

Communicating with the Masses

Courses such as Mass Communications are increasing in popularity. MDIS is one such institution that offers this increasingly-sought after degree

"When I could not get into the university of my choice, I decided to pursue an alternative education route. At first, I was a bit doubtful. This route is not exactly popular among Singaporeans," says Khatim Hamidon (right).

Khatim had always been interested in journalism and writing and decided to pursue her love by taking up a course in Mass Communications at MDIS.

The degree offered by Oklahoma City University (OCU) appealed to her. "Not only does it have a Journalism component, other communication modules such as Advertising and Public Relations are also taught. Also, the course enables students to be aware of other fields of study such as Psychology. The prospect of having OCU's faculty lecturers fully conducting the lectures, and going on a 3-week residency in Oklahoma was exciting," she enthuses.

The chirpy lady only had the GCE 'A' Level qualifications at that time, so she had to enrol into the one-year Advanced Diploma course before qualifying to study the degree.

Soon after, Khatim started her two-year degree programme. "Though one of the reasons that I chose this programme was the strength of the faculty, it took me a few days before I was comfortable with my lecturers' accents. But what warm, wonderful and interesting people they are!" she grins.

"The timetable for my programme is different from the other courses in MDIS. We have a 9-day lecture series for each module, which everything is taught in a very compact style, as lecturers are flown in from U.S. just for this period. As full-time students, we will then have a few days' tutorials. We are then left on our own to complete our assignments and projects for about a month till our examinations," she continues.

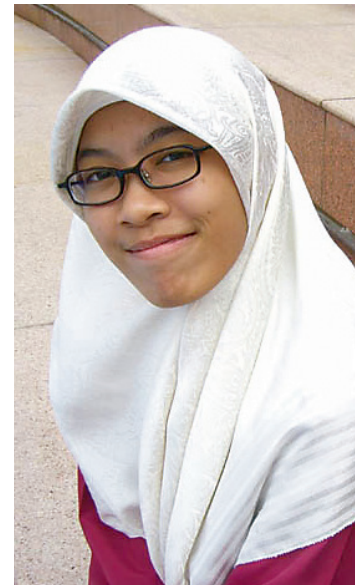
Like any other student, Khatim feels that the lecture schedules can be tiring initially, but finds the flexibility of the course amazing. "I work on my assignments at my own pace and do a lot of self study. Of course, when I do have questions, my professors are just an email away. The free time has also allowed me to pursue my own interests. I plan my own routine on when, what and how I study, and at other times I tutor primary-school kids, take up ad-hoc part-time jobs and volunteer in organisations. I know some of my classmates have already gained employment while still studying."

Of course, not everything is a bed of roses. Khatim's main concern is the financial aspect. "MDIS students are considered as private students. As such, we are not entitled to a variety of schemes that mainstream students take for granted. Thankfully, I have the support of my family."

"My other pet peeve is trying to convince shop vendors that, I am indeed a student and eligible for that student discount

meal/voucher/ticket, despite already showing them my student card. As more private schools are setting up in Singapore, arguably the best Asian education hub, it would be nice if private students get some recognition too," she continues.

Despite these little hitches, Khatim looks forward to contributing a bigger piece of herself to society and doing good work. "For me, it doesn't matter which school you are from. What does matter is you prove yourself through your work ethics, a constant eagerness and desire to be the best that you can be and have a positive attitude towards life."



Find out more about MDIS and their courses at the MDIS Open House. There will be course consultations, talks, performances, bazaar, goodie bags, online contests, games, a lucky draw and even song dedications! Visit www.mdis.edu.sg/x3 for more information.

Date: 17 March 2007, Saturday
Time: 10 to 6pm
Venue: MDIS UniCampus
501 Stirling Road Singapore 148951

More about Management Development Institute of Singapore

The Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS), founded in 1956, is Singapore's oldest not-for-profit professional institute for lifelong learning. MDIS provides the opportunity for individuals to develop professionally through academic programmes in the areas of Business and Management, Mass Communications, Life Sciences, Information Technology and Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Management, offered in collaboration with nine prestigious universities in Australia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

MDIS offers a full progression path in its academic programmes, so individuals can expect to progress from a professional certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, degree, master's, right up to doctorate level.

With a student population of 9,000, of which 3,000 are international students from 50 countries, MDIS provides students with a complete learning experience in a truly multicultural environment.