Courses to incorporate latest research and reflect changes that Malaysia’s workforce is going through

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Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UniRazak), one of Malaysia's leading boutique universities, is making some major additions and upgrades to its curriculum of its Faculty of Education and Social Sciences (FESS) – the Faculty will introduce tonight new Bachelor programmes and five new Master programmes. The new and revamped programmes reflect the changes that Malaysia’s workforce is going through, and incorporate the latest research and findings not just from the university but from its business partners and government ministries.

UniRazak’s FESS has thus far offered three programmes – Diploma in Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Education, and Bachelor of English. The Diploma in Early Childhood Education’s first batch of students is set to graduate after the July semester, during which they will undergo internships and practical training in various kindergartens across the Klang Valley. The curriculum and methodology used are different from other institutions and focus more on hands-on experience. For the children, it focuses on holistic development, encourages social and moral growth, and follows the Malaysian curriculum.

Graduates will be able to work not only in kindergartens but across a wide variety of careers involving children such as in children's books or other media, TV programmes, organising kid’s events, working in children’s homes, and paediatric wards. The students are so eager to apply their knowledge that they have even set up a Facebook account catering to early childhood education specialists and students, for the sharing of experiences and knowledge about child development. You can find this club by searching Facebook for “Early Childhood Education Club UniRazak”.

Most exciting is the upgrade of the Bachelor degree curriculum, which expands the Bachelor of Education programme into seven programmes with specialisations, and introduces one new programme – the Bachelor of Guidance and Counselling.

Basically, the Bachelor of Education programme has been expanded to incorporate majors in seven areas, namely Early Childhood Education, TESL (Teaching of English as a Second Language), Mathematics, Guidance and Counselling, Entrepreneurship, Economics, and Commerce. These majors allow the students to develop specialised skills in the above mentioned areas – they can also choose minors from these areas, e.g. a Bachelor of Education majoring in Entrepreneurship and minoring in Commerce.

The Bachelor of Guidance and Counselling was introduced to address the shortage of qualified counsellors in public and private sectors. This programme trains the students in areas of psychology and enables them to provide guidance and counselling in areas such as family counselling or workforce counselling.

Finally, UniRazak's FESS has also introduced the new Master in Education programmes, that come in five majors, namely Early Childhood Education, TESL, Educational Leadership and Management, Curriculum and Instruction, and Guidance and Counselling. Prospective students would ideally have one to two years of teaching experience, upon which the FESS’s Master's programmes would build on.

Its dean, Prof Dr Abdul Razak Habib, said: “All of these programmes reflect the research findings, and experiences of UniRazak’s FESS, as well as the feedbacks obtained from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Human Resources.”

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