

Jaimie Wong's Testimonial

Hi, my name is Jaimie Wong. I am from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and I studied Foundation in Business at UCSI College in Kuala Lumpur. Currently, I'm a first-year Bachelor of Law Plus student at the University of Limerick (UL), Ireland.

Can you share your experience during your Foundation in Business study at UCSI College?

I was the batch of students whose experience was cut short because of the sudden halt that Covid-19 has brought upon our lives. When I did have classes on campus, the lecturers always emphasise that the entire idea of the course was to prepare me for the eventual integration into university life, and the lecturers did deliver what they had promised with independent learning, group discussion, assignments, and many presentations we were suddenly pulled into doing 30 minutes before the class ends.

The lecturers in UCSI College were very kind, helpful and are ever vigilant when it comes to ensuring that all of their students are keeping up with the materials in class. Even when we went online, the process was smooth and we went on with all of our lessons as planned. The lecturers found interesting ways to ensure that students are paying attention during lessons, like having fun mini-games, using interactive notebooks and 'whiteboards' to get live responses from students.

Overall, I'd say that whenever I was on campus, classes were fun and interactive, and even when we studied online, there was no difference. It felt quite like a family, with how tight-knit our programme was, so the entire process was very memorable and fun, and an experience that I'd definitely not forget. The process of enrolling in the University of Limerick afterwards was really seamless as UL recognises the UCSI College Foundation programme as a pathway to their university degree programmes.

Can you tell us about your journey to the University of Limerick from Malaysia?

I met the UL representative at an education fair in Mid Valley in KL and found the University and programme were really interesting. After that I needed to take a Foundation program in order to enrol in UL and UCSI College is an approved foundation pathway with the University of Limerick. I did one year of Foundation in Business programme at UCSI College and then was transferred to my current degree program in Limerick, Ireland.

Can you explain a little bit about what your course is like in Limerick?

So basically, Law Plus is a normal law degree, the difference is that instead of it just being a pure law degree, you have the option of choosing an extra minor or double major. Normally people choose another subject like politics, history and I, personally am taking psychology. And there are languages like Japanese, German, and French. The whole gist of the Law Plus programme is that it's a law degree but with some flexibility. You can be a lawyer, but at the

same time, if you just want to do a law degree, but explore your options, there are definitely pathways for you to take.

What's the plan for the rest of your course?

I plan to take Erasmus, which is a semester studying in a partner university of UL since I'm here and already part of my programme. Hence, thought I'd take advantage to travel and experience studying in another country. My Co-Op (8 months paid work placement in Year 3), it's a couple of years away so I really can't give you a solid answer. The majority of Co-Op placements are either in Ireland itself or neighbouring EU countries. I'm majoring in law so it will make sense for me to go into a law firm. We have the Co-Op office that helps us with finding businesses, improving our CVs, and getting us interviews before accepting the offer so we don't have to do it alone.

What do you want to do once you graduate?

I plan to take the bar exam here in Ireland and then take the advantage of the fact that I can apply for an additional working visa here in Ireland and find work. Obviously, I'm only in the first year now so it might change, perhaps. But if I can find work here, that would be great. But from what my Irish seniors have told me, they said that you can find work outside of Ireland as well. So, there's a chance that I might end up travelling to another European country to work, but I'm not sure yet. The Irish Bar uses common law. Hence, it's also accepted in the UK, Malaysia and many other countries so the Malaysian Bar Council recognises that which is good.

What's the difference between life in Limerick and KL outside of the classroom?

My biggest worry was about finding Asian food specifically, as I grew up in a household where cooking is my life. When I came here, my biggest fear was that I can't find the things that I need but surprisingly enough, ingredients-wise, there is a great selection here. Also, the weather, it's very confusing! I remember when I first heard people say, in the UK and Ireland, you don't know what the weather is until you go outside. I didn't believe them. I've been here for five months, and I have yet to figure out the weather. Prepare for everything. I would say layer properly, wear something like a T-shirt and jacket, something waterproof. Waterproof clothing is your best friend.

Did you join any clubs and societies?

I joined the archery club as well as the Law Society, which is great to meet fellow law students. There are other things like kayaking, rowing and anime society. Oh, there's an e-gaming club as well. Dear Malaysian gamers, gaming is big here too just so you know. I would say societies are abundant here and joining them is a great way to meet people. I think here there's a kind of professional relationship culture in the classroom, then you go out and make friends through your clubs, societies or hostels.

What is the accommodation like?

I am living in an on-campus dorm for my first year. International students get preferential bookings so you would most likely get accommodation if you're an undergraduate like me but remember to book early! Most people after their first year will make friends and plan to move into a house together off campus which is also my plan. The on-campus accommodation is very nice and they have a very helpful accommodation team. Because of the pandemic, my advice for Asian parents would be, "Don't look at the price tag, just pay for it." It's very safe, much easier than finding off-campus rooms and it's very useful because you meet other students as well.

Why did you choose Ireland and Limerick?

When I was looking at UK universities, I never had any excitement. I think that's the best way to put it. I think every Malaysian student, especially if you're taking law, or you have cousins who took law, they're always like "I'm looking in the UK, in Liverpool, or Manchester," and when I looked up those universities, they just never sparked an interest in me. I would say it was kind of an accident, to be honest finding Ireland and UL in particular. Nevertheless, I would say it's well worth looking into. From one Malaysian to another, I would say, "Look outside rather than just the usual options and you can find some great places to study." In Malaysian families, it's a bit controversial to choose Ireland because it's such a small country and not many people have heard of it. For me, it's a nice country with lovely people and the lecturers here are really nice. Not forgetting the huge campus as well. Plus, you can work here or head back to Malaysia depending on your plans after graduation.

-For more information about the academic programmes and international degree pathways offered at UCSI College, please contact us at **03-90782033** or **enquiry@ucsicollege.edu.my**-