

# DISTED COLLEGE

# DisCourse

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## Aligning Education with Industry

The value of a college degree, particularly in Malaysia, highlights several key points. Unlike in the U.S., college graduates face unique challenges in the job market in Malaysia. The graduate unemployment rate in Malaysia was recorded at 3.4% as of the third quarter of 2023, indicating a persistent issue in graduate employability. This situation is attributed to several factors, including a mismatch between the education system and job market demands, economic shifts towards knowledge-based sectors, oversaturation in specific fields, and the need for effective government initiatives.

The challenges in Malaysia's job market underscore the necessity for an education system that is adaptive, responsive, and aligned with real-world skills and job requirements. This approach is vital to ensure that graduates are well-educated, employable, and ready to contribute effectively to the country's economic growth.

DISTED College stands as an example of an institution adapting to these challenges. It has established robust partnerships with industry players, integrating their insights into curriculum development. This strategy ensures that the curriculum remains relevant to industry requirements, thus enhancing the employability of its graduates. The college's continuous effort to forge new relationships in the industry benefits students by preparing them for the professional world and ensuring that they meet industry expectations from the start of their careers.

While the value of a college degree remains significant globally, specific challenges in Malaysia need addressing to ensure that graduates can transition effectively into the workforce. Institutions like DISTED College are pivotal in this effort, bridging the gap between education and employment through industry collaborations and curriculum development.



Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair  
President 院长

### 教育与行业的连接

大学学位的价值，特别是在马来西亚，突显了一些关键点。与美国不同，马来西亚的大学毕业生在就业市场上面临着独特的挑战。据记录，截至 2023 年第三季度，马来西亚的毕业生失业率为 3.4%，这表明毕业生的就业能力一直存在问题。造成这种情况的原因有几个，包括教育体系与就业市场需求不匹配、经济向知识型行业转变、特定领域过度饱和以及政府需要采取有效举措。

马来西亚就业市场所面临的挑战显示出，教育系统必须具有适应性、响应性，并与现实世界的技能和工作要求保持一致。这种立意对确保毕业生受过良好教育、具备就业能力，并能够有效为国家经济增长做出贡献至关重要。

立达学院是适应这些挑战的典范。学院与行业企业建立了稳固的合作关系，将他们的见解融入到课程开发中。这一策略确保课程与行业需求保持相关性，从而提高毕业生的就业能力。学院不断努力在行业中建立新的关系，为学生进入专业领域做好准备，并确保他们从职业生涯一开始就满足行业的期望，从而使学生受益匪浅。

尽管大学学位在世界各地仍然具有显著的价值，但在马来西亚，需要解决特定的挑战，以确保毕业生能够有效地融入职场。像立达学院这样的机构在这方面发挥着关键作用，它们通过行业合作和课程开发，在教育和就业之间架起了桥梁。

(Mandarin Translator, Tan Pei Shi, Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality)





## Kieran Rey Richard Earns President's Honours List at DISTED College

Kieran Rey Richard has earned a place of honour on the President's Honours List at DISTED College, marking an outstanding achievement in his academic journey. Join us in celebrating his dedication and exceptional performance. Since enrolling in DISTED College's Foundation in Arts (FIA) Programme in October 2023, Kieran has shown an unwavering commitment to his education. He chose this programme to explore a diverse range of subjects and discover his true interests before specialising. By embracing a wide spectrum of courses, Kieran not only expands his knowledge but also hones his critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The FIA Programme at DISTED College provides a strong academic foundation, which will serve as a springboard for Kieran's future pursuits. His choice to study here was influenced by a glowing recommendation from his cousin, a successful DISTED College alumni. This, coupled with the institution's stellar reputation for academic excellence, convinced Kieran that this was the ideal place for his educational journey.

Kieran's inclusion on the President's Honours List is a testament to his dedication and DISTED College's commitment to nurturing exceptional talent. We congratulate Kieran on this well-deserved accolade and look forward to witnessing his continued growth and accomplishments. His passion for learning and pursuit of excellence will undoubtedly lead to a bright and promising future.

