



UOM S.E. Asia Centre Newsletter

Autumn 2021 Issue

Latest Happenings

- Director's Desk**
Dear from our Centre Director on this season's latest updates and current state of affairs.
- Alumni Spotlight**
Our alumni have made it in the news! See what impact they have made in the region and get inspired!
- Introducing our new program**
Get informed about our latest course 'MA Educational Leadership in Practice' and its course structure.
- Latest Covid updates and Travel Advisory**
Singapore is carefully opening its borders. Read more on how this might affect your study plans.
- Latest Intake 2021**
Welcome to July 2021 and MSC FM September 2021 intake students to the Manchester Family.
- Upcoming Events**
We've got exciting events lined up this quarter! Check out our calendar and mark those dates.
- How are you handling online decorum?**
Did you know that subtle nuances might be affecting your online presence? Read more about it!

Director's Desk
Lim Bee Ing, Centre Director, The University of Manchester Southeast Asia Centre

We began the second half of 2021 being on guard as an unprecedented spike in new Covid-19 cases threw a spanner in the works of the gradual reopening of Singapore's borders. Thankfully, this new wave of cases has been managed by the government task force's quick response in mitigating the spread through a short reclassification to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) as well as aggressive and expedited administration of the vaccination program. We are glad to announce that as of late, Singapore has achieved an 81% vaccinated population, with 83% already having received their first dose of the vaccine.

Given the high proportion of a vaccinated population, the Government has begun taking progressive steps in its next phase of reopening the Singapore economy. It's been recognized that Covid-19 will still likely continue to pervade society in the coming years despite best efforts to bring ourselves to Covid-0 (Covid-free country), and hence we begin to embark on the roadmap to re-classifying Covid-19 from a 'Pandemic' to an 'Endemic'. While public opinion is still somewhat divided on the matter, it is a necessary step in order to reopen our doors to the world. With that, concrete measures are being introduced in order to build up our capabilities to contain the spread of the virus when the international does take place. One measure that Singapore is actively pursuing is forming international travel arrangements with countries that have progressed well in their efforts to contain the virus, with the 'Vaccinated Travel Lane' being progressively set up with countries such as Brunei, Darussalam, Germany, and New Zealand.

On the ground, we are looking forward to hosting more events to get connected with our current students and alumni. We have lined up several exciting events for everyone this quarter. Do look out for a special highlight event in October where you get to unleash your creativity in an art jamming session and get some useful tips on maintaining your mental wellness to cope with life in the new normal after Covid. This participation is all part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme to do good for the community, so keep a lookout for our invites, and we look forward to everyone's participation in them.

We are pleased to announce the introduction of a new course - MA Educational Leadership in Practice (ELIP). This program is especially beneficial for educators who are looking to move into leadership roles within their organisation as it equips them with higher-order thinking skills and best practices from around the globe. More information can be found on our website, so check it out if you are in the education field.

We are extremely hopeful that Singapore is on the right path to re-opening our borders and lifting our restrictions, and we can't wait to welcome everyone again. The Manchester team here is constantly monitoring the guidelines and will provide prompt updates where necessary. We hope to see you all again at the centre very soon and until then, keep safe, and we wish you the best of health.

New Intake, New Journey

Welcoming our July 2021 Global MBA students on 21st July 2021

Manchester's Global MBA programme is flourishing despite the pandemic situation and heightened alert restrictions! Our July '21 intake was oversubscribed, and we were so excited to host the incoming MBA candidates online last month on 21st July 2021. During the induction, our students were hosted by Ms Christine Karika, Team Lead of our Student Advisory and Support Team, via zoom. Students were given vital course information and what they could expect during the course.

3 of our esteemed MBA alumni, Mr Teo Teck Loon, Mr Xerxes Shroff and Ms Nicole Tetteen also shared invaluable tips and insights on their professional and personal journeys. They touched on productivity hacks, work-life balance, and the wealth of skills the global alumni network gained during their MBA journey.

They also hosted a casual Q&A session to answer some thoughtful questions about balancing their studies with their professional responsibilities. We were glad to hear that the students enjoyed themselves, and we look forward to supporting them through their first term and wish them lots of luck with their studies.

Once again, we would like to wish our July 2021 Global MBA cohort a warm welcome!



