



# Inspiring Futures, Nurturing Possibilities: The Impetus of a Future-Focused Academic Programme

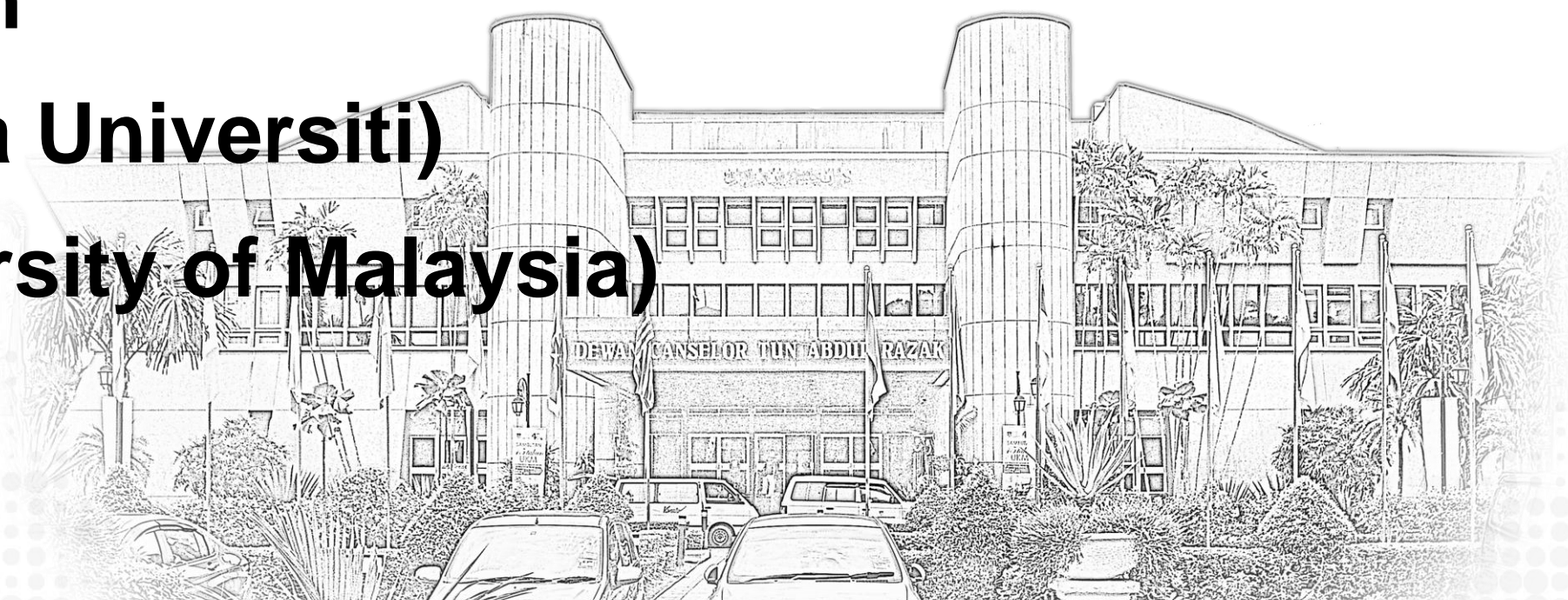
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**Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaysia)**



*Mengilham Harapan, Mencipta Masa Depan*



**What?**

**How?**

**Why?**

**GENERAL  
EDUCATION**

**LIBERAL STUDIES  
(UNDERGRADUATE &  
POSTGRADUATE  
PROGRAMMES)**

**THE EVOLUTION TOWARDS FUTURE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM**





## Amanat Menteri Pengajian Tinggi 2012: “BERFIKIRAN GLOBAL BERTINDAK LOKAL”

“Salah satu bentuk tuntutan masa hadapan ialah sumber manusia berilmu yang **berketrampilan tinggi, luwes dan mempunyai daya fikiran yang bersifat syumul (holistik)**.”  
“Untuk memenuhi keperluan baharu ini, saya berpendapat semua IPTA memberi perhatian kepada konsep **PENDIDIKAN LIBERAL DAN MULTI-DISIPLIN (*liberal and multi-disciplinary education*)** dalam semua program pendidikan pra- dan pasca-siswazah”



UNIVERSITI  
KEBANGSAAN  
MALAYSIA

*The National University  
of Malaysia*

## FALSAFAH UKM

*UKM mengukuh paduan antara iman kepada Allah dengan ilmu yang bermanfaat serta gabungan antara teori dengan amal adalah dasar utama bagi perkembangan ilmu, proses pembinaan masyarakat terpelajar dan pembangunan Universiti.*



# Mandate by the Malaysian Minister of Higher Education (2012)

**THINK GLOBALLY ACT LOCALLY**

“One of the future demands is a **highly skilled, flexible and knowledgeable** human resource with a **holistic mind**.”

To meet these requirements, all Higher Learning Institutions must pay attention to **the concept of liberal and multi-disciplinary education** in all undergraduate and postgraduate education.”

(Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, 2012)





# GENERAL EDUCATION (PENDIDIKAN CITRA UKM)



**1982**

**Center for  
General Studies**  
Pusat  
Pengajian Umum

**10 JULY 2013**

**Center for  
General Studies**  
Pusat  
Citra Universiti

**1 MARCH 2021**

**School of Liberal Studies**  
Pusat Pengajian  
Citra Universiti





## GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

- i. To produce graduates who have the **personality**, which represents the notion of 'Citra UKM' (multidiscipline), **integrity** and **soft-skills** that can fulfil the current and future needs.
- ii. To ensure that the graduates obtain a **holistic education** so that they can be **independent** and **adaptable** to the consistently changing environment.
- iii. To produce graduates who are **competent, competitive, agile** towards fulfilling the demands of the workforce.
- iv. To produce graduates who are able to become **global citizens**, who are able to **work in groups** and possess the skills of **cross-cultural communication**.
- v. To produce graduates who not only have the knowledge in their fields of expertise, but also the knowledge in other fields that can give some **added values to their self-development and career paths**.
- vi. To produce graduates who are **ethical** and have the **integrity** as a human, worker and citizen.