Geong Chooi Peng  
 Head, School of Pre-University Studies

## To Pursue Computer Science or Electrical Engineering? Which One Offers Better Prospects?



In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, choosing a career path can be a daunting task, especially when faced with the decision between computer science and electrical engineering. Both fields offer promising prospects, but they cater to distinct aspects of the technological realm.

Computer Science, at its core, focuses on the study of algorithms, programming languages, and the design of software systems. Graduates in this field are equipped to develop innovative software solutions, work with artificial intelligence, and contribute to advancements in areas like cybersecurity and data analysis. With the rapid growth of the tech industry, computer science professionals are in high demand, making it a lucrative and dynamic career choice.

On the other hand, Electrical Engineering delves into the realm of hardware, electronics, and the intricacies of electrical systems. This field encompasses the design and development of electrical circuits, microprocessors, and communication systems. Electrical engineers play a crucial role in shaping the future of telecommunications, power systems, and emerging technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT). Given the

increasing integration of technology into our daily lives, the demand for skilled electrical engineers remains robust.

When weighing the prospects of these two fields, it's essential to consider personal interests and long-term goals. If a passion for coding, software development, and problem-solving drives you, computer science may be the ideal choice. On the other hand, if you find fascination in understanding how electronic devices function, designing circuits, and shaping the hardware that powers our digital world, electrical engineering might be a better fit.

Ultimately, both computer science and electrical engineering offer promising career paths with ample opportunities for growth and innovation. The decision boils down to individual preferences and strengths. To ensure success, it's crucial to align your choice with your passions, ensuring that you embark on a fulfilling journey that harmonizes with your skills and interests in the ever-evolving technological landscape.

Lee Kor Yong  
 Senior Lecturer, School of Computing & Engineering



## The Impact of Setting Goals on Mental Health: Navigating New Beginnings in the Academic Sphere

A new academic semester heralds a time for students and staff to reevaluate priorities and set goals. Establishing objectives, especially in the form of New Year's resolutions, carries profound psychological implications that significantly influence mental well-being. Understanding the nuanced interplay between these aspirations and mental health is crucial for fostering a balanced and thriving academic environment.

Setting goals acts as a compass, guiding individuals towards purposeful endeavours. For DISTED students, these aspirations often revolve around academic achievements, personal growth, and engagement in extracurricular activities. Accomplishing these targets propels motivation and cultivates a sense of fulfilment, enhancing self-esteem and bolstering confidence. However, the pursuit of these aspirations can present challenges. Goals that are excessively ambitious or unrealistic may lead to undue stress. The pressure to meet high expectations within designated timeframes can trigger anxiety and self-doubt, potentially hindering mental well-being.

The crux lies in finding a balance. Realistic and achievable goals encourage motivation without exacerbating stress levels. Embracing setbacks as part of the growth process fosters resilience, mitigating the adverse effects of unmet expectations. A mindful approach to goal setting is imperative for students embarking on a new semester. Individuals can positively influence their mental health by establishing attainable objectives, celebrating incremental achievements, and embracing the learning curve. This balanced approach facilitates academic or professional growth and ensures a healthier mindset essential for navigating the challenges inherent in a new academic term.

In conclusion, setting and pursuing goals are integral to academic advancement, but a mindful and balanced approach is crucial in safeguarding mental well-being while pursuing these aspirations. Striking this balance ensures academic success and a conducive environment for fostering mental health and personal growth within the academic sphere.

Syahirah Farwin Binti Sarkuna Mohamed Azhari  
Lecturer, School of Psychology





## SPACE Residences @ DISTED College: Home Away From Home

Experience the ultimate student living at SPACE Residences! Our 5-story "home away from home" on King Street, Penang, offers a perfect environment for focused study and comfortable living. Our air-conditioned bedrooms come fully furnished with beds, cosy mattresses, spacious wardrobes, study tables, and ergonomic chairs, ensuring your academic success.

