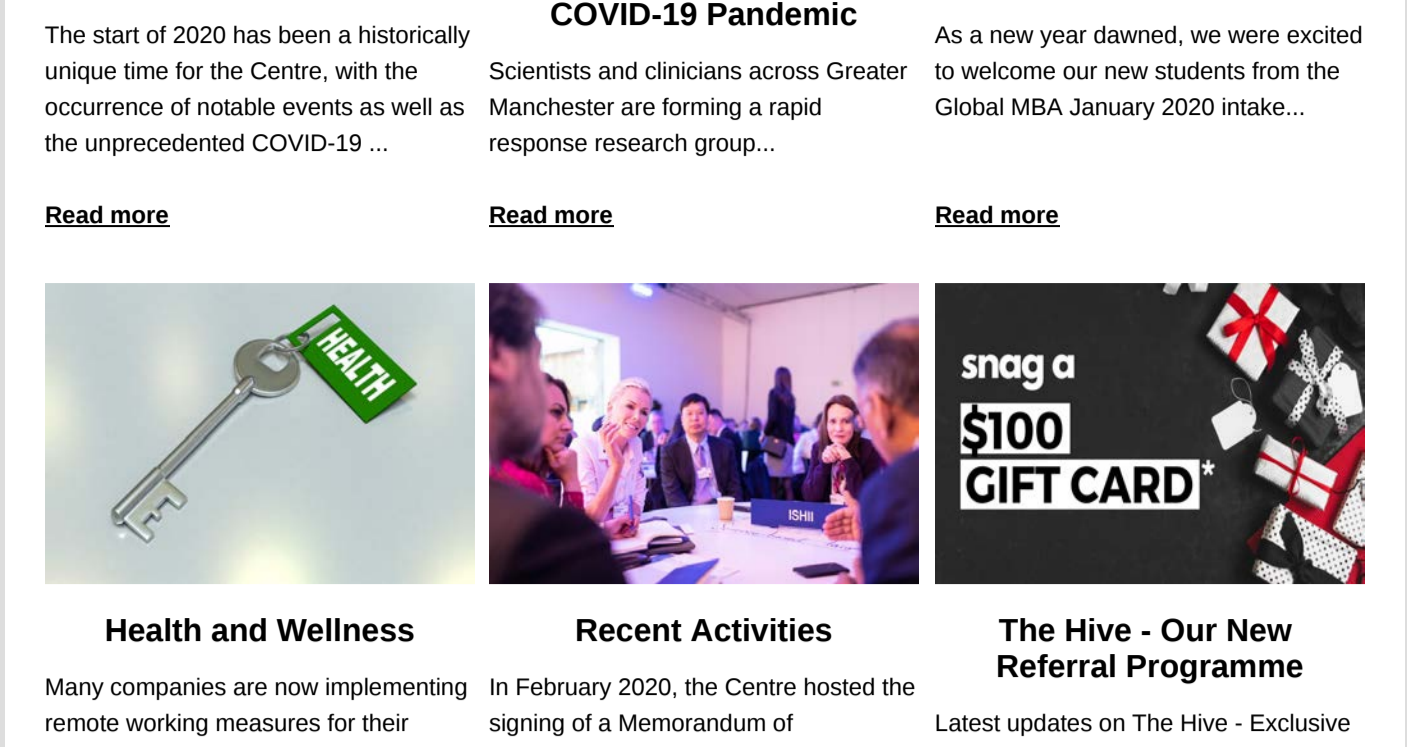




## UOM S.E Asia Centre Newsletter

### Spring 2020 Edition



#### From the Director's Desk

The start of 2020 has been a historically unique time for the Centre, with the occurrence of notable events as well as the unprecedented COVID-19...

#### Manchester Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic

Scientists and clinicians across Greater Manchester are forming a rapid response research group...

#### Welcoming Our New Intake

As a new year dawned, we were excited to welcome our new students from the Global MBA January 2020 intake...

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

#### Health and Wellness

Many companies are now implementing remote working measures for their employees, but what can you do to optimise your workload without neglecting your health?

