



MONASH
University

MALAYSIA

**YOUR
JOURNEY
WITH
THE ARTS**



WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH YOUR ARTS DEGREE?

A degree from Monash University Malaysia's School of Arts and Social Sciences opens endless doors for its holders.

Over the past decade, we have produced outstanding graduates who thrive and trailblaze in their chosen fields. Thanks to the versatility of the course, arts graduates are able to navigate the world of work with creativity and confidence, excelling both personally and professionally. Our alumni are testament to how studying the arts and social sciences can provide a route to career success, incredible job opportunities, and deep fulfillment. Here are some of their stories.



NURTURING CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

With its focus on strategic, lateral thinking, an arts and social sciences degree forms the perfect springboard for creative leadership. Graduates learn to think in fresh, versatile, and unique ways that enable them to pioneer solutions to real-world issues, confidently lead teams and departments at major organisations, and leap headfirst into their very own entrepreneurial ventures.

“Today, I am co-founder and CEO of a start-up called Otomate Me, and play a multi-faceted role in the business. My job requires me to wear many hats, from working in business development to marketing direction. My arts degree gave me the opportunity to broaden my horizons intellectually by critically dissecting real-world events. It attracts individuals who are inquisitive by nature.”

KIMBERLY WAN MEI WAH

Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences), Majoring in International Studies (2014)
CEO of Otomate Me, Malaysia

Kimberly is a national ice hockey athlete and a co-founder of Otomate Me, an e-commerce platform which specialises in developing automation software for brands and businesses which helps them build seamless tech solutions for their customers.



“I regularly work with very large sets of data and draw insights from them, a skill learnt at Monash that allowed me to navigate through the industry skillfully. The adaptability of my Bachelor of Arts degree allowed me to learn the business and management aspects of my job, while the communication and people skills kept me in good standing with all of my clients. I was an unorthodox hire at PwC, but managed to impress my employers by bringing new and fresh perspectives to the industry.”

KELVIN TAN KUAN FOOK

Bachelor of Arts (Global), Double Major in Communications and International Studies (2011)

Co-founder of Project ID: Impianku Destinasiaku, Malaysia

Kelvin works with clients in distribution network strategy, organisational restructuring, post-merger integration strategy, public policy advisory and sustainability. He is the co-founder of 'Project ID: Impianku, Destinasiaku', which teaches students from challenging backgrounds to set meaningful goals and become leaders in their own right.



“My experience with Monash was wonderful. That was why I continued with my Master of Arts in Communication and Cultural Studies, a year after I graduated from my Bachelor degree, on a part-time basis, while I was already working. Monash does not prepare us for the working world through spoon-feeding, but instead deepens our thinking and conception on how we relate to things around us. [At Monash], I got to discover the answers to my questions through freedom in learning, researching and experimenting.”

WILSON LEE GAIN LOON

Master of Arts (Communications and Cultural Studies) (2011)

Bachelor of Communication (2006)

Co-founder of Snow Sense Studio, Malaysia

Wilson is a founding partner of strategic communications agency Snow Sense Studio. He has over 15 years of experience in the communications and media industries, including working as a journalist for leading national news publications and managing media relations and corporate communications at PETRONAS.



“Monash Malaysia has taught me how to think critically, write persuasively, and speak clearly. These are lifelong skills that prime you for a promising career in any workplace environment no matter what industry or sector.”

ANTHEA HARYOKO

Bachelor of Communication (2010)

Head of External Relations at the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies, Indonesia

Anthea leads the External Relations department at the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies, an independent policy think tank in Jakarta, where she manages public outreach to garner support for state reforms.

TRAINING COSMOPOLITAN COMMUNICATORS

In a globalising world, skilled communicators are in high demand. Arts and social sciences graduates are masters of cross-cultural communication, able to relay complex ideas to diverse audiences of people and build relationships that cross borders. These cosmopolitan professionals are able to deftly shape and influence public opinion, thriving in the rapidly shifting media landscape.

“ In the five years since I left Monash, I’ve worked in PR firms based in Asia, Europe and the US and encountered diverse management styles and business cultures. I’ve built relationships with business and technology media sources including The Wall Street Journal, Reuters, The Associated Press and WIRED, to name a few. The broad and well-rounded education I received at Monash allowed me to thrive in changing conditions.”

BATS JAFFERJI

Honours Degree of Bachelor of Arts (2012)
Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Communications (2010)
Senior Associate at Lewis PR, Indonesia

Bats is a senior associate at a tech-focused PR firm, where she writes and manages press releases, messaging, and media liaison for international clients. She has worked across three continents, and credits Monash for her adaptability.



