



31 DEC, 2019

Be a kindergarten teacher with WOU SCHOLARSHIP

Borneo Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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Be a kindergarten teacher with **WOU SCHOLARSHIP**

Early childhood education plays an important role in the growth and development of a child. As such, Wawasan Open University (WOU) is offering the Diploma in Early Childhood Education (DECE) programme via open distance learning (ODL) with the aim to provide professional upgrading opportunities for existing and would-be teachers working in preschools and childcare centres.

In order to make it easier for those interested in pursuing the DECE programme, WOU is offering 10 full scholarships to allow them to pursue their educational goals, enrich their life experiences, change their futures, and potentially open up rewarding career paths in teaching.

According to the Dean of WOU's School of Education, Languages and Communications (SELC), Prof Dr Balakrishnan Muniandy, "The University's DECE programme prepares early childhood teachers to educate, nurture and mould young children physically, mentally and emotionally. They will become more knowledgeable, skilful and pedagogically sound preschool teachers."

The DECE programme will enable them to achieve the fulfilment of the Ministry of Education's requirement for preschool teachers," said Prof Balakrishnan.

WOU has invested in this unique programme to enhance the learning experience of the children. Teachers need to be equipped with the necessary tools to successfully teach children critical social and emotional skills as part of their education.

Student Jennifer Anano Arce from Johor Bahru, believes that the DECE programme offered by WOU will help her to gain more knowledge and leadership skills as a teacher in educating the children.

"This programme has given me an in-depth understanding of child development and learning such as laws relating to children, health issues concerning children, handling special needs and even alternative ways of teaching and dealing with children. With DECE, I will be in a better position to maintain a healthy and safe environment in my class," said Jennifer.

The flexibility of WOU's programme has allowed her to juggle her full-time job with her studies and domestic responsibilities. "I can study while I work, managing my personal obligations around my regular schedule. This programme is MQA (Malaysian Qualifications Agency) accredited and therefore on par with global standards. I can have the best of both worlds – working and studying," added Jennifer.

DECE students will undergo their Teaching Practicum at a nursery and a preschool, hence reinforcing educational praxis and the nexus between theory and practice.

With this diploma, graduates can find employment in any childcare setting and preschools as teachers and administrators. Graduates who are teachers in preschool centres but without the formal credentials will now be suitably qualified to teach. They can also open their own preschool centres.

Graduates of the DECE programme can pursue a bachelor's degree in Primary Education or in English Studies, and even proceed to take up a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education or a Master of Education programme at WOU.

Enrolment for the ODL January 2020 intake is ongoing. The University is offering full scholarships worth RM8,820 for new students who enrol in WOU's DECE programme.

Adult learners who are interested to apply for the scholarship must possess at least five credits in SPM. Those with extra-curricular activities, achievements or job recognition will have an added advantage. This scholarship further underscores WOU's commitment to provide Malaysians with a valuable 'second chance' at tertiary education.

For details on WOU programmes and financial assistance, log on to wou.edu.my or call WOU toll-free Careline at 1-300-888-968 or WhatsApp 019-4749323 or visit WOU main campus and Regional Centres/Support Centres nationwide.

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SUMMARIES

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