

# IUMW

## *Student Stories*

VOLUME 1

**Passionate,  
Ambitious &  
Engaged –**

*get to know our students and graduates*



# START YOUR JOURNEY



We want you to be part of the experience, part of a community that will change the way you think and learn. IUMW is a community of over 1800 students, each with their own unique story to tell. Students from across Malaysia and all over the world come together to create new experiences and memories every day.

Whether from a nearby city or faraway country, you will find your place within the IUMW community.

Your journey starts here...



# Meet Our Students.

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USING HER  
MODELLING PLATFORM TO  
GIVE BACK TO  
Society.

## **Rheanna** **Miss Global Malaysia 2018**

As Miss Global Malaysia 2018, I was given the opportunity to reach an international audience. I used this platform to voice out about Cerebral Palsy awareness. After the pageant was over, I continued volunteering at different institutions to assist the differently-abled. The experience made me realise that I could give back so much more to society. Currently, I am a partner at a modeling agency for differently-abled and unique models, called DON Management. Differently-abled people are currently very under-represented in the fashion industry so my goal is to be able to provide a platform for everyone to be comfortable in their own skin.

My words of advice - don't let the words of anyone else, or even your insecurities, get in the way of your goals. It's important to dream big and let every step that you take bring you closer to your goal.



# MAKING WAVES IN A "MAN'S WORLD"



**Navanesh**

**First Female Indian Boxer in Malaysia**

In my state, I was the only Indian female boxer, and I mostly trained with the boys. At first, I had low self-esteem because I faced a lot of criticism. But in my heart, I knew I wanted to achieve something, so I practiced more. Then I started to win more matches, and had more people surrounding me – that boosted my confidence. My family was my backbone throughout.

There will always be criticism but once you can show your talent, you learn how to deal with it. It's all about learning – keep learning and trying to handle every situation, no matter what. My advice is to follow whatever your heart tells you. There will always be people out there ready to criticise. If you want to achieve something, learn to face it and don't run away when you face difficulties. Be yourself, and keep learning because everything is a new experience.

# LEADING A TEAM FOR THE GREATER GOOD

**Rajeshwary**

**IUMW Student Council President**

At first, adapting to the role of Student Council President was challenging, especially with the huge amount of commitment that comes with it. But I'm at a point where I am willing to commit and do whatever it takes with my team to accomplish & effectively carry out my responsibilities as President. There are times where I feel insecure, wonder whether I am capable enough or if people are going to judge what I do. So far, I've been able to push those thoughts aside and focus on being confident with each step I take and decisions I make.

I believe that being passionate about the things that you do is really important. It helps you find the drive to keep going and to keep striving for new opportunities and bigger possibilities. Like everyone else, I have moments where I procrastinate. But I have my to-do list and deadlines for everything (academic, student council etc) listed in my planner, and that helps remind me that I can't afford to procrastinate!





# WHY A FOLLOWER COUNT IS JUST A NUMBER

## Queen Dancer & Influencer

Dancing has always been a passion, ever since I was 4. When it comes to being called an 'influencer', I've never considered myself as that - the number of followers is just a number. I believe that everyone can be an "influencer". Influence people by showing acts of kindness, and most importantly doing good deeds. That to me is an influencer. Being a university student has taught me how hectic life can be. Chasing assignments deadlines, consultation with lecturers, group meetings, etc! To balance my personal life and university, I keep track of important days in my notebook. I prioritise university responsibilities and during the weekends I give time to myself to enjoy my hobby, which is dance. My advice to myself, and others - always pick yourself up, even when the world comes crashing on you. Your success comes from your progress!

# STRIVING TO BE THE BEST

## Ayesha Afkaar

### Maldives National Basketball Team Player

I'm someone who stays motivated by always striving to be the best, by always pushing myself to the limits, and trying to be better every day! I think back and recall my best performances on the court, and the milestones of my playing career - that keeps me going. My biggest inspiration in life is the late Kobe Bryant.

Personally, as an international student, I've had such a positive experience in Malaysia so far. The diverse multicultural background here allows a unique living experience where people of so many different races and ethnicities co-exist in a unified community. This is perfectly exemplified through the art, language, and the food!

My advice for the wonderful students of IUMW is to always be yourself, don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something, and to follow your heart and dreams!