“ While I was doing the Sports Journalism unit at Monash, I was very lucky to receive media credentials for several sports events – and in the following year, I was offered jobs by the organising bodies behind these (IMG and AFC). Cross-cultural communication is something the School of Arts and Social Sciences emphasised a lot. Studying in a diverse environment has made me more culturally sensitive and open-minded towards new things. I learnt to see things from different perspectives.”

CHONG AI RENE

Masters of Communications and Media Studies (2014)
Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Communications and Journalism (2012)
Contract Media Manager at IMG, Malaysia

AI Rene is a freelance media manager who has been working with IMG since 2012, coordinating media, PR, and social media strategy for high-profile sports events such as the WTA Shenzhen Open and the LPGA Thailand 2018.



“ Monash has equipped me with various soft skills, like communications, problem solving, critical thinking and interpersonal skills, and especially being culturally literate in a diverse and international setting. These are extremely valuable on top of the technical skills that are required in my job, as they help to foster a more productive, healthy and collaborative working environment.”

ERNI

Bachelor of Arts and Social Sciences, Double Major in Communications & Global Studies (2018)
Data Processing Specialist at Nielsen, Indonesia

Erni works in an international, client-driven environment at Nielsen, where she specialises in data processing, database creation, and identifying areas to improve and optimise. She credits her time at Monash for helping her develop the cross-cultural communication she needed to thrive on the job.



“ I had several internships and work experiences throughout my time in Monash – ranging from internships at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Indonesia to working in Kuala Lumpur as a fashion and lifestyle contributor for Tongue in Chic, an online digital platform. These experiences were really crucial in developing my skills in the workplace. At work, I often [encountered] situations where I could refer to what I had learned at Monash – which was very useful and made me more confident in carrying myself within the industry and in work contexts.”

CAMELIA HARAHAHAP

Bachelor of Communication (2009)
Program Manager at the British Council, Indonesia
Camelia currently manages the British Council’s Arts and Creative Industries programs in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she focuses on establishing new connections and nurturing relationships between artists, practitioners, and stakeholders in the UK and Indonesian creative industries.



INFLUENCING GLOBAL CHANGE

“Monash made me feel that my opinion matters, and that I can contribute in some way to society. The world views that I acquired from the Monash Bachelor of Arts inspired me to reflect on issues of gender discrimination, and encouraged me to give something back when I returned to my home country of Sri Lanka.”

LIHINI RATWATTE

Bachelor of Arts (Global). Double Major in Communications and International Studies (2014)

Project Officer – UN Women, Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Through UN Women, Lihini works in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and other key public institutions to address the needs of women in Sri Lanka. She specifically works to support female heads of households, while also contributing to the country's peacebuilding agenda by engaging women in ongoing peace and reconciliation efforts.



“During my time at Monash, I developed the ability to recognise the strengths and nuances in different cultures and ideas, not only because of the academic content that I was exposed to but also because I got the opportunity to be a part of a diverse student cohort. ‘Critical thinking’ can be an overused term in the world of academia. My professors in Monash took the time to teach me how to think from a multidimensional perspective rather than assuming I already knew how to.”

AMEER SOBHAN

Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences), Majoring in International Studies (2014)

Master of Science (MSc) in Global Governance and Diplomacy (2016), University of Oxford
Programs and Partnerships Analyst at UNOPS, Bangladesh

Ameer works in the regional office of UNOPS in Bangkok. In his role as a member of the Regional Director's team, he furthers efforts to position UNOPS as a leading partner in infrastructure, program management, and other specialty areas. He is also deployed on missions to provide strategy development and communication support across Asia.



The arts and social sciences leave students with more than just a certificate – they inspire an ethos of championing equality and justice that lasts a lifetime. Graduates translate their individual passion to make a difference into careers with governments and organisations all over the world, approaching complex issues with the versatility and solution-based thinking that inspires positive change.



“During my last semester at Monash, as I was preparing to complete my final courses, I was also actively applying for internships and jobs back in Nairobi. I thought it was far-fetched because there were so many other qualified people who could get them, but that didn't stop me from applying, even with my one-page CV. As I was almost done with my final exams, I got my first interview invitation. Thanks to the skills gained in Monash, I was courageous enough to express myself well during the interview and a few days later I got an offer letter for my first real job.”

