FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LIBERAL ARTS

• MASTER OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
• MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

In today's world of social and cultural fragmentation, the fields of education, psychology and communication have never been more pivotal. Knowledge is increasingly subjective, learning parameters are constantly redefined and information comes from many different sources. To better understand – and engage – the world around us, we require pertinent findings that shed new insights on the fabric of society.

UCSI University’s Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts works ceaselessly to provide these insights. Postgraduate studies are part and parcel of the Faculty’s DNA and research endeavours are driven by passion, perfectionism and a hunger of mind. The Faculty champions causes that matter and much has been done in the areas of children’s rights, child psychology and universal literacy.

This immersive environment will challenge you to think deeper than ever before as you test the assumptions that are associated with existing theories that may – or may no longer – apply in today’s borderless world. You will address pertinent issues in society and you will derive great satisfaction, knowing that your research has the propensity to make a profound impact. This is how we promote the social sciences and liberal arts at UCSI. And we want to hear from you if you feel the same way.

SENIOR PROFESSOR DATO’ DR KHALID YUSOFF
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

At UCSI University’s Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, we promote postgraduate programmes that matter. We keep our finger on the pulse of society and each offering is purposefully designed to address pertinent social concerns in Malaysia and beyond - concerns that have great bearing on our shared destinies.

The Master of Child Psychology is one such innovation. Designed with both children and child educators in mind, the programme addresses the cognitive and social-emotional needs of children. The rationale is simple: To bring out the best in children, one must first understand them – their needs, their anxieties and their motivations. The internal workings of a child’s mind differ greatly from adults and the sooner educators grasp this, the better.

Addressing industry concerns, the Faculty has also launched the Master of Arts in English Language and Communication. Delving into the intricacies of the language that vary according to the desired context and mediums of dissemination, the programme promotes a critical appreciation of how communication is done. And at the end of the process, postgraduate learners will possess the aptitude and the attitude to be the higher-order communicators the industry is crying out for.

If you can identify with the causes above and want to make a difference, I personally look forward to welcoming you at UCSI. Together we’ll go far.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DR CHAN NEE NEE
DEAN, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LIBERAL ARTS

UCSI UNIVERSITY
THE WORLD STUDIES HERE. SO SHOULD YOU.

UCSI University is a vibrant community of learning and scholarship. Students from over 80 countries study here and the University stands out as a dynamic melting pot of knowledge, culture and diversity. UCSI is anchored on a 30-year track record of excellence and it is one of Malaysia’s most successful and reputable education providers.

Internationalisation is a core focus of UCSI’s academic offerings. The University collaborates with many of the world’s best universities and doors open for UCSI students and staff wherever they go. UCSI’s top medical student was recently selected for an intercalated research year at Harvard University and many students have benefitted from UCSI’s partnerships with leading universities in the Ivy League, Russell Group, Universitas 21 and Australia’s Group of Eight.

UCSI is also synonymous with industrial relevance and graduate employability. Over 81% of all UCSI students secure employment within six months after they graduate. The University’s long-established industry partnership programme is instrumental in achieving this and UCSI students readily secure overseas internships from Britain to Japan.

Like them, your years at UCSI will impact your future career. And if you want to drive innovation, lead change and engineer the future, UCSI is your global passport.
Focusing on a crucial stage in developmental psychology, this programme equips graduate learners like yourself with new insights on how children learn and the way they interact with their surroundings. In-depth training and applied knowledge characterise the delivery of the programme and you will understand – and appreciate – how subjectivities bring out the best in children. Nothing is left to chance and you will challenge yourself as you test each assumption from the classroom to the socialisation process.

Offered via applied and research pathways, the programme is designed to suit different learning preferences. It was also tailored with you in mind. Delve full-time into the programme or opt for the part-time study option that addresses the rigorous demands and responsibilities shouldered by today’s educators. The latter sees classes being delivered in a format that fits your professional – and personal – schedule, negating any possibility of career disruption. Regardless of the study route, the programme will accomplish the same purpose: The positive impact it will have on your work.

With that assurance, you can look forward to an intellectual environment where ideas are constantly born, debated and refined. Your peers will be established professionals from diverse fields, setting the stage for a dynamic process of peer-to-peer learning and camaraderie. And as you participate in intense sessions that concern myriad fields from the development of a child’s self-concept to attachment theories, you will evolve into the higher-order educator the world needs. You will be versatile in your approach. You will learn to make the smarter decisions. And you won’t just adapt to change in the education system. You’ll be ahead of it.

These salient points set the Master of Child Psychology apart as the preferred choice for educators. It’s far more than a postgraduate qualification. It’s a future-proof gateway to tomorrow’s education. And most importantly, it’s the smarter solution to nurture a smarter generation.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

THEORIES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
This course introduces students to the different theories of child development. By reading it, students will develop a critical appreciation of what works – and what doesn’t – as they apply major theories to different circumstances.

