

# Nilai UC's foundation programme will fast track you towards a degree of your choice.

## Benefits of a good Foundation

*For many school leavers, the options facing them are bewildering but here Nilai UC's President Professor Emeritus Dato' Tengku Shamsul Bahrin explains why their Foundation programmes are the best option.*

Nilai University College (Nilai UC) believes in making higher education accessible to as many students as possible within a shorter time frame than the traditional routes of STPM or 'A' levels. Nilai UC's School of Foundation Studies offers students a choice of two programmes – Foundation in Business or Foundation in Science and Technology. Entry requirement to both these programmes is 5 credits in SPM / O-level or equivalent; both are one-year programmes. The former is a preparatory course that provides a broad-based educational experience and prepares students for degree programmes in business related fields such as accounting, finance, marketing, management, logistics and hospitality. The latter is designed to provide entry to degree programmes in science, computing, technology, engineering and nursing.

Tengku Shamsul Bahrin, Nilai UC President, lists the benefits for form five school-leavers signing up to do the foundation studies programme.

## Tough Option

"Let's face it. The STPM is among the hardest and longest programme of its level in the world. Unless a student is striving to get into a public university, it is a better option for school leavers to explore other options such as Nilai UC's Foundation Studies programme," extols Tengku Shamsul. Similarly, the 'A' levels is a programme a student does if he or she wants to keep options open for an overseas education in a field that the student has not yet determined. Nilai UC's Foundation programmes are designed to help students get into degree programmes that they have already decided on.

"It's the logical choice for school leavers who have a clear idea of which programmes they want to do," said Tengku Shamsul. "Furthermore, you only need a pass in Foundation to proceed to the programme of your choice"

## Fast Track

An important thing to note is that Nilai UC's Foundation programmes only take a year and students who have completed their SPM examinations will be able to join the programme in January with their forecast results. The programme can then be completed by the end of the same year.

An STPM student will undergo two very hard years of slog. The 'A' levels is only marginally shorter at one-and-a-half years. Add to this the wait for the results. With the Foundation programmes at Nilai UC, students get fast tracked to a degree programme. "It is also important to note that with STPM, only a small percentage of students will actually end up in the programme they want to do at a public university. More often than not students do not get to do the degree of their first choice. The Foundation programmes are designed to get students into precisely the degree programmes they want," Tengku Shamsul emphasises.

## Modular System

Nilai UC's Foundation programmes follow a modular system. This allows students to focus specifically on certain areas and spread the workload over the three semesters. In STPM and most 'A' levels programmes, it is the final exams that count. This can be extremely stressful on students. Students who opt for the Foundation programme will also have the benefit of having 9 credits less in the degree programme as they already would have done the compulsory MQA courses by then.

"Nilai UC's Foundation programmes place an emphasis on thinking rather than continuous mugging. They enable transition to university education and what better way than to get accustomed at the university itself," stresses Tengku Shamsul.

## Mind Your Language

For many students, the move from public to private education is a major shock, not least because the medium of instruction at private universities and colleges is usually in English. The Foundation programmes at Nilai UC help remove this obstacle. This is because the pre-requisite English language modules (Eng 112-115) required for the degree programmes are included in the syllabus of the Foundation programmes. School leavers need not have to worry about a major English exam prior to gaining entry into university.

## International Recognition

Nilai UC's Foundation programmes are widely recognised by many major foreign universities offering a wide variety of programmes. Hence, a student who changes her mind and decides to go overseas will be accepted at many good foreign universities. The list of universities accepting Nilai UC's foundation students include Nilai UC's long-term academic partner, Oxford Brookes University, UK (consistently rated the best new university by the Times Good University Guide). A good number of other UK (e.g. University of Wales Bangor), New Zealand (e.g. Victoria University of Wellington) and Australian (e.g. Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University) recognise Nilai UC's Foundation programmes as sufficient entry requirement. The Foundation programme is the ideal pre-university programme for school leavers.

## A Free Head start

Another major plus point is that school leavers who enroll in Nilai UC's Foundation programme will be entitled to attend a two-week Headstart programme at absolutely no cost (this includes lodging). "Nilai UC's Headstart programme is designed to ease school leavers into their new environment and teach them useful skills such as public speaking, personal finance and leadership. Their computer skills will also be brought up to date and they will be taken on educational field trips," says Tengku Shamsul.

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