# VALEDICTORIAN

# IUMW Best Students.

Mohana Priya

PhD in Professional Communication

## Why did you decide to undertake a PhD in Professional Communication?

I have been part of the Malaysian broadcasting industry for 16 years and active for 20 years in the voluntary sector. With the digital revolution, communication processes were changing rapidly and there were many challenges engaging with young people. I experienced this first-hand in my volunteer work and so it was only natural for me to explore this area of research, particularly social media. Although I started out wanting to do a PhD for career development, I now realise that my expertise and research findings on social media engagement can greatly contribute to community development.

## What lies ahead for you, now that you've completed your PhD?

I've started training programmes on communication towards sustainable community development. This is an under-served area of communication in both the government and the private sector. I am also working on several proposals alongside the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I would like to assist with policy-making in relation to media literacy among young people. Social media is a tool, and it should be used wisely and responsibly.

## How do you overcome a challenge?

Depending on the kind of challenge, really. Some situations can be overwhelming: by breaking it down to smaller segments or goals, understanding what needs to be let go, and seeking the right help.

## Did anything surprise you during your time undertaking your PhD?

There are guides and inspiration all around us in the most unexpected forms, we just need to be humble and aware enough to see and learn from them. I am learning every day. My children and volunteer work kept me grounded and I am thankful for that.

## Any words of advice for your juniors at IUMW?

Understand what brings you joy. That awareness will lead you to the right path. Also, invest in relationships, find your tribe.



# FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION, ARTS & MEDIA



**Mas Shahira Binti Aminuddin**

**Bachelor of Professional Communication (Honours)**

**How does it feel to be given the Best Student Award?**

It's an honour, I was not expecting it at all. I received the news in the middle of a business meeting and got all flustered! I am truly grateful and would like to thank IUMW for granting me the honour of accepting this award. Reading the email really brought back all of the memories I had along my journey at IUMW, and got me excited to see my beloved lecturers and friends!

**How has your major prepared you for the future?**

I am truly blessed to have been given such a huge opportunity to start my career right after I finished my internship, which was just a few weeks after returning from Wales. The programme at IUMW was impactful in that it prepared me for the real world – I am definitely practicing what I learned in there and in particular what I learned during my semester studying at UWTSD.

**Now that you have graduated, what lies ahead for you?**

I was lucky to be welcomed as part of the family at the company I interned for. I'm now a graphic designer cum business strategist. I love my job as it allows me to unleash my creativity every day and gain new knowledge from a variety of perspectives.

**What's your favourite moment from your time at IUMW?**

I will cherish every moment at IUMW, but one of my favorite times was when my classmates and I decided to hold a thrifting event (Conscious Clothing) in an effort to reduce fast fashion pollution for our Communication Campaign subject. It was a huge success and I love how everyone worked so well with each other!

**Any advice for your juniors?**

My advice is to focus on what you want to achieve but have fun at the same time! Live your life to the fullest, make as many memories as you can and remember, there is a lot to explore out there!



# IUMW BUSINESS SCHOOL

**Phang Wei Le**

**Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Finance**

**How does it feel to be given the Best Student Award?**

I'm very surprised and honoured, and I would like to thank the university for giving me this recognition. I would also like to thank the university and lecturers for their help and guidance. Last but not least, a big thank you to my parents, family members and friends whose companionship and encouragement always guided me throughout.

**What is the most important thing you learned in university?**

One of the most important things, was to be a little cheeky! I do not have a sense of shame when it comes to having doubts. There is no point in hesitating to ask questions about things I don't understand. As the Chinese saying goes, I will always "break the casserole to ask until the deepest part". Thus, entering the lecturer's office was more like a daily routine for me!

**What is your favorite moment from IUMW?**

There were so many memorable moments. One of my favourites was participating in the volleyball competition at

the university's court for the Sportacular Week back in 2017. My teammates and I had the best time playing in the rain and I had not felt that good in ages. Aside from that, I cherish the moments where I'd be laughing with my classmates and lecturers in-between lessons. These memories will never be forgotten.

**Who was the most influential person to you during your time at university?**

The most influential person during my time at university was Dr. Joel Tham Kah Mun, who sadly passed away on 3rd August 2019. I would like to convey my gratitude to his consistent guidance and instruction throughout my time at university. Working under his leadership was one of the most fulfilling parts of my university life. Without his great mentorship, my undergraduate studies would never have been this amazing. Although he is no longer with us, I will deeply remember everything he taught.



# FACULTY OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Nur Syahirah

Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours)

#### How does it feel to be given the Best Student Award?

I never thought I would be receiving such an honour! It's not just my sole effort that has brought me here. Special thanks go to my parents and family that supported me endlessly. Thanks also to my Dean and lecturers, for their guidance and knowledge. I also want to thank my best friends and classmates who helped make this such a wonderful experience.

