



# Klassifieds

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The purpose of a college is to create a difference in the life of an individual who intends to pursue his dream in acquiring a higher education. "Will this college help me discover my calling?" "Will this college provide me with the tools to make a better world?" and "Does this college support my values?" These are among some of the questions constantly ringing in the years of an intending student in search of a college.

When compared to colleges in the country, some of the top colleges in Malaysia can be selected as the absolute best. While this is encouraging to many, it should be viewed as an opportunity to look at what else is highly valued in the field of education.

It can give students and parents a better insight into different academic options and ideas about additional components they may want to consider when choosing a college. This gives students interested in a specific field a better overview of those colleges that are focused in their area of academic interest.

- Geographic location - Near internship or work opportunities?
- Academic environment - Complimentary to student learning style?
- Lecturers - Interaction with students? Mentoring structure?
- Student body - Beneficial clubs, organizations, student groups?

These are all important factors to consider before choosing a college. The factors that will directly impact one's personal experience provide critical information that should be considered during the

## DISTINCTIVE COLLEGES TO Make a Better World



application and selection process.

Students should take the time to map the future they want and use that future as a starting point for the type of educational experience they need to achieve their goals.

According to Amir Hamzah Bin Abdul Razak the CEO of Kolej UNIKOP, "the first and most important factor that defines a college is reputation. Every student searches for placements whenever they search for any college. Next one is infrastructure".

Kolej UNIKOP is an associate College of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) which has been entrusted by the university to offer programs at Pre-Diploma, Certificate and Diploma levels in various fields. Established in 1996, Kolej UNIKOP campus located in Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur has produced over 6,000 graduates in various levels and fields. Kolej UNIKOP offers academic programs conducted jointly with the Institute of Higher Learning (IPTA), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM).

All programs offered at the Kolej UNIKOP have been accredited and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and approval from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. This means that all academic programs offered at Kolej UNIKOP have been fully recognized by all parties involved, mainly by the Public Service Department - PSD (Government).

Throughout its development, Kolej UNIKOP

has successfully built an educational infrastructure that is in line with the needs of a higher education institution. Now, Kolej UNIKOP has gained the capabilities of its well-established management and staff initiatives and strives to become the premier Bumiputera higher education institution - to unleash the borders of knowledge, master the latest technology and offer the programs that our country desperately needs to become a nation advanced by 2020 especially in science and technology.

When colleges have that great reputation, the success rate can be closely linked to the power of the colleges' alumni network and its name recognition. The reputation that allows the college to build an elite student population practically ensures continued academic and financial success. Potential employers see the college they attended and instantly link the applicant with the prestige afforded the college as a whole.

Amir Hamzah has shared a checklist which one should keep in my mind before taking admission in a college.

1. Lecturers who can help you to learn perfectly. Many colleges have highly qualified lecturers, but most of them can't grow interest in students.
2. Lack of competent lecturers.
3. A comprehensive library

4. Students who think about subjects, not marks

5. Well-equipped lab

Various upcoming colleges are concentrating on various other aspects such as dual specializations, twinning programs, experiential learning, and career support and bringing a healthy mix of humanities and liberal arts to help in all-rounded development of the graduates making them more employment ready.

The group CEO of KOP Mantap Berhad, Datuk Iskandar Datuk Malik has this to say, "How colleges are designed and what students learn-and why-must be reviewed, scrutinized, and refined as closely and with much enthusiasm. Most modern academic standards take a body-of-knowledge approach to education. This, to me, seems to be an outdated approach to learning that continues to hamper our attempts to innovate".

"We create "good colleges" that graduate scores of students with very little hope for the future. How can that possibly be? How can a college call itself "good" when it produces students that don't know themselves, the world, or their place in it?" says Datuk Iskandar Datuk Malik who is a King's College scholar from Cambridge University, England.



**DR VIZAYER RAJ** held several positions in the corporate sector. He has also lectured in business administration in a number of universities in Malaysia and abroad, before moving on to manage his own business in education. Currently, he is the director of programmes in Asian Management Development Academy. He can be reached at [vizayer@gmail.com](mailto:vizayer@gmail.com) or 016-2093156

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