & Accounting lecturer
- peer learning with seniors and juniors

"One step at a time.
You'll get there."
@HWVGCM



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