#### Why did you decide to major in Psychology?

My passion to explore human behavior, and curiosity to discover why people think and behave the way they do. I have a strong interest in psychology, and love working with people!

#### What is the most important thing you learned at university?

The three most important things I learned – surround yourself with good people, it will determine your end; to appreciate where I am on my journey, even though sometimes it is not according to my plan, every season serves its purpose; do things for yourself and don't always say yes to please others – learning when to say no meant I was able to better manage my time and focus on the things that were important to me.

#### Now that you have graduated, what lies ahead for you?

I plan to continue my studies with a Master's degree as I believe I still have far to go and I want to become an expert in a specific field.

#### What's your favourite moment from your time at IUMW?

Definitely during class because of my amazing classmates. I'm grateful to have been with them, and they are the main reason I completed my studies so beautifully. They allowed me to be myself and I cherish every moment with them, we are a family. They will make great psychologists – I love you all!

#### Any words of advice for your juniors at IUMW?

Always remember to respect your lecturer, be kind, be fair, be honest, be true and all of these things will come back to you. This is the recipe to be a successful student. Attitude comes first, then success will follow you!



# FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

Nivedha A/P Vijja Kumar

Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology (Honours)

#### How does it feel to be given the award of the best student of FSTEM?

Happy is an understatement. I feel extremely honoured and grateful to be the recipient of this award. It is a representation of all the hard work, dedication and sacrifices I've made over the past 3 years.

#### Why did you decide to major in Biotechnology?

Biotechnology is an incredibly vast field that is rapidly evolving, and offers me various career options and opportunities to explore new frontiers of science.

#### What is the most important thing you learned at university?

University life has taught me many things. It has taught me to be independent, to step out of my comfort zone, and the importance of working together and complementing each other in order to succeed.

#### What's your favourite moment from your time at IUMW?

My favorite moments at IUMW are made up of many small accomplishments and the recognition I received for the work I do, be it lecturers' compliments, receiving the academic excellence award or even handing in my thesis in the final year as the final sprint towards graduation.

#### Who has been the most influential person to you during your time at university?

I am truly indebted to many people, especially my family and lecturers for giving me the strength and ability to embark on this journey with perseverance. Needless to say, the most influential people are my parents. Had it not been for their continuous support, blessings and unflinching encouragement, this would not have been possible.





# Graduate Stories.



## Muhammad Danial

**Bachelor of Professional Communication (Honours)**

This university is set apart with its unique class size that provides the rare gift of personalised attention. This was the key to building excellent relationships among the brilliant minds of my lecturers and peers, contributing to my overall development hence the brilliant start to my career!

Most of the courses at IUMW require critical thinking and understanding, and the course also trains us to explain concepts in a cohesive way. I was able to explain creative concepts during job interviews, and that helped me land the job I'm working today, at PETRONAS!

## Jessica Loh Pui Yin

**Bachelor of Professional Communication (Honours)**

I decided to study at IUMW because it was affordable, a good university environment and because the certificate is also awarded by IUMW's partner university in the UK. IUMW also gives students the chance to do a semester in Wales!

IUMW is a place where students can grow because of the hands-on activities. I was given the opportunity to organise an event so instead of just learning theories, we were exposed to real assignments where we do things from start to finish, even engaging with the relevant industries taking part in the event.

Industrial Training is also part of the course which is brilliant. The hands-on experience was impactful and prepared me for the corporate world; I started off as an intern, and kick-started my career in the same company! I love my job because I am doing something I majored in and all the knowledge I gained throughout university, I am able to apply in my career now.







# Dzulhilmy Mohammad

Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Finance

I decided to pursue an education at IUMW because the course I wanted had interesting modules that would build my knowledge in the finance world, which I have managed to successfully venture into upon graduating! The accessibility to the University of Malaya's library facilities also had its own unique attraction.

I believe my whole 3 years as an undergraduate at IUMW was an amazing experience and as in life, it was a roller coaster ride! One thing I could highlight from my time at IUMW is how great my lecturers and peers were in helping me grow as a student. I also had opportunities to kick start many initiatives when I was part of the Student Council! These experiences helped me grow my soft skills which are very important in order to be employed in a highly competitive job market.

# Anisha Azli

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology

I decided to study at IUMW because of its firm establishment, being under one of the country's top universities, the University of Malaya, and the University of Wales. I was particularly interested in the dual awards programme with Wales. I believe it has increased my credibility when applying for jobs.