# GENERAL EDUCATION (PENDIDIKAN CITRA) MODULE

Domain	Academic Programme	
	Profesional Programme; dan 2u2i/3u1i/2u1i Programme	Non-Profesional Programme
<b>Compulsory University Courses</b> LMCW 2163 Islamic Civilization and Asian Civilization LMCW2173 Ethnic Relations LMCW1022 Basic Entreprenuership and Innovation LMCW2022 Data Management and Analytics	10 credit	10 credit
<b>Citra 1</b> Ethics, Citizenship and Civilization	4 credit	4 credit
<b>Citra 2</b> Language, Communication and Literacy	4 credit	4 credit
<b>Citra 3</b> Quantitative and Qualitative Reasoning	2 credit	2 credit
<b>Citra 4</b> Leadership, Entreprenuership and Innovation	2 credit	2 credit
<b>Citra 5</b> Science, Technology and Sustainability	2 credit	2 credit
<b>Citra 6</b> Family, Health and Lifestyle	2 credit	2 credit
Free flow	4 credit	14 credit
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 credit</b>	<b>40 credit</b>



**500+ courses offered by the School of Liberal Studies**

<https://www.ukm.my/citra/publication/>

<https://anyflip.com/oqsa/fkzr/>

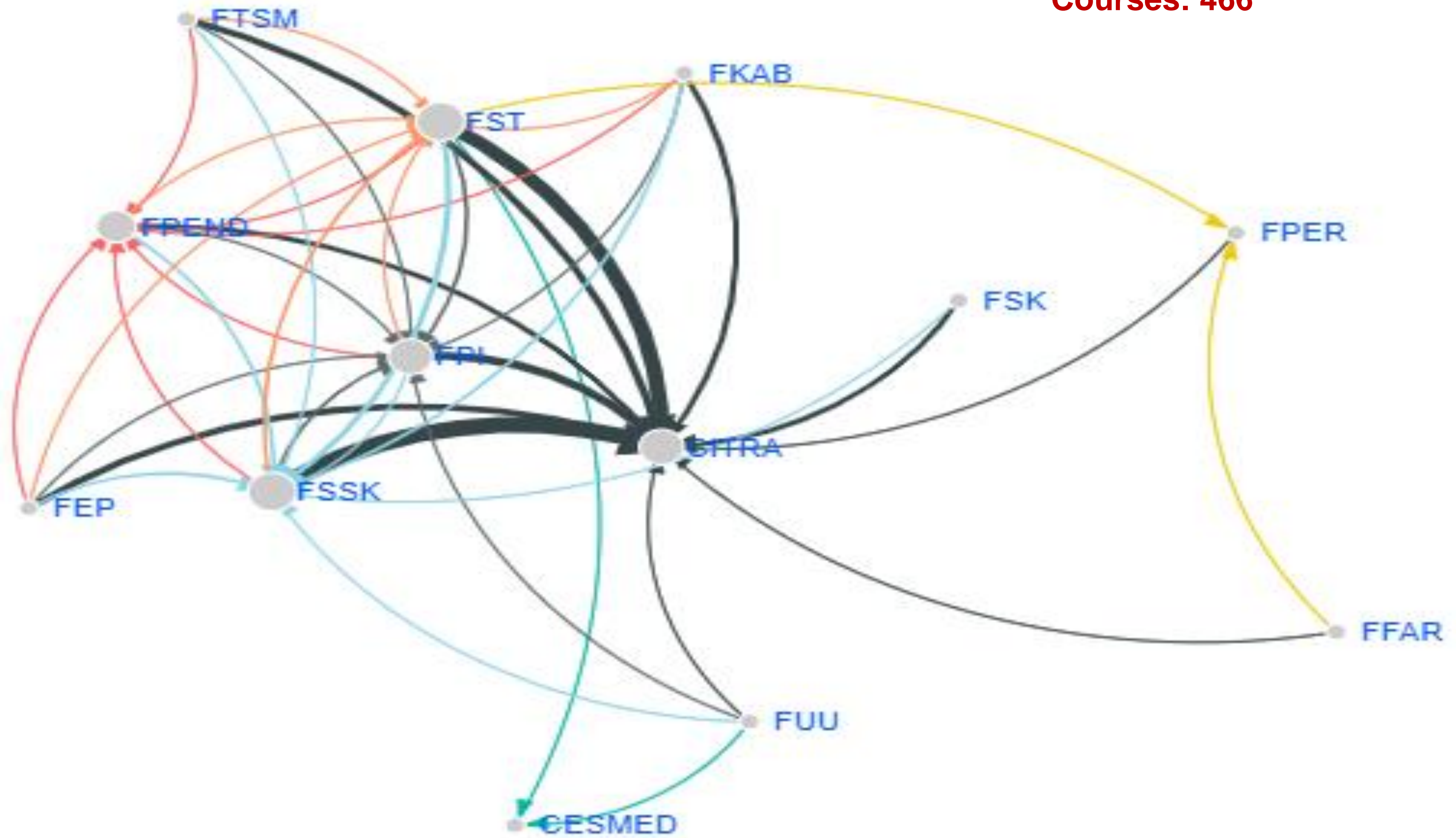




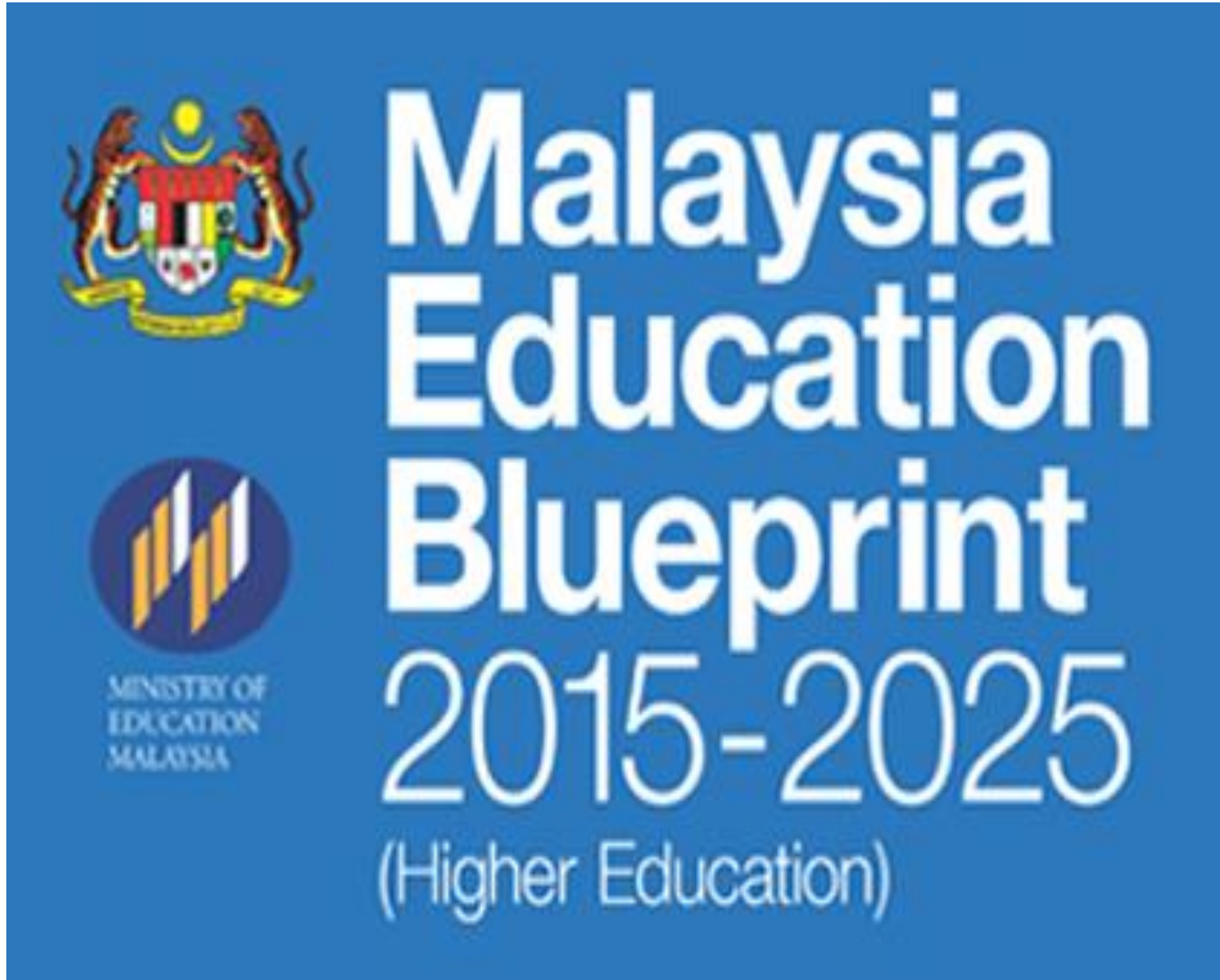
**STUDENT DISTRIBUTION ACROSS FACULTIES  
(2017)**