CHILDREN’S COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT
Focusing on the most effective ways to develop language, literacy, numeracy and cognitive stimulation amongst preschool and school children, this course equips students with a critical understanding on how children process information. Stir a child’s imagination and realise his or her potential with techniques that are both timely and timeless.

CHILDREN’S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
While the socialisation process doesn’t quite make or break a child, it has great bearing on one’s outlook and personality. This course puts the focus on key issues that underpin a child’s social, emotional and moral framework.

ATYPICAL DEVELOPMENT
In a nutshell, children with special educational needs require special educators. This course promotes reflective knowledge of different ways to approach the education and assessment of children with intellectual challenges. Leave no stone unturned. Leave no child behind.

COUNSELLING AND THERAPY WITH CHILDREN
Every child needs to be heard. And those who don’t grow up in a blissful environment need to be heard more. The overall aim of this course is to equip educators with counselling and psychotherapy knowledge to counsel children and adolescents.

ASSESSMENTS IN CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
This course promotes a mastery of the fundamental principles behind the scientific study of a child’s mind and its functions that affect behaviour patterns. Understand the underlying assumptions and make the correlations that define psychological assessment.

CHILD PSYCHOPATHOLOGY
Taking graduate students through the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM5), this course equips one with the skills and patience to tackle the challenge of child and adolescent disorders.

ISSUES IN CHILD PSYCHOLOGY: FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES
Focusing on a child’s interpretation and understanding of the other, this course explores the impact of family structures, communities and cultural perspectives have within the field of child psychology.

ETHICS IN PSYCHOLOGY
Psychology is governed by strict ethical guidelines. And when something as delicate as a child’s mind is concerned, the highest standards must be maintained. This course introduces the code of ethics and best practices psychologists and counsellors adhere to the world over.

COMPULSORY COURSES

PATHWAY COURSES

PATHWAY 1

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
This course examines the full range of quantitative research methods relevant to the field of child psychology. Quantitative methods are pivotal in the area of reliability and students must possess a firm grasp of these techniques.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
Addressing validity, this course covers the design and implementation of qualitative research through theory and practice.

TESTING AND MEASUREMENT
This course equips students with a historical perspective of research instruments and how testing should be done to confirm a hypothesis.

RESEARCH PROJECT
The research project sees student completing a scientific study using theoretical and practical applications.

PATHWAY 2

BEHAVIOUR AND EMOTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN
This course is designed to provide students with an overview of assessments that form an integral part of child psychology.

COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN
This course familiarises students with the major approaches and techniques that are used to assess the intellectual progression of children and adolescents.

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CBT)
Evidence-based in nature, this course is a short-term problem-oriented method in psychological treatment.

PRACTICUM
The practicum provides students with an opportunity to gain experience in the industry. Students may leverage on UCSI University’s wide industry network to put their knowledge into practice.
UCSI’s Master of Arts in English Language and Communication is at the forefront of bringing together studies in English and communication, focusing on the communicative aspects of the English language. This makes it highly relevant in today’s modern era where communication is achieved through various mediums – print, visual, audio, and even a combination of all three. The programme will provide a competitive advantage for those who seek to master how messages are produced and interpreted, as well as how they are disseminated and ultimately become a cultural artifact.

The research component focuses on not just language per se, but explores in diverse ways how language is disseminated, mobilised and mediated through multiple modes of communication. To address this multimodal quality of contemporary communication and the need to examine the complex nature of networked language and communication, intertextuality, graphic narratives, global communication and semiotics are examined as part of the research component.

By the time you graduate, you will have a sound understanding of the application of English and communication skills in relation to the objectives of different stakeholders: business, industries, governments and even NGOs. You will develop a critical appreciation of how communication is performed through academic and practical lenses. If you are looking for a postgraduate degree that will take your career to the next level, this is the ideal programme for you.

SUGGESTED ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

FULL-TIME

YEAR 1

COURSES OFFERED
- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
- LANGUAGE, THOUGHT AND CULTURE
- THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
- SEMIOTICS
- CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS
- CRITICAL LITERACIES
- MULTIMODALITY AND INTERTEXUALITY
- GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 2

COURSES OFFERED
- SEMINAR IN LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- MEDIA TALK AND CONVERSATION ANALYSIS
- POSTMODERNIST CULTURE
- ENGLISH IN PROFESSIONAL CONTEXT
- GRAPHIC NARRATIVES
- THESIS

PART-TIME

YEAR 1

COURSES OFFERED
- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
- LANGUAGE, THOUGHT AND CULTURE
- THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
- SEMIOTICS
- CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS
- CRITICAL LITERACIES

YEAR 2

COURSES OFFERED
- MULTIMODALITY AND INTERTEXUALITY
- GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- SEMINAR IN LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
- MEDIA TALK AND CONVERSATION ANALYSIS
- POSTMODERNIST CULTURE

YEAR 3

COURSES OFFERED
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- ENGLISH IN PROFESSIONAL CONTEXT
- GRAPHIC NARRATIVES
- THESIS
COURSE DESCRIPTION

COMPULSORY COURSES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
The course aims to introduce the process of research that will enhance the students’ thorough knowledge in different approaches such as qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research, which are essential in research paper writing.