SAIDA LULU

Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Communications and International Studies (2011)

Regional Institutional Partnership Development Advisor at SOS Children's Village, Kenya

Saida is the Regional Institutional Partnership Development Advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She supports various countries in the portfolio in proposal development, grant acquisition, and fund management, and greatly enjoys seeing the social impact of her work for children in the region.

“Monash Malaysia helped shape me as an adult. It gave me what I needed the most: confidence and the belief that I was good enough to go out and take the world by storm, and that if I put my mind to it, all opportunities are accessible.”

ABEER YUSUF

Honours Degree of Bachelor of Arts (2011)

Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in International Studies and Journalism (2010)

Associate Producer at Roundhouse Radio, India

Originally from India, Abeer is now an Associate Producer and Board Operator at a radio station in Canada. She works on an arts and culture show called Sense of Place, which looks at questions of identity, belonging, and creative serendipity in Vancouver.



GAINING A COMPETITIVE EDGE

“A big part of my current job requires closing deals with external and internal stakeholders and nailing an important presentation helps with this. Most of the units in the MCMS course required major presentations – something as simple as presentation assessments also helped with working in teams and managing people, which is essential in my day-to-day work.”

LAURA IREEN LIEW

Master of Communications and Media Studies (2016)

Senior Professional in Product Marketing at Samsung, Malaysia

Laura works in the Internet and Mobile division of Samsung Malaysia Electronics as part of the content marketing team, helping to make strategic partnerships, and manage key communications channels.



Thanks to the versatility of the arts and social sciences, graduates have a competitive edge in just about any industry. Driven, creative, and disciplined, they effortlessly translate the learnings of the classroom into professional settings, earning reputations for being analytical, persuasive thinkers at the forefront of innovation and disruption in their respective fields.



“The digital world [is] very results-oriented. It's not really about how your clients feel about your writing. Now it's about whether writing brings in 'likes', interactions, or 'shares'. Because of this, you have to be able to figure out what's working in the advertising environment right now. You need to do this in order to decide whether you should emulate it or do something new based on new research. The research skills I learned at Monash taught me how to approach a situation in a very different manner rather than [only] looking at things from a specific angle.”

DIXON KHOO DI SHENG

Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences), Double Major in Communications and Psychology (2014)

Creative Copywriter at Forefront International, Malaysia

Dixon works as a creative writer for advertising and marketing agency Forefront International, and credits the research skills that have helped him develop a specialisation in digital communication to his time at Monash.



“Employers are looking for individual disruptors, who can adapt and deconstruct things to make them better, faster and more efficient. Monashians handle challenges with stride, and potential employers are cognizant of that. My time in Monash played an instrumental role in the most formative years of my life – it was a great learning experience that gave me time and clarity to carve out my future beyond the school. It also provided me the tools and capacities to grow into that future self that I strive to be.”

TAY SIAO LIN

Honours Degree of Bachelor of Communication (2015)

Bachelor of Communication (2014)

HR Business Partner at British American Tobacco, Malaysia

Siao Lin works for BAT in a dual function across both Malaysia and Singapore, helping to develop, grow, and upskill talent across all HR-related strategic and operational activities. She credits her time at SASS for helping her develop the grit she needed to excel at work.



“A majority of my profession revolves around dealing with people. Meeting people at Monash from different backgrounds, who have different ideas and opinions, has been a practical benefit in my career. [In my work], exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives is an advantage, as well as the ability to think and work independently, and most importantly be self-driven and motivated.”

NADIA DE SILVA

Bachelor of Communication (2012)

Senior Account Executive at Ogilvy PR, Sri Lanka

Nadia works with Ogilvy Public Relations in Sri Lanka, specialising in PR consultancy, media relations and crisis management. She credits her Monash degree for her well-rounded skillset and people skills.

YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE

These stories speak volumes about how an education in arts and social sciences at Monash University Malaysia forms a surefire route to success.

The well-rounded syllabus and close support and guidance from our dedicated staff provide a strong foundation on which graduates can build, crafting their own paths towards personal and professional growth. Whether they find themselves in research and academia, excelling within the heart of industry, or grappling with the complexities of diplomacy and humanitarian work, our alumni use the skills they have gained through their education to keep on progressing, expanding their horizons and making their names nationally and internationally. The possibilities are limitless.



CONTACT US

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The information in this brochure is correct at the time of publication (December 2019). Monash University Malaysia reserves the right to change the information in line with updates, from time to time. Please check the website (monash.edu.my) for the latest information.

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