**Students: 21,878**


**Courses: 466**








**Malaysia Education Blueprint**  
 2015-2025  
 (Higher Education)


 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA



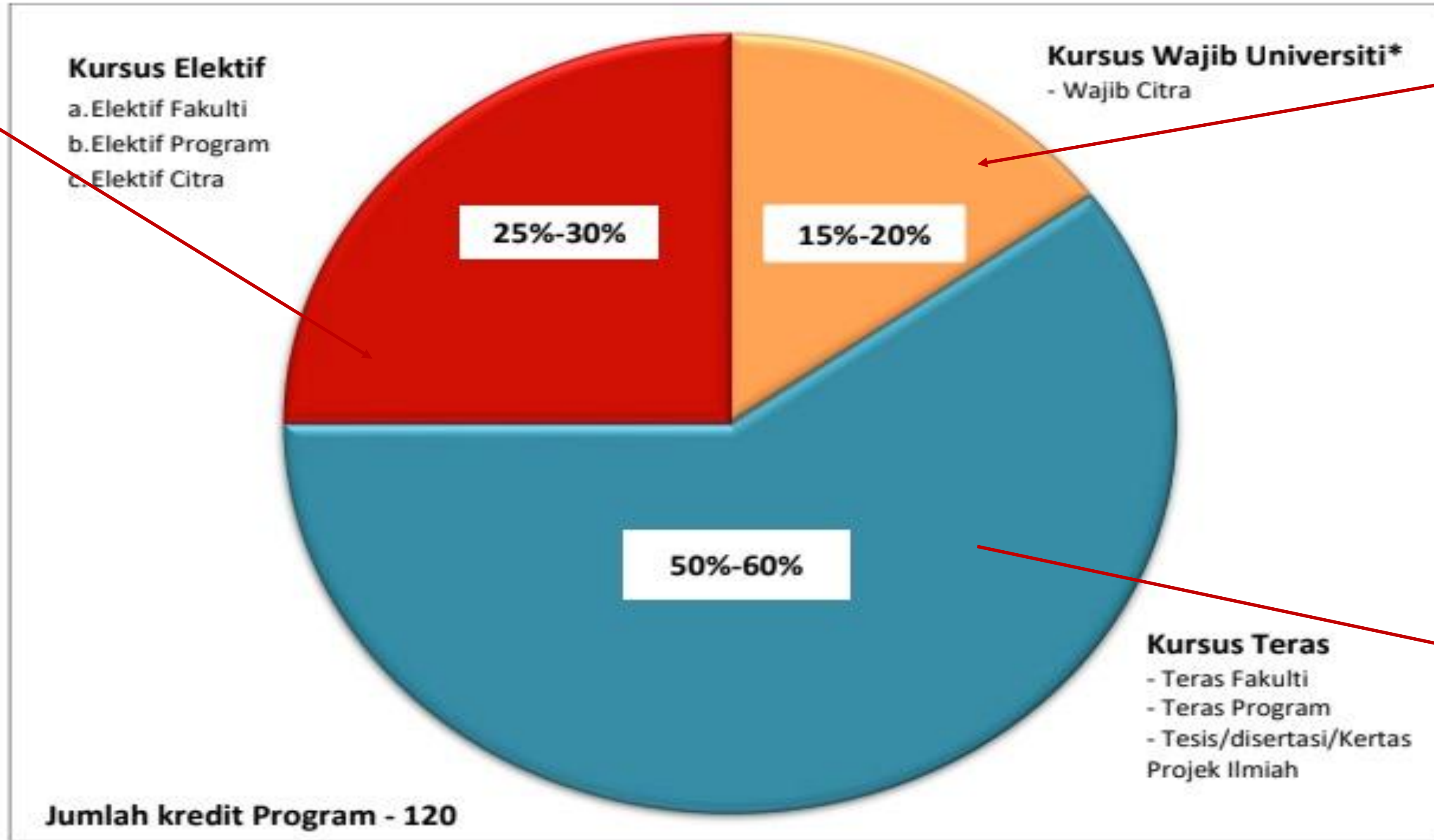


# GENERAL EDUCATION (PENDIDIKAN CITRA) MODULE

Domain	Citra Domain 2014 -2020	New Domain (beginning 2021 Session - current)	Credit
<b>CW</b>	<b>Compulsory University Courses</b> <b>LMCW 2143 Philosophy &amp; Current Issues; LMCW2153 Appreciation of Ethics &amp; Civilization</b> LMCW1022 Basic Entrepreneurship & Innovation; LMCW2022 Data Management & Analytics		10
<b>C1</b>	Ethics, Citizenship & Civilization	Language & Communication Literacy	2
<b>C2</b>	Language, Communication & Literacy	Critical & Design Thinking	2
<b>C3</b>	Quantitative & Qualitative Reasoning	Arts, Culture & Civilization Literacy	2
<b>C4</b>	Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Innovation	Science, Technology & Health Literacy	2
<b>C5</b>	Science, Technology & Sustainability	Entrepreneurship & Social Responsibility	2
<b>C6</b>	Family, Health & Lifestyle	Personal Competence & Teamwork	2
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>			<b>22</b>



**ELECTIVE COURSES**



**GENERAL EDUCATION (PENDIDIKAN CITRA)**

**CORE COURSES**

\*Nota: Untuk keperluan di UKM, rujuk Pusat Citra UKM untuk penetapan peratusan kursus Wajib Universiti.



# UKM EDUCATION 4.0 FRAMEWORK

## FUTURE READY CURRICULUM

- 21st century skills - critical thinking, problem solving, communication, technological literacy, collaboration and creativity (Future Work Skills 2020)
- **Flexible approach** through **interdisciplinary; interuniversity**; localised yet globalised; provide opportunities for **student and instructor mobility** & provide **mutual recognition for courses at other universities with appropriate credit transfer.**  
\*(Next slide)
- Curriculum – **non-conventional**, incorporates the concept of **jukebox** and **organic** that allows students to fully control and determine their learning mode; **personalized** and **customized** according to students' needs.





# Institutional Course Sharing

Academic collaboration - provides opportunity for 2 or more institutions within & outside the country to implement courses/programmes sharing upon agreement by all the parties involved. The Senate of UKM has approved credit 'absorption' for courses offered by the host institutions. Students are allowed to take up courses in their field of concentration outside UKM via mobility platform and the course codes + grades are included in their academic transcript.