#### Recent Activities

In February 2020, the Centre hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Manchester Business School Alumni Association Singapore (MBSAAS)...

#### The Hive - Our New Referral Programme

Latest updates on The Hive - Exclusive only to students and alumni of Manchester Worldwide (S.E. Asia) Centre, get involved to earn rewards!

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

#### Contest

Take a breather and participate in our quick little contest to stand a chance to win a prize!

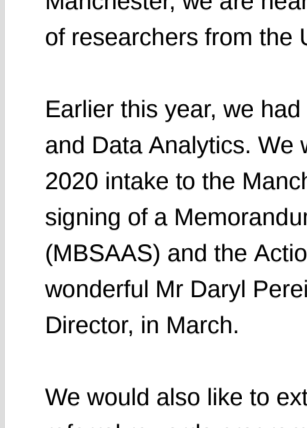
#### Season's Greetings!

Happy Easter! From all of us at the centre, we wish you a restful Easter break with lots of love and laughter...

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

#### From the Director's Desk



**LIM, Bee Ing**  
Regional Director, The University of Manchester Southeast Asia Centre

The start of 2020 has been a historically unique time for the Centre, with the occurrence of notable events as well as the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that has plagued not only Singapore, but the world at large. We are proud to see the efforts of our students in being flexible and being able to accommodate all the changes made on short notice. We also applaud both our teams at the Singapore Centre as well as the UK team in supporting our students by adapting to different forms of teaching and assessment to ensure teaching is able to go on for our students, even as remote working measures are being enforced.

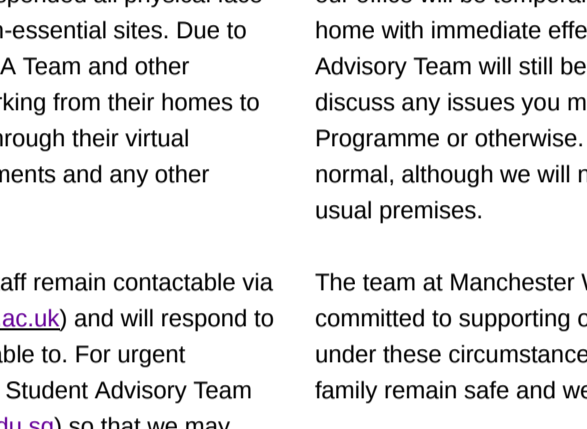
In such trying times, it is important for us to support and engage each other within the Manchester community, even as it is imperative to adhere to physical distancing measures. Here at the Centre, in adherence to local government directives, our team of staff are currently working from home until further notice in order to help curb the community spread. We will continue supporting the University and our students to the best of our abilities during the temporary closure of our office. In Manchester, we are heartened to hear that scientists and clinicians across the Greater Manchester area, including hundreds of researchers from the University, are forming a rapid response research group to combat the COVID-19 crisis.

Earlier this year, we had the opportunity for Dr Nikolay Mehandjiev to conduct an engaging seminar on Digital Developments and Data Analytics. We were also proud to have welcomed our new students from the Manchester Global MBA January 2020 intake to the Manchester family at our Welcome Event in January. In February, we had the pleasure of hosting the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Manchester Business School Alumni Association Singapore (MBSAAS) and the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE). We also hosted alumni sharing sessions by the wonderful Mr Daryll Pereira and Mr Tan Yu An, and held a webinar conducted by Dr Xavier Duran, MBA Programmes Director, in March.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our student Mr Danny Tan, the inaugural winner of our new referral rewards programme, The Hive. In referring a friend to our MBA programme, Danny received a Grab voucher worth SGD 50.00 that is also usable for GrabFood deliveries.

Finally, we hope that you and your families stay safe and well during this crucial time. Stay tuned for updates and our latest developments, and we look forward to seeing you again at our future events as we await patiently together for the situation to return to normalcy once more.