Welcoming our Inaugural September 2021 MSc Financial Management Students on 26th August 2021

A total of 22 students from Manchester Worldwide Institute of Higher Education, South East Asia and The University of Manchester - East Asia met virtually for the first time last week and had a wonderful time networking with each other. Distance is not a barrier for these global students! Academics have carefully crafted the MSc Financial Management programme at Alliance Manchester Business School, led by course director Dr Amedeo De Cesari, Senior Lecturer in Finance.

It is intended to transform professionals into confident business leaders and help learners achieve further career progression by equipping them with the financial management knowledge and skills sought by organisations worldwide.

The students also took part in an online induction on 1st September, where they got to meet with Programme Director Dr Amedeo De Cesari and Student Support staff Nicola Kenny to learn more about their upcoming learning journey.

We wish the students all the best and hope they enjoy the learning journey!

Celebrating Manchester's Alumni

Alumni Spotlight - Ven Chin

Michelle Award-winning Founder of F&B Establishments - GD Group and OMI Group

Ven Chin is a Serial Entrepreneur who has won multi awards in Singapore and Australia. Besides founding the Japanese concept restaurant OMI Group, Ven also founded GD Group, an award-winning restaurant chain in Singapore. Under Ven Chin's management, GD Group has grown to 7 restaurants with a turnover of SGD 15 Million under the brand of Gurney Drive, Penang Culture, Penang St Buffet & Mamak Culture in a span of 6 years.

As an alumni of the Manchester Global MBA programme, what would you say is the most important thing you learnt from your journey with Manchester that has helped you grow your business immeasurably?

The most valuable skill that took away from my Manchester Global MBA would be weighing up my options or ideas against the resources that I have at hand and making the best choice on the steps to take forward. Often, resources are limited, and we have to apply discretion in terms of how they are used and what they are used for to maximise the opportunities ahead.

What is the best advice you can give to students planning to embark on their own entrepreneurial journey to expand their business?

Push forward, put yourself out there, and put your customers first.



Alumni Spotlight - Sunil Rai

Congratulations to our global MBA alumnus Sunil Rai who made the prestigious Asian Legal Business Super 50 TMT Lawyers list. Sunil Rai is a partner in Dentons' India's Corporate practice group. He is also Co-Head of the Investment Funds, Venture Tech & Emerging Growth Companies, White Collar Crime/Investigations practices and the India desk.

Upcoming Events

- UoM Alumni Perspectives Webinar Series - 23rd September 2021**
In our next Alumni Perspectives, join Alumnus Tim Stokes (Senior Global Business Executive, Sony India active Entertainment) as he talks about trends in the gaming industry - covering the growth, impacts of the pandemic, new entrants and future growth as well as PlayStation's response to new entrants and changing landscape and predictions for the future.
[Register Here](#)
- The Art of Networking & Cross Cultural Communication - 30th September 2021**
Seize this opportunity to consider real-life challenges and learn more about the art of networking and cross-cultural communication to successfully navigate local and global situations in both offline and online settings.
[Sign Up Now](#)
- Upcoming Annual General Meeting for MBSAAS - 14th October**
The annual AGM for members and appointment holders of MBSAAS is a great networking and sharing opportunity for all registered alumni, and for the committee to reflect on the past year and plan for the year ahead.
[Register your interest](#)
- Let's Paint and Give Art Therapy to Vulnerable Children - 30th October**
In celebration of the World Mental Health Day on 10th October, join us for an art jamming session and a mental wellness talk to take your mind off the stress you are going through. Proceeds will go to the vulnerable children of the Rare Disease Society of Singapore for Art therapy sessions over the next few months.
[Sign Up Now](#)