## HOME INSTITUTION

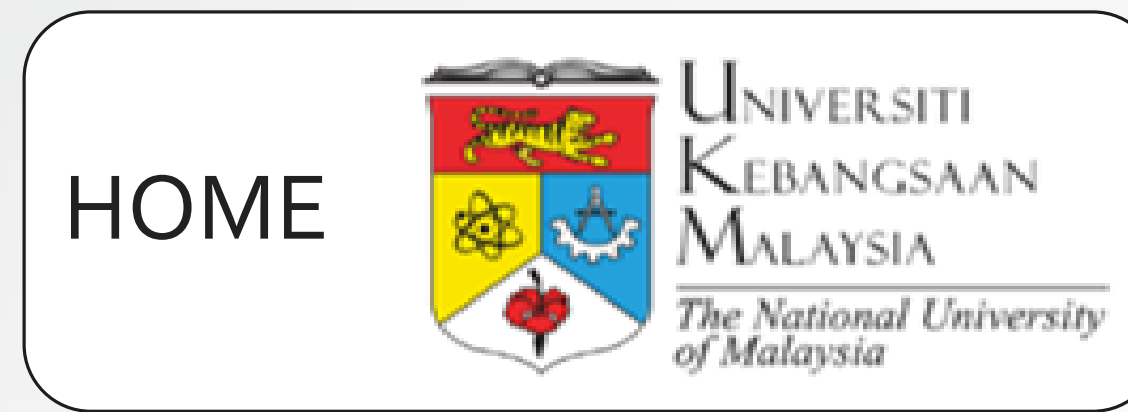
Where the student receives his/her degree

## HOST INSTITUTION

Collaborating partner where a student takes a course outside of his/her home institution



# Institutional Course Sharing



- Tourism - 8 stds
- Event Management – 3 stds
- Halal Industry – 3 stds
- Transport Management -1 std