#### Manchester Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic



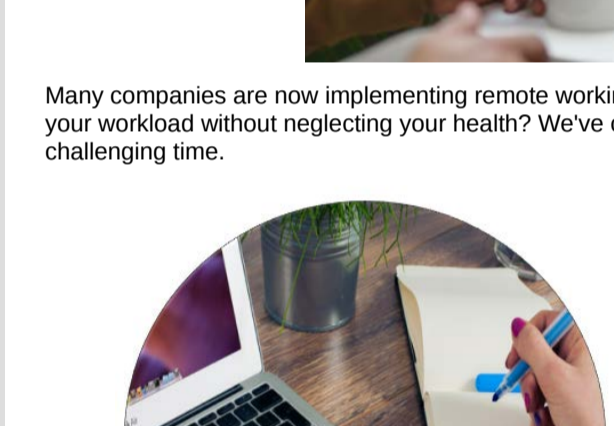
#### Manchester Gets Involved

To combat the COVID-19 spread and save lives, scientists and researchers across Greater Manchester region have banded together to form a rapid response research group. Those involved include hundreds of researchers from the University, clinical colleagues at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group, with support from Health Innovation Manchester (HiM), NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and the NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility.

Led by Dr Ian Bruce, Director of the BRC, Academic Director of HiM and Professor of Rheumatology at MFT, the group aims to come up with new treatments, understand COVID-19 mechanisms by following disease trajectory and closely monitoring severe cases, using data and mathematics to identify and track patients with symptoms to focus on those who are deteriorating. They are also looking into how to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on public health, as well as the impact on patients with pre-existing health conditions. Finally, they aim to speed up diagnosis and testing, as well as make preparations to conduct clinical trials for prevention and vaccination purposes.

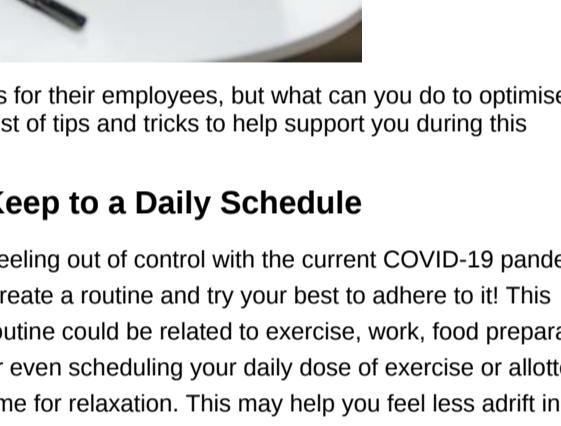
Professor Graham Lord, Vice-President and the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health at the University stated that they are striving to "minimise lives lost and reduce the impact of the pandemic" in order to bolster health and social care systems as well as in the wider community. Sir Michael Dodgson, Group Chief Executive of Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, also expressed his appreciation for all staff working in the NHS services for their impressive contributions in this challenging time. Prof. Ian Bruce has stressed the importance of the swift response undertaken by those in the rapid response research group, stating that "research has a significant role in understanding more about this new disease, how to tackle it and the longer-term impact this pandemic will have on communities".

Follow updates on the Rapid Research Group led by Dr Ian Bruce [here](#).



#### University-wide Contingency Measures

In line with the UK Government's latest advice about coronavirus, the University has suspended all physical face to face teaching and closed all non-essential sites. Due to the above measures, the UK GMBa Team and other support staff are now remotely working from their homes to continue to support our students through their virtual workshops, submission of assessments and any other queries.



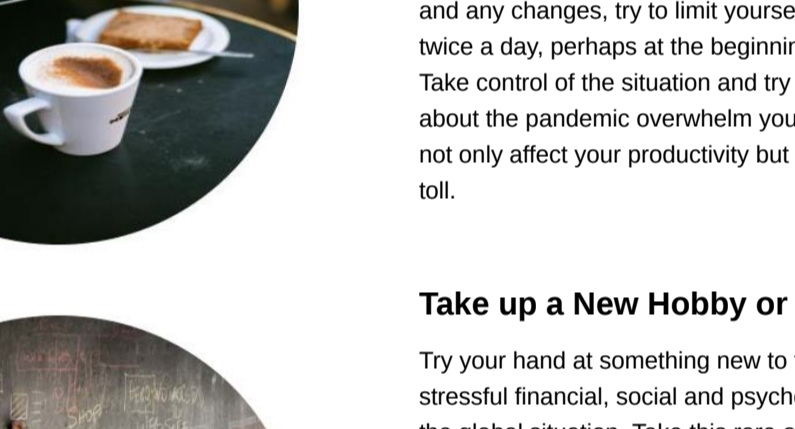
#### Centre Temporary Closure - COVID-19 Update