LANGUAGE, THOUGHT AND CULTURE
Questions about the relationship between language and reality, and the association between language and experiences are investigated through this course. It seeks to raise awareness about the role language plays in shaping our world, our ideas, and our way of living.

THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
This course examines both general theories of language and communication and those specific to particular contexts such as intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, intercultural, and public communication. A wide range of readings reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of language in the context of contemporary communication studies and research.

SEMIOTICS
Get an introduction to how semiotics, the science of signs, is used in textual systems. As language is one textual system of signs among many, this course focuses on the study of language as a sign system, as well as the study of audio and visual sign systems.

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS
This course will provide students with a comprehensive framework of the various approaches to analysing discourses, focusing on issues related to identity, race, gender, and power within discourse analysis.

CRITICAL LITERACIES
Obtain a critical perspective by actively examining, analysing, and deconstructing texts and by writing down your own interpretation of texts using new types of literacies relevant to the demands of our contemporary era.

MULTIMODALITY AND INTERTEXTUALITY
This module provides a paradigm for analysing communication found in (non-)verbal language and visual presentations. Semiotic modes contributing to multimodality i.e. the text, image, diagram, non-verbal language and analytic methods will be examined to generate the meaning and to understand the complexity of the multimodal artifacts. Besides this form of multimodal literacy, students will draw on the multimodal artifact of genre to gain awareness of how historical, social, and cultural contexts are crucial for the consideration of meaning.

GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Obtain an in-depth understanding of the relationship between communication and information technology on a global scale through this fascinating course. It specifically considers the emergence of, and new approaches to, the cross-border flow of information and cultural products through social media and other online applications.

SEMINAR IN LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
Understand how language and communication have been altering the landscape of human lives, and politics through this course. This course also highlights how language, in its everyday as well as professional usages enables us to understand issues of social concern.

INDEPENDENT STUDY
This semester-long unit is intended to provide the students with the opportunity to explore an area of research interest through a guided reading schedule. Students will work closely with an academic supervisor for this course to identify the area of interest to be addressed and to design the reading lists and schedule. Students will be required to produce a literature review of the material covered in the lists at the end of the semester.

THESIS
The unit requires students to draw together the strands of learning which have been achieved during the course as well as to extend their expertise in appropriate research and enquiry methods. They must identify a topic in English Language & Communication for personal investigation and reporting. This will demonstrate and enhance their skills and knowledge in the field as well as hone their transferrable skills such as communication, teamwork and time management.

ELECTIVES

MEDIA TALK AND CONVERSATION ANALYSIS
Broadcast will be viewed as the channel of various types of talks which are contested sites of meanings and representations in terms of media effects, in this course. It presents a critical perspective in understanding and interpreting the concepts of identity, legitimacy, trust, addressitivity, and performance. Students are required to transcribe talks and analyse them using conversation analysis. It aims to help students understand a wide range of texts including natural speech, professional documentation, political rhetoric, interview, internet communication, newspapers, magazines, and broadcast media.

POSTMODERNIST CULTURE
The course focuses on the analysis of the influence of postmodernist culture, an aesthetic that rejects hierarchy and celebrates diversity. The course will also discuss postmodern trends in various disciplines (law, music, psychotherapy, dance, ecology, new technologies, film, etc.) and the emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue. More specifically, the course examines the growing ‘shifts’ in focus between science and art, high and popular culture, and image and reality, and also analyses the politics of racial, gender, and ethnic differences while challenging dominant Western cultural models.

ENGLISH IN PROFESSIONAL CONTEXT
Experience a practical training in the designing and managing of English in professional contexts, through this course. It includes developing materials for English for Occupational Purposes, English for Science and Technology, and English for Academic Purposes.

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE
Focus on the study of graphic narratives, including graphic novels, cartoons, comics, manga (and their extension into anime), as well as illustrations within narratives, through this course. It explores how graphic narrative has become a vital new creative and narrative genre, which has a strong interactive influence on culture in society.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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<th>QUALIFICATIONS</th>
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<th>MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS</th>
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<td>MA/MA (professional)</td>
<td>The Faculty may require the candidate to undergo a matching course at the undergraduate level before undertaking the master’s courses</td>
<td>(i) MQA-accredited local or internationally recognised bachelor’s degree in English Language Studies or any related discipline (i.e Language, Linguistics, General Communication Studies etc).&lt;br&gt;(ii) Credit Transfer /Exemption (Case – by – case basis)</td>
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<td>Or recognised equivalent degree</td>
<td>(i) Min CGPA 3.0&lt;br&gt;(ii) English Language</td>
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DURATION OF COURSE
- FULL-TIME - 2 years (4 semesters)
- PART-TIME - 3 years (6 semesters)