- Early Childhood Education – 4 stds



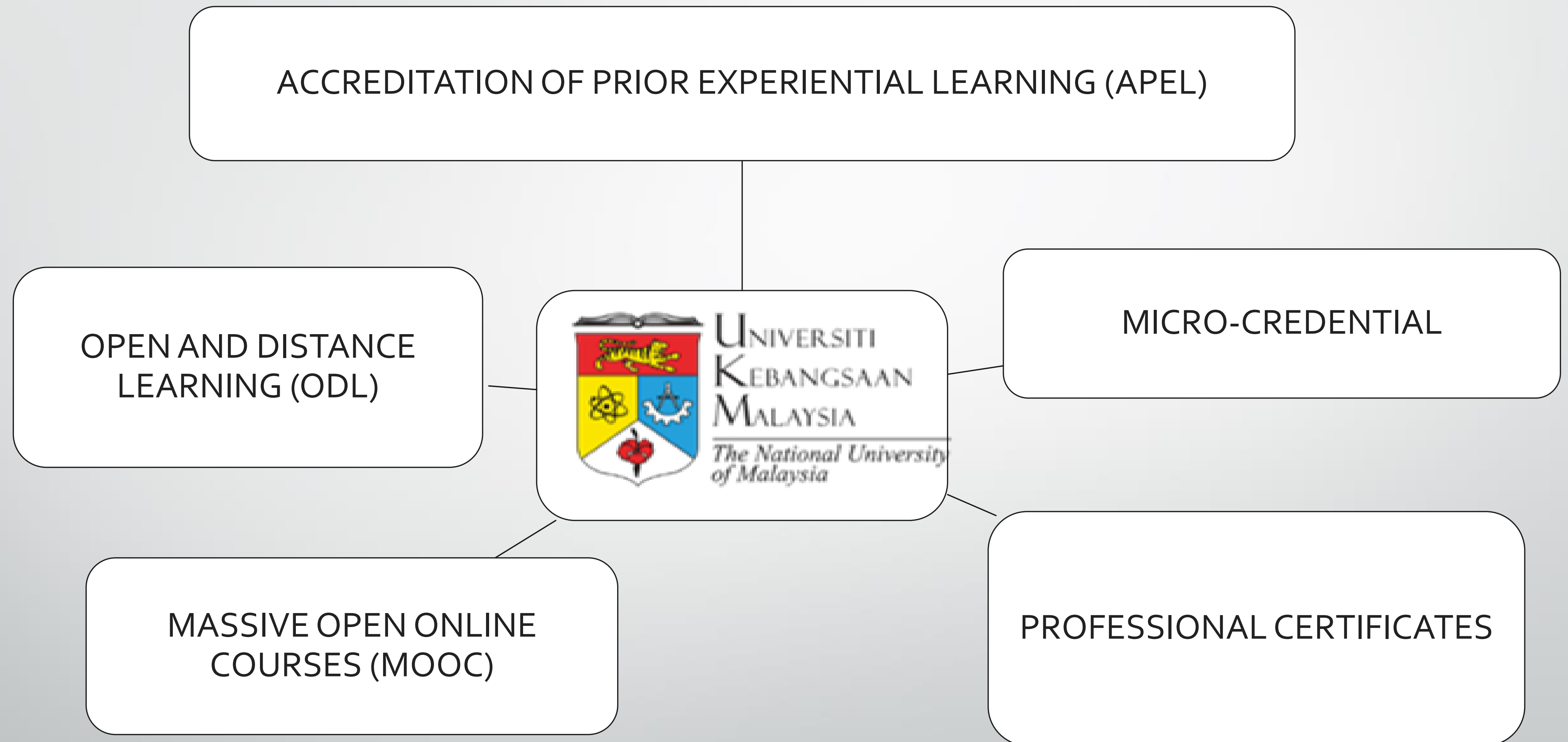
- Gender & Sexuality Studies – 1 std



- Agro-Based Industry -1 std



# Academic & Professional Programmes and Courses



**Formal awards & qualifications recognized by Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA)**



**GENERAL EDUCATION  
(PENDIDIKAN CITRA)**



**ACADEMIC PROGRAMME**

**Compulsory University Courses**

**Citra C1 – C6 Courses**

**English Language & Malay  
Language Courses**

**2018:  
Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies**

**2022:  
Master of Science in Liberal Studies**





# 2018

Future Ready Curriculum

Flexible study structure

Multidisciplinary

Inter-Professional education

Trans boundaries

## Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies



Industry Ready

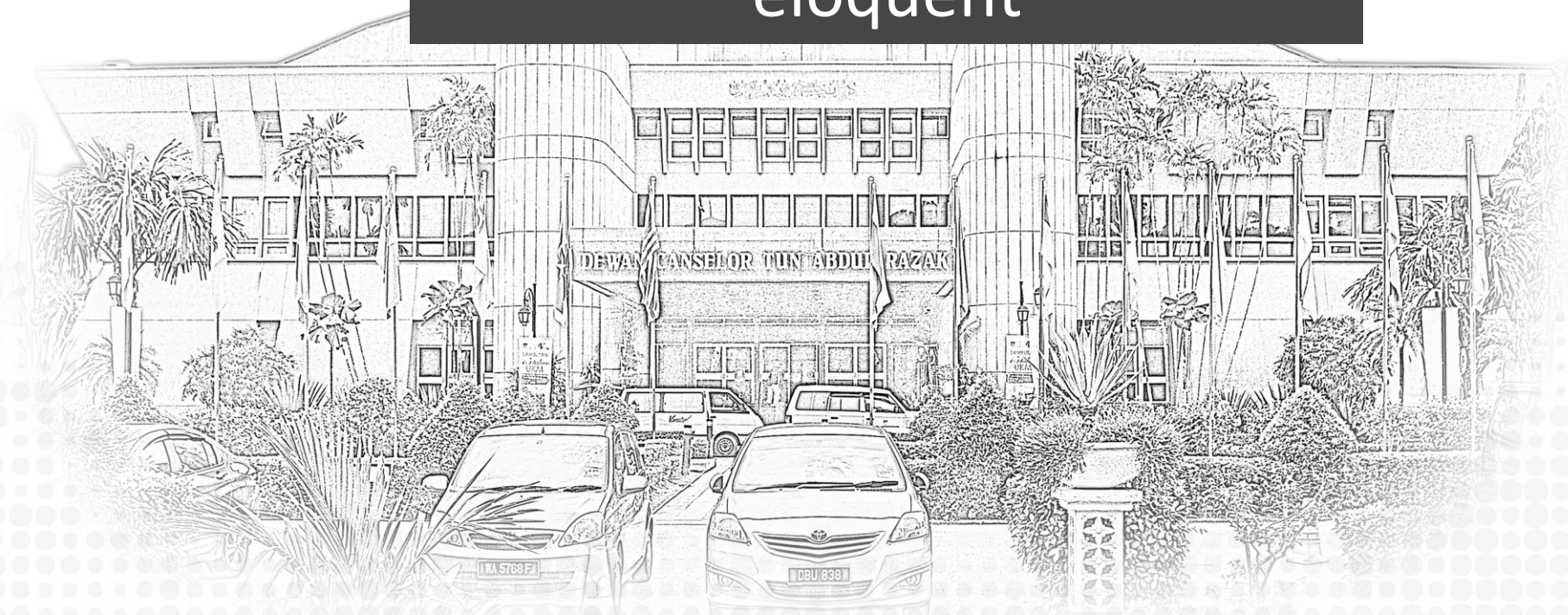
Job Creators

Possess multi-disciplinary  
knowledge & skills

Problem solvers on the go

Multi taskers

Versatile, resilient and  
eloquent

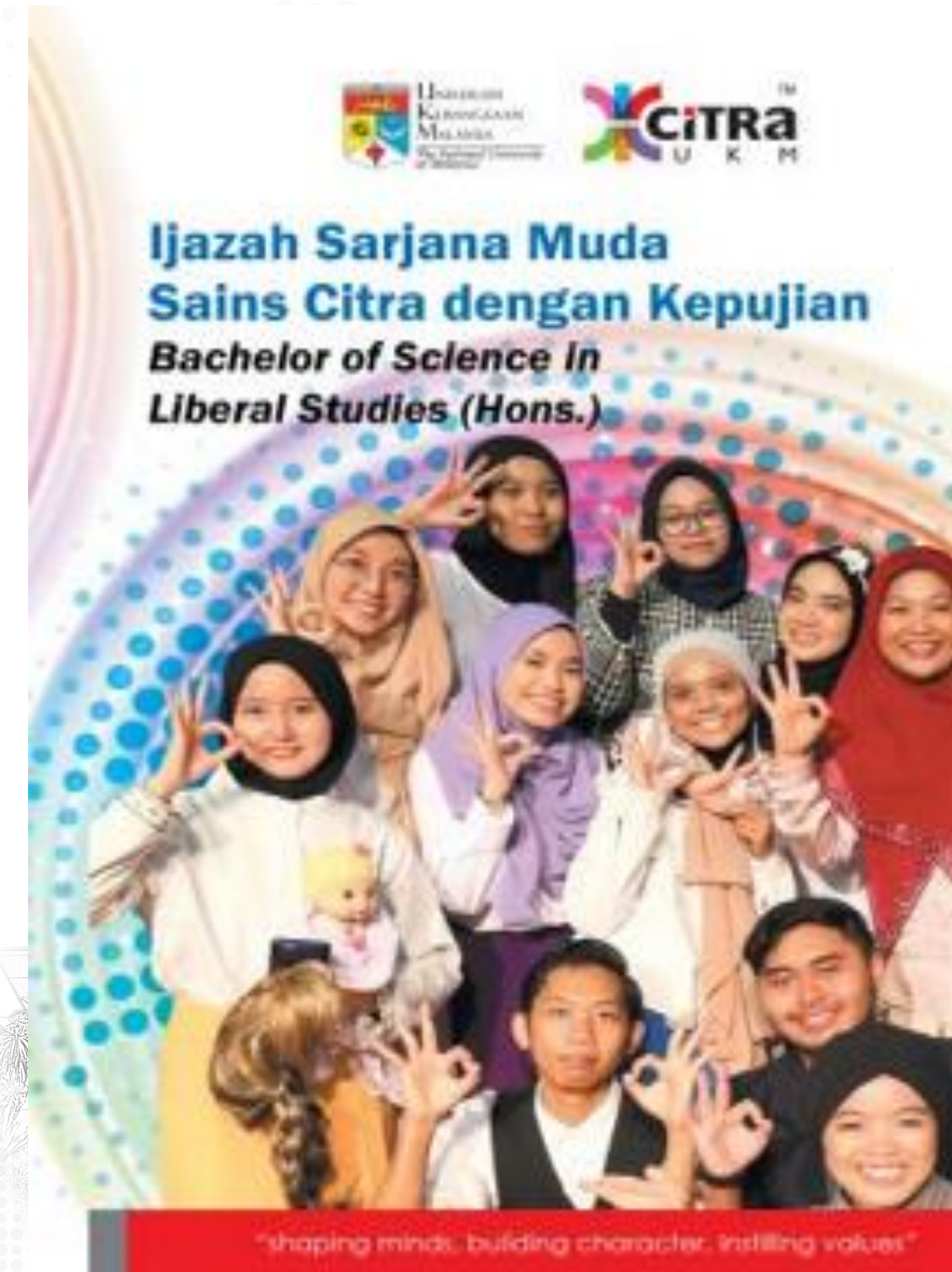




# Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies

## *Sarjana Muda Sains Citra*

- Flexible and multidisciplinary programme: Students plan their own curriculum within the programme according to their personal and career preferences.
- Non-conventional programme: Students choose their own courses offered by UKM / Higher Learning Institutions / any local or global organisations / industries.
- Future-focused curriculum: Students create learning & career pathways