The Centre will be temporarily shut, with all staff working from home with immediate effect. Nevertheless, the Student Advisory Team will still be available during this time to discuss any issues you may be facing with your Study Programme or otherwise. Operations will continue as normal, although we will not be physically located at our usual premises.

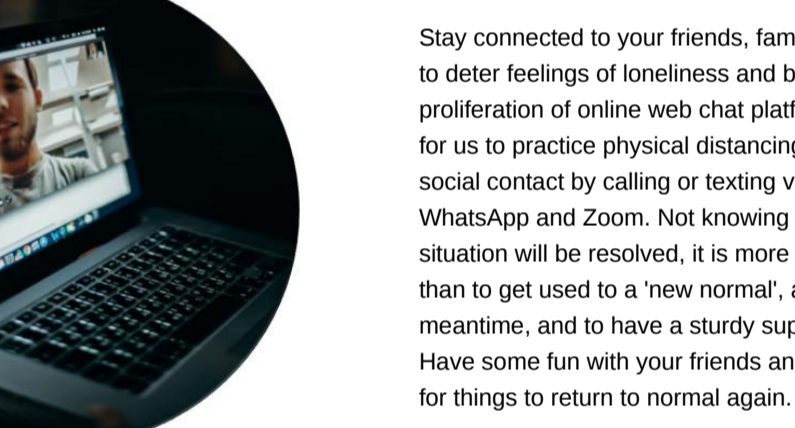
Please rest assured that our UK staff remain contactable via email ([globalmba@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:globalmba@manchester.ac.uk)) and will respond to your queries as soon as they are able to. For urgent queries, do co-copy the Singapore Student Advisory Team ([studensupport@manchester.edu.sg](mailto:studensupport@manchester.edu.sg)) so that we may assist to follow up on your behalf.

The team at Manchester Worldwide (S.E Asia) remains committed to supporting our students as best as we can under these circumstances, and we hope that you and your family remain safe and well!

#### Welcoming Our New Intake

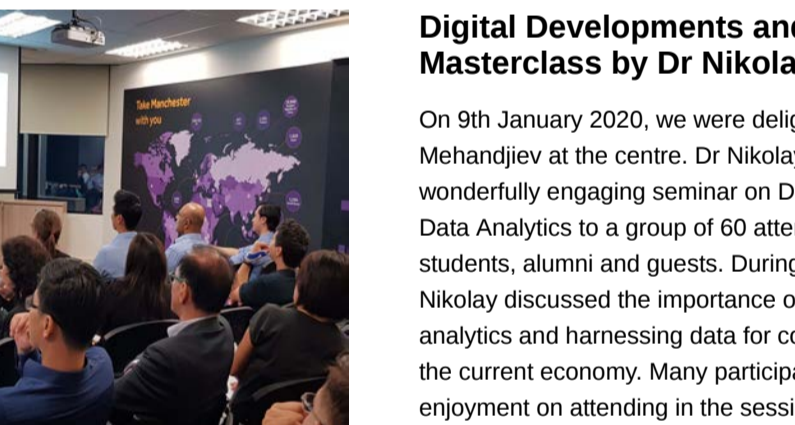


On 14th January 2020, we were glad to welcome our new students from the Manchester Global MBA January 2020 intake. The students were greeted by Dr Juyao Xuan, Associate MBA Director (Asia) and Ms Lim Bee Ing, our Centre Director, both of whom gave a welcome address to the students. This was followed by an alumni sharing session with Mr 'Tos' Teck Loon, and the introduction of the Manchester Business School Alumni Association Singapore (MBSAAS) by Ms Nicole Trethewey (Hon. Secretary, MBSAAS).