Studying in IUMW definitely gave my confidence a boost, especially in communication and public speaking, and particularly through implementing the flipped classroom method. My experience shaped me into becoming more open-minded and accepting of others' opinions. Communication and interpersonal skills are both needed in my career, and IUMW helped me a lot with that.



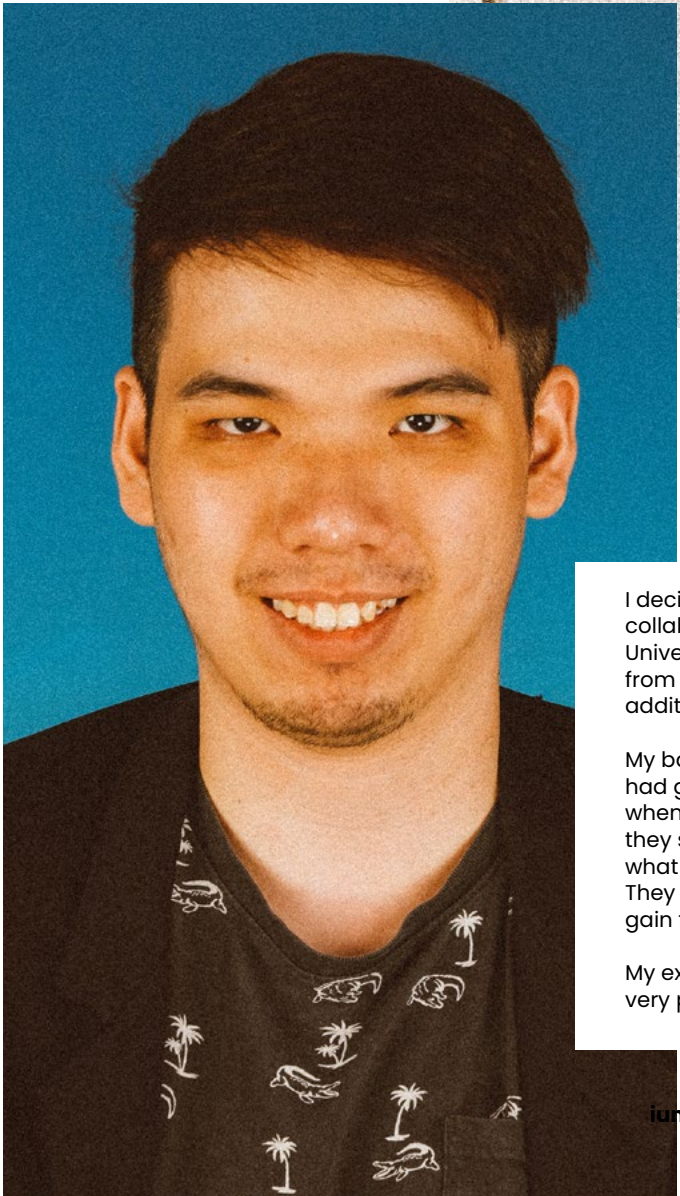
# Allysia Sherina Rama Rao

Foundation in Arts, Bachelor in Accounting (Honours)

I wanted to study accounting, so I found the ACCA accreditation of the programme at IUMW an attractive prospect, and it made it easier for me to achieve my ambition. I also loved that IUMW was located right in the middle of Kuala Lumpur!

I got the chance to spend one semester in the UK and experience student life there. This experience helped me to become independent. I was also fascinated by cultural differences, and experienced so many new things!

IUMW organised a career fair that helped me to perform my very first job interview. It gave me the opportunity to secure a job in an international company to pursue my dreams! I'm very grateful for the internship part of the programme, as I was lucky to land my permanent job in that firm! I will always be thankful to IUMW.



# Ng Yeon Seng

Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours)

I decided to study at IUMW so I could experience the university collaboration between the University of Malaya (UM) and the University of Wales (UW). I wanted to enjoy the shared resources from both UM & UW and study abroad for 1 semester without additional fees.

My bachelor's degree was a challenging experience, but luckily I had great lecturers who were always willing to help and support me whenever I faced any difficulties. At IUMW, lecturers don't just teach, they share so much more. I learned about the trends of technology, what the markets are demanding, and learned about language. They also arrange workshops, talks, and events for us to attend to gain the exposure we need to industry.

My experience throughout the journey of my bachelor's degree is very precious to me!





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