Past Events

- Leading into your New Normal**
What a great experience listening to Andrew Jones, Executive Coach and Facilitator, speaking about 'Leading Into Your New Normal'!
Andrew highlighted how we could rebuild trust in virtual teams and provided tips on conducting effective and productive virtual meetings. Our students and alumni also had many opportunities to interact and share their perspectives during the breakout session. The engaging session ended with our attendees asking Andrew many pertinent questions, and we are sure that many received practical, actionable strategies just as we did!
Thank you once again to Andrew for the insightful workshop and to the 50+ students and alumni from Manchester, South East Asia and East Asia for joining us on Wednesday to make the workshop an excellent learning experience for all of us!
- Donation to Apex Harmony Lodge**
On 29 May 2021, a total of 217 alumni, students and staff from The University of Manchester participated in the Worldwide Manchester Run 2021. As part of it, the Manchester Business School Alumni Association of Singapore (MBSAAS) were able to raise funds as a donation to the charity of their choice, Apex Harmony Lodge. Apex Harmony Lodge is the first and only purpose-built Lodge for Persons with Dementia (PWD) and provides Long Term Residential Care, Dementia Day Care, and Community Care for Young Onset and Early Stage Dementia since 1999.
We are always glad to see our students and alumni give back to society with their efforts and look forward to seeing more of such activities in the future.

Introducing our new program

MA Educational Leadership
Gain valuable leadership skills and experience for a variety of educational settings.

Find out more about the MA Educational Leadership

With the successful launch of our MSc Financial Management programme and the recent inaugural welcome of the September 2021 students, our Centre is expanding its offerings with its part-time MA Educational Leadership in Practice.

MA Educational Leadership in Practice (ELIP) is ideal if you're an educational professional currently working in, or aspiring to work in, a leadership position. The course is taught by leading academics in the fields of leadership, management, and school improvement.

Senior educational experts may also contribute, including headteachers, inspectors, local authority officers and policy makers. Teaching encourages student participation, shared experiences and opportunities for practical application.

Depending on your background and experience, you may find the approach rather different from your previous experiences at university.

[Find out more](#)

How are you handling online decorum?



You are more likely to be scrutinized in online meetings.

We're just over one year into adapting to the virtual world ever since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Virtual meetings have largely taken over our study and work-life despite eating of restrictions here in Singapore as most companies and schools are still on work-from-home arrangements and virtual classes respectively.

However, it is still surprising to see how some people have yet to achieve a certain level of online decorum when going to see their daily work online. From unneeded microphones to distracting movements to never-ending bouts of "Can you hear me?" or "No you go first, we're here to make sure you're spiffy and professional in both the physical and virtual world.

- Here are some important pointers to take note of when conducting yourself online -
- 1. Test your setup before a meeting -**
Make sure your camera and microphone are working properly.
 - 2. Arrive early -**
Get settled and make sure you are prepared for the meeting.
 - 3. Mute by default when in a virtual meeting room -**
This is an unspoken rule; if you're not speaking, mute yourself.
 - 4. Be appropriately dressed -**
Ensure that you are in full attire rather than half to avoid potential slip-ups.
 - 5. Have as much of a clear and solid background as possible -**
This goes for blurred and pixelated background as well.
 - 6. Minimise body movements -**
You're on a platform where everyone can see everyone, and every distracting movement is attention taken away from the speaker.
 - 7. Set boundaries -**
Try to be in a private place when in an online meeting to minimise distractions from family or strangers.
 - 8. Pay attention -**
Just as you would want others to be attentive when you are speaking, reciprocate the attention for others as well.
 - 9. Don't interrupt others -**
Cross-talk is the bane of virtual meetings. Allow the current speaker to finish before taking your turn.
 - 10. Avoid speaking right away -**
Another unspoken rule: once someone is done speaking, allow for a split-second breather before taking your turn.

Covid & Travel Advisory Updates

- As of 31 August 2021, 80% of the Singapore population have completed their full vaccination regimen / received two doses of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Singapore has eased border restrictions and now allows the entry of visitors from Brunei, Darussalam and Germany into Singapore. Travellers entering Singapore and who have remained in either countries in the last consecutive 14 days prior to their entry will not be required to serve a SHN. Instead, they will undergo a COVID-19 test upon arrival at the airport and only be allowed to go about their activities in Singapore after receiving a negative test result.
- Prior to travelling to Singapore, visitors from either countries will need to apply for an Air Travel Pass (ATP) between 7 and 30 days before their intended date of entry into Singapore. They will be responsible for their medical bills should they require medical treatment for COVID-19 while in Singapore.
- Travellers entering from low-risk countries such as Australia (excluding Victoria State), New Zealand, Macau, Mainland China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Malaysia will only need to serve a reduced 7-days Stay-Home Notice (SHN) instead of 14-days. The COVID-19 test will continue to be administered before the end of the 7-day SHN.