The Welcome Event concluded in a fun team-building exercise organised by the UK GMBa Support Team, with the task of creating the perfect Global MBA Student. Overseeing the event was Ms Kirsty Sheppard, Senior Programme Administrator (Student Support), and the lively activity set the tone for our students to begin on their MBA programme with us. We were glad to see the new cohort of students enjoying themselves and getting to know each other at the event!

#### Health and Wellness



Many companies are now implementing remote working measures for their employees, but what can you do to optimise your workload without neglecting your health? We've compiled a list of tips and tricks to help support you during this challenging time.



#### Keep to a Daily Schedule

Feeling off of a control with the current COVID-19 pandemic? Create a routine and try your best to adhere to it! This routine could be related to exercise, work, food preparation or even scheduling your daily dose of exercise or allotted time for relaxation. This may help you feel less adrift in the current environment by keeping the separation clearer between your work life and other day-to-day activities. Stick to a routine to foster healthy habits that can help you achieve your goals and to reduce your stress levels.



#### Applying a ROWE Mindset

Feeling trapped by your 9 - 5 routine at home? Apply some flexibility to your work productivity at home by practicing the Results-Only Work Environment (ROWE) mindset many managers adopt to enhance employees' productivity. Don't get too caught up in tracking the hours you dedicate to work, but rather, track your productivity by the results you are able to achieve during your working hours. Organisations that have implemented ROWE have seen material benefits that include disease prevention, increased productivity and improved employee morale.



#### Limit Your Daily News Check-Ins

This is a difficult time for everyone globally, and checking the news every couple of minutes may cause undue anxiety and depression, especially when every news outlet seems to be reporting on the spread of the coronavirus. While it is important to keep yourself informed of the current situation and any changes, try to limit yourself to doing so once or twice a day, perhaps at the beginning or the end of the day. Take control of the situation and try not to let your fears about the pandemic overwhelm your thoughts, which could not only affect your productivity but also take an emotional toll.



#### Take up a New Hobby or Project

Try your hand at something new to take your mind off the stressful financial, social and psychological implications of the global situation. Take this rare opportunity to indulge in something you have always wanted to try by yourself, or with your household. Make an attempt to learn a new language or instrument, read a good book, or learn a new skill on a platform such as Coursera, Udemy or look into other online courses that may be claimable using SkillsFuture credits.



#### Stay Connected with your Network

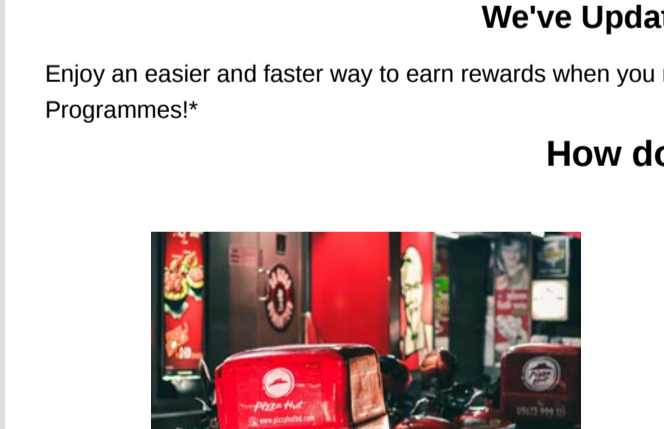
Stay connected to your friends, family, colleagues and peers to deter feelings of loneliness and boredom. The proliferation of online web chat platforms has made it easy for us to practice physical distancing while maintaining social contact by calling or texting via Facetime, Skype, WhatsApp and Zoom. Not knowing when the current global situation will be resolved, it is more important now than ever than to get used to a "new normal", at least for the meantime, and to have a sturdy support network in place. Have some fun with your friends and colleagues as you wait for things to return to normal again.

