Be a certified English teacher

Since January 2011, Universiti Tenaga Nusantara (UTAR) has been offering the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) English Education (ED) at its Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FAS) at UTAR Perlak Campus.

"ED graduates are qualified to teach in private and international schools. They are equipped with the skills to write curricula, syllabi and lesson plans for students of different language abilities and socio-cultural backgrounds," said Fernandes, the head of the Department of Languages and Linguistics.

ED graduates are trained in pedagogy, language and linguistics as well as teaching of grammar, literature and the four basic components in English - listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will be able to incorporate technology to scale up their teaching, and conduct and report studies addressing pedagogical issues related to the teaching and learning of English.

Canadians Abram Kneelsen, 31, Wilhelm Kneelsen, 27, and Victor Ryan Wiebe, 26, are currently first-year ED students in UTAR. They enrolled during the January intake.

"I was looking for an ED programme in Asia that is fully conducted in English and open to international students. After researching universities, I found that UTAR matched all my requirements," said Abram.

Echoing Abram's sentiments, Wilhelm said, "At UTAR, I have the opportunity to obtain a recognised degree with fees lower than most private universities in Asia. Language barrier is also not a problem as most Malaysians speak English."

For Wiebe, the blend and contrast of different cultures has offered great insights into a part of the world that is new to him.

Studying in UTAR has also been a life changing experience for Prisca Haboga Mburu, a third-year ED student from Kenya who holds full sponsorship from UTAR for her studies. Mburu plans to return to Kenya and become an English teacher to help her community.

The REAL Kids curriculum and annual events such as Fun Camps are filled with exciting learning activities.

Kids have fun exploring

HOLIDAYS are the best times for children to create cherished childhood memories that last a lifetime.

For parents, it is an opportunity to spend some quality time with their kids. The constant challenge is to get children off computers, television, video games and tablets during holidays - by finding some fun, wholesome activities for them to take part in.

This leads to parents asking: "What quality programmes or activities are available out there for my children to be involved in?"

For years, REAL Kids has organised an annual Fun Camp holiday programme geared towards providing children with a memorable holiday, filled with exciting indoor and outdoor activities.

These are designed to hone children's skills, nurture talents, instil good values and self-confidence. Most of all, it allows kids loads of fun while learning.

This year's programme, dubbed "REAL Kids Fun Camp 2015 - On the Go!" will be held at all REAL Kids centres in the Klang Valley, Penang, Johor, Selangor and Malacca.

The four-day camp is exclusively catered to children four to nine years old, and is open to non-REAL Kids students as well.

Event details:
- Date: June 1 to 4 (Monday-Thursday)
- Time: Survive daily
- Venue: All participating REAL Kids centres
- Ages: Four to nine years old (open to non-REAL Kids students)
- Fee: RM320 (including two T-shirts, stationery set, field trips, snacks and lunches, photo card and art-and-craft materials).
- Field trips are in line with the year's Fun Camp theme as participants are exposed to various modes of transportation. This includes trips to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and Putrajaya.

From the moment they embark on a bus ride en route to these locations, participants will learn about different methods of travelling - by land, water and air.

Education meets enjoyment as field trips to these landmark locations promise to both intrigue and inspire young, curious minds.

Added to the mix are other engaging activities, such as fun crafts, food art, relays and character-building lessons.

Participants are set to have a "fun-tastic" time learning new things while having an avenue to unleash their creativity.

It is also a platform to develop social and interpersonal skills, and expand their horizons beyond books and the classroom.

Parents and children can further explore these unique activities during REAL Kids' Open Day.

Scheduled for May 23 at all REAL Kids centres nationwide, the Open Day provides a perfect opportunity for parents to experience REAL Kids' distinct preschool curriculum firsthand.

There will also be a special dance workshop to help the kids express themselves through music.

With a three-legged approach of exploring, exhibiting and excelling, free Multiple Intelligence (MI) diagnostic tests are made available for parents to help identify their children's innate interests or talents.

It also lets the children explore and exhibit their potential via REAL Kids' broad range of learning activities.

Ultimately, children are given the opportunity to pursue their passion and excel in their respective individual intelligence.

For more details or queries, call 03-5631 8000 or visit www.realkids.edu.my

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