

Ben's interest in the healthcare profession started when he visited a chiropractor to seek treatment for a sports injury.



Adjusting to career change as chiropractor

BENJAMIN Loh, better known as Ben, was ready for a change in career after more than 10 years of lecturing in Media/Communications. He chose to study chiropractic as he was interested in studying something related to healthcare.

His interest in the field started when he visited a chiropractor to seek treatment for a sports injury. Following this decision, Ben enrolled into IMU's chiropractic programme in 2011 and completed his exams in December 2014.

He recalls fondly his time at IMU, "Joining IMU was a learning experience in itself, academically as well as socially, especially when relating to people younger than I am. To break out of my comfort zone, I joined the senior-junior Orientation Week and met people from the dentistry and medical programmes.

"I managed to make a lot of friends and still keep in touch with some of my classmates. One thing that caught my attention was watching a few dance performances at IMU. I also took part in a group dance performance in one of the Chiropractic Senior-Junior nights – something I had never done before. Under the IMU Chiropractic programme, we had to complete a few hundred clinic hours under supervision. This gave me a feel of what working in a clinic would be like.

"I also treasure the evidence-based approach at IMU as it has helped me evaluate what treatment options are safe, critically examine the evidence for health supplements and such."

Ben currently has two clinics – one in Seapark, and the other in Kayu Ara / Damansara Jaya, in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Currently, he is the only chiropractor at the clinic.

"A typical day at work would involve treating patients and discussing with my front desk staff on upcoming activities.

"My initial difficulty when starting the clinic was that I thought more like a practitioner

than a business owner. For instance, I assumed that all I needed was to deliver effective treatment and patients would come in.

"The truth is that without marketing, it is difficult to survive, especially since there are many chiropractors in the Klang Valley area. Another point is that you need to provide training to your front desk staff – just telling people what to do is not enough," he shares.

For those considering chiropractic as a career, Ben says, "You must have the interest in helping people recover from back pain and / or sports injury. Do take the time to visit clinics from as early as during Year Two of your programme to get an idea of what working in a chiropractic centre feels like."

IMU is the first and only university to offer the complete chiropractic educational programme in Malaysia as well as in South-East Asia. The four-year Bachelor of Science (Hons) Chiropractic programme at IMU was awarded full accreditation by the prestigious Council on Chiropractic Education, Australasia (CCEA). Students have the option to complete the entire degree at IMU or study part of the degree at IMU and transfer to one of its partner universities for completion of the degree.

The next commencement for this programme is in September.

If you have a desire to be a healthcare professional in a field that is rapidly expanding throughout the world, apply now for an excellent start to an exciting and highly rewarding career.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider the one-year IMU Foundation in Science, the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the university's local degree programmes.

■ For more information, visit www.imu.edu.my, e-mail start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.