#### Recent Activities



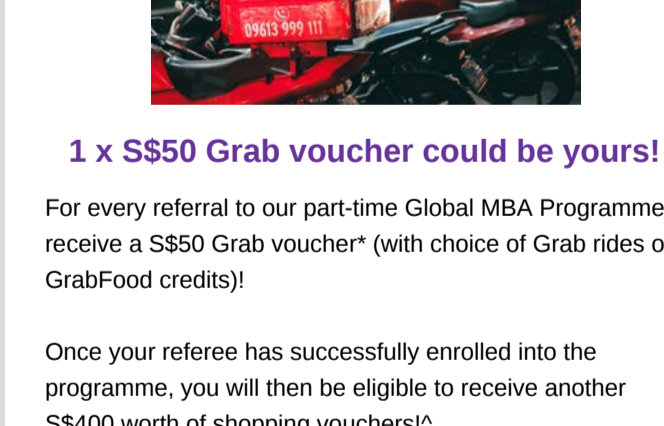
#### MoU Signing Between MBSAAS and ACE

In February 2020, the Centre hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Manchester Business School Alumni Association Singapore (MBSAAS) and the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE). The MoU was signed in order to promote thought leadership, mentorship, and the facilitation of the exchange of ideas between members of both organisations. The signing ceremony was attended by Mr Edmund Neo, CEO of ACE and Manchester Global MBA Alumna, Ms Lal Lock See, President of MBSAAS, as well as Guest-of-Honour, Ms Lim Bee Ing, Regional Director of the Manchester Worldwide (S.E. Asia) Centre.



#### Digital Developments and Data Analytics Masterclass by Dr Nikolay Mehandjiev

On 9th January 2020, we were delighted to host Dr Nikolay Mehandjiev at the centre. Dr Nikolay conducted a wonderfully engaging seminar on Digital Developments and Data Analytics to a group of 60 attendees comprising of students, alumni and guests. During the masterclass, Dr Nikolay discussed the importance of utilising Big Data analytics and harnessing data for companies to prosper in the current economy. Many participants expressed their enjoyment on the session.



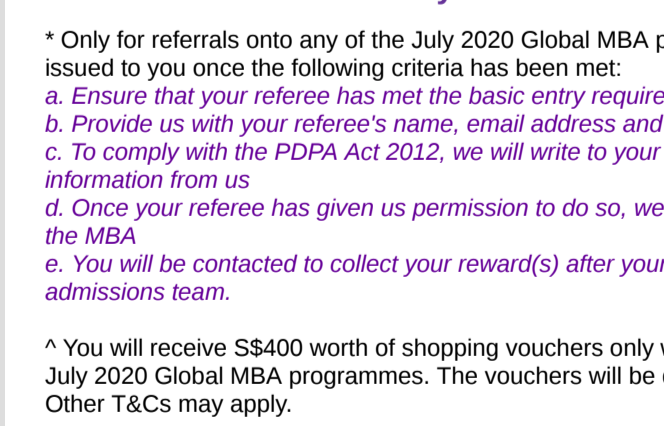
#### Visit from UoM Senior Staff Members

In March, some senior staff members from the UK visited Singapore for the International Compliance Association (ICA) audit. Ms Lim Bee Ing, our Regional Director, led our visitors on a tour of the centre. Our visitors included Emma Rose, Head of Teaching, Learning & Student Experience (Faculty of Humanities), Jane Crombier, Student Director, Executive Education at AMBS, Sarah Featherstone, Head of Teaching, Learning & Student Experience (Faculty of Engineering), Andrew Glover, ICA Chief Examiner Asia and Director of Compliance Education - AP and Helen Langdon, CEO of the International Compliance Training Academy Pte Ltd.



