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UCSI's new 3D lab is out of this world

UCSI University constantly upgrades its facilities to meet the demand of today's technology.

Recently, its School of Design launched its newest 3D laboratory, which is for 3D animation design programme students

The laboratory, located at the university's Kuala Lumpur campus, is equipped with computers with the highest specifications.

Aside from the standard software available for 3D animation, the computers are also equipped with Maya and Adobe Creative Suite Production Preview software, which will be used for subjects which require animation studies, matte painting, modelling, advanced modelling, editing, compositing and special effects, and rendering. The lab is equipped with a hi-fi audio system for movie screenings.

The laboratory is called Quest Land, with a design on its walls, to immerse students in a fairy tale land where lec-

urers guide them.

The fairy tale land mural in the lab shows caricatures of the School of Design staff members.

Present at the opening ceremony was Hassan Abd Muthalib, president of the Animation Society of Malaysia, and one of the external examiners for the university's 3D programme.

"3D animation in Malaysia is a booming industry with wide career prospects. A graduate who is skilled in this field can venture into many different fields, from designing simulators for the aviation industry and medicine industry, to programming computer games and educational audio visual tools."

Leroy Fong Kien Ynn, a tutor in the 3D programme, said: "Technology in the last few years has changed tremendously, and this has affected the demand for 3D animation graduates.

"Advances in technology for mobile phones, computers and software continue to

boost the 3D animation industry."

UCSI University students also benefit from the Co-Operative Placement (Co-Op) programme, where they work in the industry for a two-month attachment or internship in a year.

This will give UCSI University students a head start in work experience.

The programme trains 3D animation students to do research, planning, designing, storyboarding, modelling, rendering and testing while in the programme.

According to Dr Irene Tan Ai Lian, dean for the Faculty of Social Sciences, Music and Design, this programme required a passion for the craft.

She said the School of Design made it a point to involve students in university-level events, which in turn exposes them to the real world.

Visit UCSI's open days from Friday to Sunday (between 10am and 5pm) or visit www.ucsi.edu.my