- Curriculum – **Personalised**, dynamic, fluid & organic
- Learning – Inclusive and Flexible





# Program Structure

- 4 years (8 semester)
- 2 years in university / 2 years in industry (2u2i) or 3 years in university / 1 year in industry (3u1i)

## Student Intake

- 1<sup>st</sup> cohort (2018/2019) : 86 students (graduated November 2022)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort (2019/2020) : 56 students
- 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort (2020/2021) : 37 students
- 4<sup>th</sup> cohort (2021/2022) : 36 students
- 5<sup>th</sup> cohort (2022/2023) :





# Comparison btwn SmSn Citra & other Liberal Studies Programmes

Ciri-ciri Program Program	<i>Juke Box</i>	2u2i / 3u1i	Penumpuan / Pengkhususan / <i>Concentration</i>	Pelajar bina/cipta sendiri Penumpuan / Pengkhususan / <i>Concentration</i>
Program SmSn Citra PCU, UKM	/	/	/	/
Program Pengajian Liberal Wawasan Open University, Malaysia	-	-	/	-
Program Pengajian Liberal di SILS, Waseda University, Jepun	-	/	/	-
Special Concentration Program, Harvard College	-	-	/	/
Bachelor of General Studies, Athabasca University Kanada	-	-	/	-
Bachelor of General Studies, The University of Mississippi, Amerika Syarikat	-	-	/	-







# MASTER OF **LIBERAL STUDIES** (MSc Citra)

School of Liberal Studies (CITRA UKM)

School of Liberal Studies UKM (CITRA UKM) is a faculty-level study center established to specialise in Liberal and Multidisciplinary education across all programs offered.

## OBJECTIVES OF CITRA UKM

To produce human capital with first-class mindset grounded by knowledge and innovation in facing challenges of economic development, aligned with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan through national aspirations and national education philosophy.

## VISION, MISSION & GOALS OF CITRA UKM

- Aspires to produce holistic graduates with UKM identity through mindset development and character building approaches.
- Accomplishes the market demands through human capital development that is creative, innovative, able to master and apply knowledge and soft skills to face challenges and compete in the real world.

## MSc LIBERAL STUDIES

The program offers new opportunities for candidates to undergo an educational structure in the field of liberal studies that are inter and intra disciplinary in fulfilling the needs of external markets and industries.

## LEARNING METHODS



Academic  
Supervisor



Industrial  
Supervisor





# World Economic Forum 2020



- Global Education 4.0 Framework for **shifting learning content and experiences** towards the needs of the future. This entails creating
  - (i) **learning experiences** that take full advantage of the opportunities offered by various local and global institutions
  - (ii) **learning ecosystems** that encompass personalised and self-paced; accessible and inclusive; problem-based and collaborative; lifelong and student-driven learning (World Economic Forum Report, 2020).