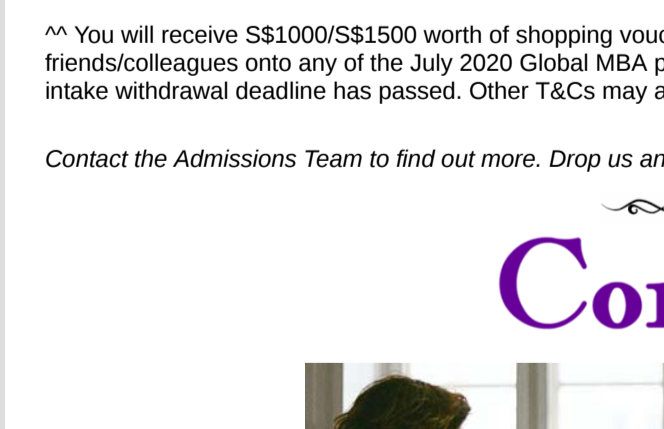
#### UoM Alumni Association Singapore CNY Lohi 2020

In the early February, the annual Chinese New Year Lohi get-together at the University of Manchester Alumni Association Singapore (UOMAAS) ushered in the Year of the Rat together at the annual Chinese New Year Lohi get-together. A great evening was had by all in attendance, with current president of UOMAAS, Mr Alex Chan, and Alumni Association Advisory Board Member and former UOMAAS President, Mr Tang Hsin Seng, in attendance.



#### MBS Alumni Association Singapore End of Year Luncheon and Social@M Welcome Back Event

Between December 2019 and January 2020, the MBSAAS organised a Year-End brunch gathering at Artichoke with its Executive Council in attendance and its social arm, Social@M, held a Welcome Back event at the 1-Altitude Rooftop Bar. Participants in both events were able to enjoy delicious food and drinks but more significantly, were able to connect and catch-up with their peers.



#### President of UMAAM Visits the Dubai Centre

On 12th February 2020, Ms Suzebaayeh Jalani, the President of the University of Manchester Alumni Association of Malaysia (UMAAM), visited the University of Manchester - Middle East Centre, and met with Ms Hiba Abbassi, Senior Careers and Alumni Relations Advisor, and Ms Poonam Mirchandani, Senior Programmes Administrator, Student Support team. Discussions were made for collaborations in future between regions and Ms Jalani also attended an Effective Business Communication seminar.



#### MBA Alumni Sharing and Webinar Sessions

On 12th February and 14th March, we had the pleasure of hosting Alumni Sharing sessions with Mr Daryll Pereira, Partner & Head of Cybersecurity Services at KPMG, and Mr Tan Yu An, Senior Manager at Schenker Singapore respectively to discuss their experiences both during and after their studies with us. We also had the opportunity to share with the Centre a webinar hosted by Dr Xavier Duran, MBA Programmes Director at the University, in March.

#### The Hive - Our New Referral Programme

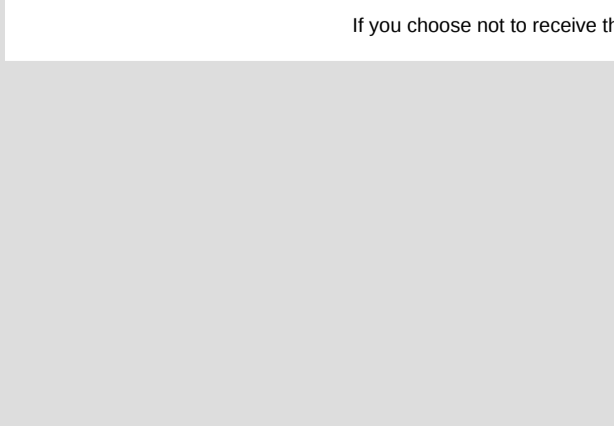
Congratulations to our first winner of The Hive, Mr Danny Tan (January 2019, Global Accelerator intake) who won a \$550 Grab voucher, usable for either Grab Rides or GrabFood - perfect for those of you working from home!



