Rounded education at NUMed

FIRST-YEAR medical students of Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) are discovering the spirit behind a famous saying of Hippocrates, Greek physician and father of modern medicine, “Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity”, as they embark on their journey through medicine.

Jerry Tan and Izham Halid were among the students who did not know what to expect when they first enrolled into the university. However, both have settled in well and are enjoying their first step towards becoming a doctor.

Tan said his first year at NUMed had been amazing. “There is a lot of work but I expected this as becoming a doctor requires commitment! The course structure keeps the work interesting and I find it rewarding,” he said.

NUMed’s courses offer a carefully structured combination of hands-on practical skills and laboratory sessions, lectures and demonstrations in state-of-the-art lecture theatres and small group work in seminar-friendly classrooms.

There is a real focus on delivering a rounded education and this means developing key technical, practical and communication skills, as well as acquiring the essential scientific knowledge that underpins medicine.

“The hands-on approach is helpful. For example, recently in our Patient, Doctor and Society elective, we learnt about pregnancy. We visited a pregnant woman and spoke to her. We even had a resident simulated patient called Sven that allows students to practice techniques, including closing a patient’s airway or inserting an intravenous drip line into a vein, as well as treating emergencies such as heart attack or septicaemic shock,” said Tan.

Active learning and simulated patients, like Sven, are a central part of the Medicine (MBBS) course at NUMed and at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. In fact, NUMed students enjoy identical training standards and curriculum to those at Newcastle University, UK.

Certain aspects have simply been contextualised to Malaysian culture and circumstances. This allows students to adapt quickly should they choose to spend a period of study in the UK.

NUMed became the first university outside of the UK to receive recognition by the General Medical Council (GMC) – the statutory body that registers and regulates doctors in the UK.

This was an important milestone for NUMed as it means Malaysians who study medicine at NUMed and carry out their postgraduate clinical training programme in Malaysian hospitals can apply for full registration as doctors with GMC as well as the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC).

“I have had a fantastic first year at NUMed. The highlight of the year was the NUMed Ball. It was a fun way to end the year and mingle with students from across the years,” said Izham.

NUMed is well known for its diverse student population, which is reflected by the wide range of ethnic and social societies available.

Event highlights include the NUMed Games, the Winter Ball, a Deepavali night and a Talent show. These activities have provided the students with exposure to different cultures and to socialise across different cohorts.

For more information, visit http://www.ncl.ac.uk/numed/.