Figure 2: The World Economic Forum Education 4.0 Framework

Content (built-in mechanisms for skills adaptation)



Experiences (leveraging innovative pedagogies)



# Top 10 skills of 2025

## Type of skill

- Problem-solving
- Self-management
- Working with people
- Technology use and development



**Analytical thinking and innovation**



**Active learning and learning strategies**



**Complex problem-solving**



**Critical thinking and analysis**



**Creativity, originality and initiative**



**Leadership and social influence**



**Technology use, monitoring and control**



**Technology design and programming**



**Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility**



**Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation**



# Why flexible learning pathways are the way forward

- The United Nations Education 2030 Agenda encourages all countries to develop well-articulated education systems that offer Flexible Learning Pathways for their students.
- **Flexibility enhances the resilience of education systems.** Whether students are entering, moving through, leaving, or returning to higher education, the more flexible the learning pathways, the more likely it is that systems will be able to adapt to change and new challenges. -  
Michaela Martin, IIEP Researcher

The International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP – UNESCO) is an arm of UNESCO created in 1963 in Paris, France







Experiential Learning and  
Competency-Based  
Education Landscape  
**(EXCEL)**

The Framework



# EXCEL Potentials

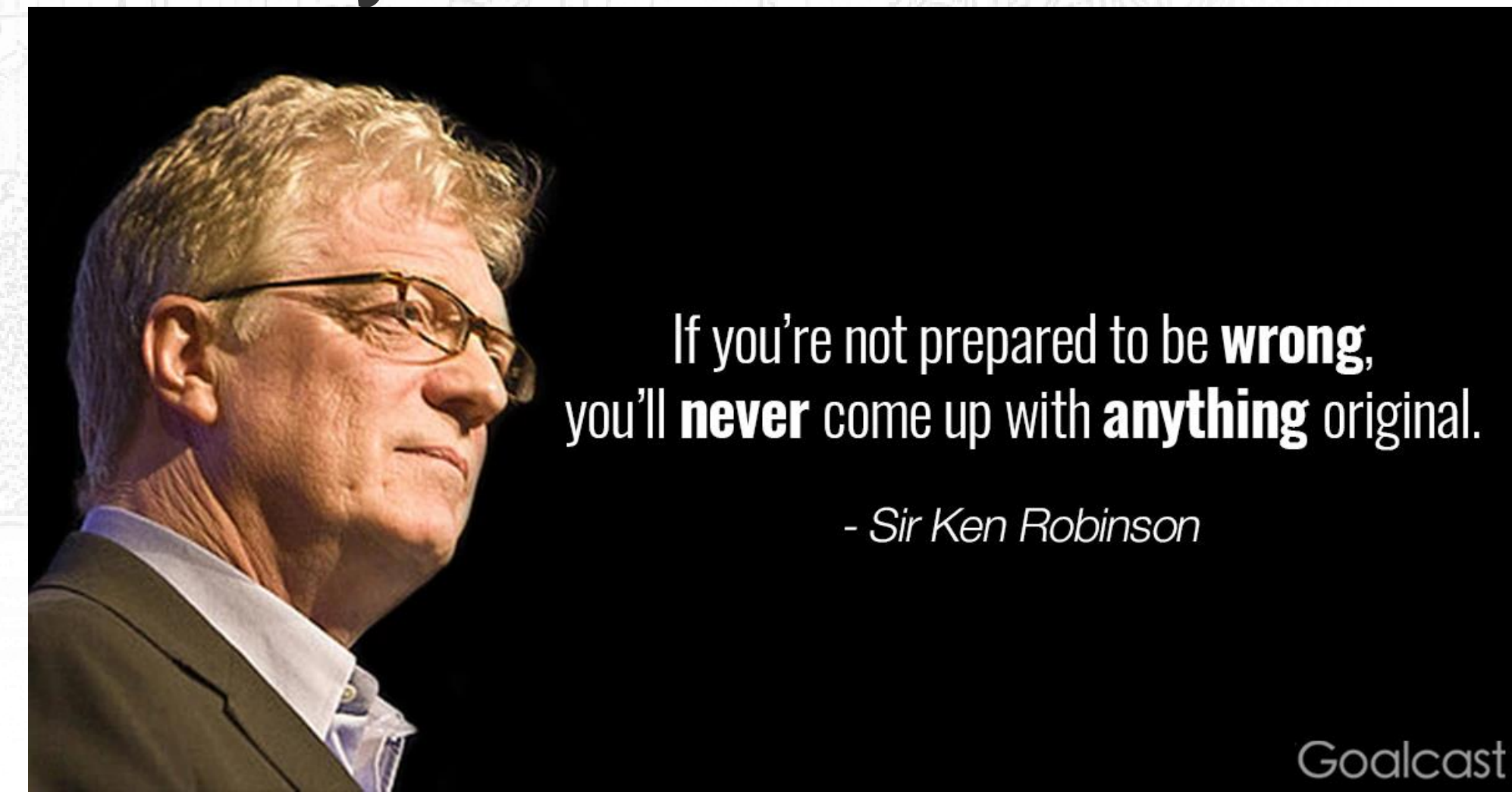
The four EXCEL thrusts are expected to bring about changes and new opportunities in the provision of academic programs.

1	Provide industry and community experience early	8	Address community needs and create a solution using industry solutions
2	Allow theories learnt to solve community and industry issues and problems	9	Spur nation growth via R & D based education
3	Give choice and options to students	10	Potential to develop holistic graduates who are independent and have necessary living skills and prepare themselves when they come in to the industry
4	Provide real world experience	11	Potential to produce graduates who can survive in the outside world
5	Provide new learning and teaching environment	12	Potential to build resilience which is something that students should be equipped with in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century
6	Build awareness to the environment and current scenarios	13	Potential to develop holistic graduates who have interest and passion in their career
7	Shift from single & multiple discipline to interdiscipline and transdisciplinary approach		



“The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn’t need to be reformed — **it needs to be transformed.**

The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but **to personalize it**, to build achievement on **discovering the individual talents of each child**, to put students in an environment where **they want to learn** and where **they can naturally discover their true passions. The outcomes are unpredictable.** What is certain is that we and our students are confronting challenges that are **unique** in human history.”



If you’re not prepared to be **wrong**,  
you’ll **never** come up with **anything** original.

- Sir Ken Robinson





**THANK YOU**  
THANK YOU