

Kekangan wang bukan penghalang kejar impian bidang seni, sosial

Graduan reka bentuk UAS atasi cabaran kerja sambil demi biaya pengajian, ingin beri inspirasi kepada artis muda

INSYIRAH MOHD SHUKOR
insyirahms@sph.com.sg

Membesar dalam keluarga berpendapatan tunggal membuatkan Cik Masha Nyanna Wee Junyadi sedar bahawa impiannya untuk melanjutkan pengajian dalam bidang seni di universiti bukan sesuatu yang mudah dicapai.

Perasaan ingin menyumbang kepada masyarakat melalui seni telah mendorong Cik Masha melanjutkan pengajian dalam program Reka Bentuk untuk Masa Depan Sosial di Universiti Seni Singapura (UAS) pada 2024.

Dengan itu, anak sulung daripada dua beradik berusia 22 tahun itu bukan sahaja melakukan dua pekerjaan sambil, malah bergantung kepada bantuan kewangan daripada orang sekeliling bagi membiayai pengajiannya selama dua tahun itu.

Maka, majlis konvokesyen beliau pada 7 Ogos menjadi detik bermakna apabila segala pengorbanan yang dilakukan sepanjang dua tahun lalu akhirnya berbalas dengan segulung ijazah.

Buat julung-julung kalinya, majlis itu menghimpunkan 693 graduan daripada dua institusi UAS, iaitu Maktab Seni Lasalle dan Akademi Seni Halus Nanyang (Nafa).

Daripada jumlah itu, seramai lapan graduan menerima Anugerah Kecemerlangan Akademik Lasalle, manakala 11 lagi menerima Anugerah Graduan Terbaik Nafa.

Menteri Pendidikan, Encik Desmond Lee, hadir selaku tetamu terhormat.

Cik Masha berkongsi, detik menerima ijazah itu ibarat bukti bahawa kekangan kewangan tidak semestinya menghalang seseorang daripada mengejar cita-cita.

Malah, beliau berharap kisahnyapun dapat memberi inspirasi kepada bakal artis yang berdepan cabaran serupa.

Ini disebabkan, ketika menerima tawaran mengikuti pengajian pada 2024, keluarganya tidak mempunyai simpanan mencukupi untuk membayar yuran semester pertama dalam tempoh yang ditetapkan.

Yuran tersebut perlu dibayar dalam tempoh dua minggu bagi mengesahkan tempatnya di universiti.

"Untuk menerima tawaran itu, saya hanya ada sekitar dua minggu untuk membayar yuran. Mencari wang dalam tempoh itu memang sangat mencair bagi saya dan keluarga.

"Ibu saya pula tidak memenuhi syarat sebagai penjamin di bank, manakala ramai ahli keluarga lain juga tidak dapat membantu. Jadi, saya hampir



Kekangan kewangan tidak menghalang Cik Masha Nyanna Wee Junyadi (kiri) daripada mengejar cita-citanya dalam bidang seni. Kejayaannya menerima ijazah pada 7 Ogos dikongsi bersama ibunya, Cik Pepita Theresa Wee Min Ferdinands, yang sentiasa menyokong minatnya sejak kecil. - Foto BH oleh NUR DIYANA TAHA

tidak dapat meneruskan pengajian kerana gagal mengesahkan tempat saya," katanya yang berbangsa Melayu-Serani.

Cik Masha akur, pengalaman membesar dalam keluarga ibu tunggal membentuk sikapnya agar lebih berjimat cermat dan berhemah dalam berbelanja.

Mujur, dengan bantuan kenalan dan Bantuan Kewangan BinjaiTree serta Anugerah Yayasan Lee, yang membolehkannya membayar semula wang tersebut dan menampung hampir keseluruhan yuran pengajiannya.

"Pengajian di universiti bukan murah.

"Disebabkan itu saya ingin setiap sen yang dibelanjakan digunakan dengan baik demi masa depan sendiri. Saya tidak mahu sekadar menghasilkan seni untuk tujuan komersial, sebaliknya untuk memberi manfaat kepada masyarakat," kata beliau.

Dalam pada itu, Cik Masha kini bekerja di sebuah pertubuhan pembangunan amal beliau, pekerjaan yang diperolehinya beberapa bulan sebelum menamatkan pengajiannya.

Beliau berkata, ilmu yang diperoleh sepanjang pengajian itu sedikit sebanyak membantunya mendapatkan pekerjaan itu, sambil terus memperkasa go-

longan muda yang memerlukan sokongan.

"Menjadi sebahagian daripada kohort pertama program ini sangat bermakna buat saya. Bukan selalu kita berpeluang menjadi kumpulan pertama yang melalui sesuatu pengalaman.

"Ijazah ini membuka peluang kepada saya untuk mendapatkan pekerjaan yang bermakna dan memberi kestabilan kewangan.

Pada masa yang sama, saya dapat menggunakan kemahiran yang dipelajari untuk membantu golongan belia daripada latar belakang seperti saya," kata Cik Masha.

Financial constraints are no obstacle to pursuing her dreams in the arts and social fields

Growing up in a single-income family made Ms Masha Nyanna Wee Junyadi realise that her dream of pursuing the arts in university is not something that is easy to achieve.

The desire to contribute to society through the arts prompted Masha to pursue her studies in the BA (Hons) Design for Social Futures programme at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore.

The 22-year-old, eldest of two siblings, not only worked two part-time jobs; she also relied on financial assistance from those around her to finance her studies for the two years.

Thus, her convocation ceremony on 7 August was a meaningful moment when all the sacrifices she made over the past two years finally paid off with a degree.

For the first time, the ceremony brought together 693 graduates from UAS's founding members, LASALLE College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA).

Of these, eight graduates received the LASALLE Academic Excellence Award, while 11 others received the NAFA Best Graduate Award.

Minister for Education, Mr Desmond Lee, was present as the Guest of Honour.

Masha shared that the moment she received the degree was proof that financial constraints do not stop anyone from pursuing their dreams.

In fact, she hopes her story can inspire future artists who are facing similar challenges.

This is because, when she accepted the offer to study in 2024, her family did not even have enough savings to pay for her first semester fees within the specified period.

The fees had to be paid within two weeks to confirm her place at the university.

"To accept the offer, I only had about two weeks to pay the fees. Finding money during that period was very challenging for me and my family. My mother did not meet the requirements to be a guarantor at the bank, while many other family members were also unable to help. So, I almost could not continue my studies because I failed to confirm my place," the Eurasian-Malay shared.

Masha admits that her experience growing up in a single-mother family shapes her attitude to be more frugal and prudent in spending.

Fortunately, with the help of friends, the BinjaiTree Bursary and the Lee Foundation Award, she was able to repay the money and cover almost all her tuition fees.

"Studying at university is not cheap. That is why I want every cent spent to be used well for my future. I do not want to just produce art for commercial purposes; rather, it must benefit society," she said.

Masha is currently working at a youth development charity, a job she got a few months before graduating.

She said the knowledge she gained during her studies helped her get the job, where she continues to empower young people in need.

"Being part of the first cohort of this programme means a lot to me. It's not often that we get the opportunity to be the first group to go through such an experience.

Source: [Berita Harian](#) © SPH Media Limited

8 August 2026, Page 3

Permission required for reproduction

“This degree has opened up opportunities for me to get a meaningful job and provided me with financial stability. At the same time, I can use the skills I have learnt to help youth from backgrounds like mine,” said Masha.