

On track to a smooth uni transition

It was no surprise that Ong Ee Fen was given the Cambridge Tutors College's (CTC London) prestigious Principal's Award in November 2012.

With 9A+s and 1A for her SPM and IELTS 8.0 under her belt, Ong from Sri KDU Secondary School is also an accomplished debater.

She represented Malaysia in various international debate championships in South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and South Africa. Ong was also actively involved in the performing arts. She was director, scriptwriter and also acted in short films and skits in school and had led countless artistic projects including Head of the Decoration Team for her sports house.

Ong was no bench warmer in sports activities. She represented her school in competitive swimming competitions and won many gold and silver medals. Her countless achievements also included wins in public speaking contests and scaling Mt Kinabalu in Malaysia at the age of 16.

Ong shared that she had always intended to do her degree course in the United Kingdom. She decided to bring forward her overseas studies plans as she felt that it would help in her transition and her preparation for her tertiary



Ong Ee Fen (right) enjoys a fulfilling collegelife at Cambridge Tutors College

education. From January this year, she is pursuing an accelerated 18-month A levels course at CTC London, taking Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Economics.

Ong says that studying A-Levels at CTC London has been an exciting adventure as CTC is an international college that attracts students all over the world, many of whom aspire to enter the top universities in the UK.

Being in this community of highly motivated students in CTC, which is well-known for helping students get into the top UK universities, has been academically challenging, yet socially and culturally enriching.

Ong loves the lessons at CTC London as they are conducted in small groups of 7 to 10 students, depending on the subjects. This is a stark difference from the large class sizes back home.

She excitedly pointed out that "there is more active interaction between the teacher and students, so lessons are very engaging. There are also weekly tests for each subject so it really keeps us students on our toes!"

Ong is working towards her dream – to study medicine in a highly acclaimed university. She says that the CTC teachers are well-qualified and very dedicated. "They give students a lot of extra support and advice and

they prepare us well with extensive notes and exam-based exercises".

International students, like Ong, stay with local families under the College's well-managed homestay programme. The local families are carefully selected by the College and many have been hosting international students for more than 20 years and hence, are well-versed with the differences in cultures and customs of the international students.

This year, CTC will again be offering a 100% tuition-fee scholarship for one student as well as partial scholarships.

The stringent selection criteria include excellent academic results (actual or forecast SPM), school references, high IELTS scores, extra-curricular activities, and outstanding record of awards, achievements. The scholarships will be for entry to the 18-month A-level course in January 2014.

"The Principal's Award which covers 100% of the tuition fees is currently valued at around RM\$ 160,000 over the 18 months of an A-level course. The other CTC Merit Scholarships cover up to 50% of the tuition fees.

"The Principal's Award is only available to students who have already been awarded a 50% scholarship and who have accepted a place at CTC on that basis. In other words, it is a means of rewarding the best of the best" said ASA Overseas Education Specialist Malaysia Senior Operation Manager, Mr Stanley Tan.

Students who meet the criteria should contact, ASA, which is the sole representative in Malaysia for CTC London.

ASA has assisted many Malaysian students with their enrolment and the students have subsequently progressed to the leading UK universities for their degree courses.

The selection interviews will be conducted by the principal of CTC London in Kuala Lumpur and Penang in late June (first round shortlisting) and early September (second round shortlisting).

Interviews may also be held in Kuching and Kota Kinabalu. The results will be released by November.

Interview slots for the limited scholarships are by appointment:

- **ASA Penang** - 1 July 2013 (from 2pm)
ASA Petaling Jaya – 28 June 2013 (from 2pm)

Contact ASA to find out more about the scholarship application procedure and criteria. Call:

- **ASA Penang:** 441-1-7 Pulau Tikus Plaza, Burmah Road, 10350 Penang (04-227 0373/228 0373)
- **ASA Petaling Jaya:** Lot F106, First Floor Centrepoint (New Wing) 3 Lebuhraya Utama 47800 PJ (03-7727 1373/7729 1373)
- **ASA Kota Kinabalu:** 15-2(R), 2nd Floor, Beverly Hills Plaza, Jalan Bundusan, Penampang, 88300 Kota Kinabalu (088-723573)
- **Kuching:** (016-836 5068)