#### We've Updated Our Rewards!

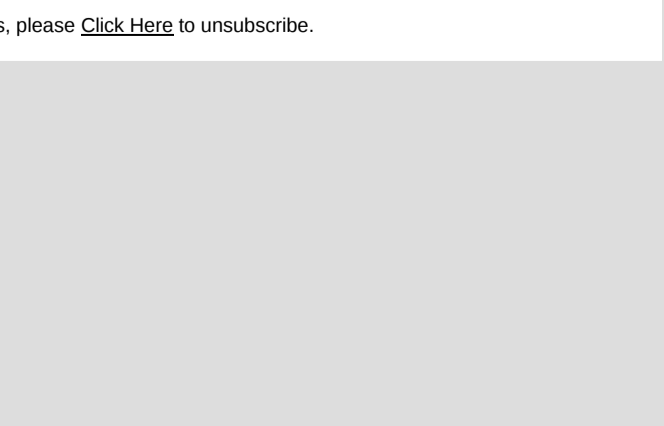
Enjoy an easier and faster way to earn rewards when you refer a friend or colleague onto any of our part-time Global MBA Programmes?

#### How does it work?



#### 1 x \$550 Grab voucher could be yours!

For every referral to our part-time Global MBA Programme, receive a \$550 Grab voucher\* (with choice of Grab Rides or GrabFood credits)!

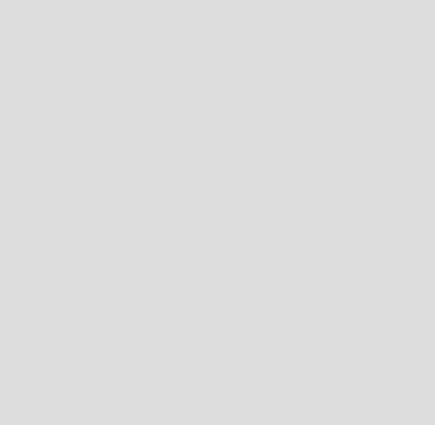


#### Win a \$3100 iTunes Gift Card or 2 x \$550 Grab vouchers!

As long as you submit 2 referrals to our part-time Global MBA Programme, stand a chance to receive either an iTunes Gift Card (worth \$3100, applicable for iTunes, iOS, Mac, App store purchases) or 2 x \$550 Grab vouchers (with choice of Grab rides or GrabFood credits)!

Once your referee has successfully enrolled into the programme, you will then be eligible to receive another \$5400 worth of shopping vouchers!\*

Once your referees have successfully enrolled onto the programme, you will then be eligible to receive another \$21000 worth of shopping vouchers!\*



#### The July 2020 intake is now open for applications.

\* Only for referrals onto any of the July 2020 Global MBA programmes. The \$550 Grab voucher(s) or iTunes gift card will be issued to you once the following criteria has been met:  
a. Ensure that your referee has met the basic entry requirements of the MBA programme  
b. Provide us with your referee's name, email address and updated CV  
c. To comply with the PDPA Act 2012, we will write to your referee to request for his/her permission to receive further information from us  
d. Once your referee has given us permission to do so, we will then request for a 300 word essay on his/her motivation to do the MBA  
e. You will be contacted to collect your reward(s) after your referee has submitted the essay and it has been reviewed by our admissions team.

\* You will receive \$8400 worth of shopping vouchers only when you successfully refer your friend/colleague into any of the July 2020 Global MBA programmes. The vouchers will be disbursed to you once the make withdrawal deadline has passed. Other T&Cs may apply.

\*\* You may receive \$31000/\$15000 worth of shopping vouchers only when you successfully refer 2/3 of your friend/colleagues onto any of the July 2020 Global MBA programmes. The vouchers will be disbursed to you once the make withdrawal deadline has passed. Other T&Cs may apply.

Contact the Admissions Team to find out more. Drop us an email at [mbaenquiries@manchester.edu.sg](mailto:mbaenquiries@manchester.edu.sg).

## Contest



#### We would love to hear from you!

What are some ways you have been using to cope with the implementation of work from home measures?

Submit a video (1 minute or less) to tell us about your experience or email us your answer (50 words or less) to stand a chance to win a mystery prize!\*\*

\*\* Submissions at [mbaenquiries@manchester.edu.sg](mailto:mbaenquiries@manchester.edu.sg) by 31st May 2020.



#### Season's Greetings!

Dear All,

Happy Easter!

From all of us at the Centre, we wish you a restful Easter break with lots of love and laughter!

As you celebrate Easter, we hope you are able to take time off to recharge and reconnect with your loved ones, whether it be physically or virtually.



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