We understand the importance of staying connected at SPACE Residences, so we provide free high-speed internet service. Our communal kitchen facilities, including a refrigerator, laundry, and cooking equipment, cater to your daily needs, making life convenient.

Safety is our priority, and our vigilant building management and in-house security guards ensure a secure living environment for all our student residents.

We also have a live-in Resident Assistant, a Senior College Student, who offers pastoral care and fosters a vibrant, supportive community for all residents. Located in a bustling area, our residence is surrounded by banks, clinics, restaurants, coffee shops, and convenience stores, making it easy to meet your daily requirements.

Explore our new types of hostel beds, including Single Rooms with Balcony starting from RM1200, Twin Sharing Single Beds from RM750, Triple Sharing Single Beds from RM580, and Double Decker (Triple/Quad) options starting from RM480. Join the SPACE Residences community today for a superior student living experience!



## Congratulations to all Graduating Students of Cambridge A-level (November 2023 Examination Series)

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the Graduating Students of the Cambridge A-level November 2023 Examination Series at DISTED College!

The eagerly awaited moment has arrived as Cambridge Assessment International Education officially released the results on 10th January 2024. It is with immense pride that we acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of our students. Their success is not only a personal triumph but also a shared achievement for our college, a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence. DISTED College has a long-standing tradition of nurturing

high-achieving students; this year is no exception. We are delighted to announce that our students achieved a remarkable 100% pass rate in AS Accounting, Economics, English General Paper, English Language, Further Mathematics, Law, A2 English Language, and Physics for the November 2023 series.

Among our remarkable graduates, we would like to recognise and celebrate the following top achievers who have made us exceptionally proud:

1. Long Ji-Rui
2. Hannah Bethany Savaridas
3. RN Umayal
4. Katrina Tan Jo-Anne

5. Jess Lim
6. Victor Wong Hong Feng
7. Nur Faziana Binti Abdul Ghafar

Their dedication and hard work have set a shining example for all aspiring students at DISTED College. As we applaud the achievements of our graduates, we also want to convey our best wishes for their bright futures. This is just the beginning of their remarkable journey, and we are confident that they will continue to excel and make us proud in all their endeavours.

Geong Chooi Peng  
Head, School of Pre-University Studies

As of September 30, 2023, the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) reports a thriving community of over 38,000 members actively engaged in various industries across all states of Malaysia. For individuals equipped with expertise in cost and management accounting, a plethora of career prospects await, providing them with a diverse array of opportunities.

Some of the most popular career paths in this field:

**Cost accountants** specialise in analysing and managing the costs related to product or service production. Employing cost accounting techniques, they guide businesses in informed decision-making on pricing, production strategies, and inventory management, ultimately contributing to profit maximisation and operational efficiency.

**Financial analysts** analyse financial data to aid businesses and individuals in making investment decisions. Utilising cost-benefit analysis and financial forecasting methods, they assess potential risks and rewards, providing stakeholders with insights for well-informed choices in finance.

Overall, a firm cost and management accounting foundation creates numerous career opportunities in finance or accounting. At DISTED, our dedicated lecturers are committed to providing you with the essential skills and knowledge to excel in this field. Embrace the opportunities in cost and management accounting, starting a rewarding journey toward shaping a prosperous financial future for yourself and others.

**Management accountants** operate within businesses, offering financial insights through techniques like budgeting, forecasting, and performance evaluation. Serving as strategic advisors, they assist companies in steering toward success and growth.

**Financial planners** work with individuals and families to help them manage their finances and plan for their future. They draw upon cost and management accounting techniques to assist clients in creating budgets, saving for retirement, and preparing for significant life events such as purchasing a home or starting a business.

## The Real-World Applications of Cost and Management Accounting in Your Career



Tong Pei Sun  
Senior Lecturer, School of Business & Hospitality