



**NEXUS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
MALAYSIA

**15**  
YEARS OF  
INNOVATION



# NEXUS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI STORIES



# FOREWORD

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



**David Griffiths**

*Principal*

*Nexus International School Malaysia*

Having been at Nexus since 2007 and in celebration of our 15 years anniversary, it is with great pride and joy that I introduce this ebook collection of Nexus alumni success stories.

A Nexus education opens up opportunities for children and young people to live happy and successful lives in our global community. Within these pages you will read about their diverse journeys, accomplishments, and reflections as they embarked on their educational journeys at Nexus and beyond.

From academic success and leading research through pioneering initiatives and global leadership to sporting representations at world events, Nexus alumni exemplify the enduring impact of a Nexus education in making the world a better place.

# FOREWORD

## FROM OUR HEAD OF SECONDARY



**Morag McCrorie**  
*Head of Secondary*  
*Nexus International School Malaysia*

It is with immense pride that I introduce this e-book, a mosaic of achievements and experiences reflecting the transformative journey of Nexus over the past decade and a half.

As educators, our mission at Nexus has always been unwavering: to cultivate young minds into globally responsible citizens equipped to navigate the complexities of our interconnected world. This ambition guides every facet of our approach, from nurturing individual talents to fostering a diverse, internationally-minded learning community.

The graduates featured in these pages embody the very essence of this ethos. Though their paths may diverge, they are united by a shared drive to make a positive impact. From pioneering scientists to compassionate changemakers, their stories illustrate the boundless potential that blossoms within the walls of Nexus.

This e-book is not merely a compilation of individual narratives; it is a testament to the collective impact of fifteen years of unwavering dedication. As you delve into these pages, I invite you to not only celebrate the triumphs of our alumni, but also to glimpse the bright future that lies ahead. Their journeys are a testament to the enduring legacy of Nexus, and a beacon of inspiration for the generations to come.

We are incredibly proud of our alumni, and we hope you discover, as we have, the profound testament to our mission etched within their remarkable stories.



# Danial Shariat

*Graduate, Class of 2016*

*University of California, Berkeley*

*PhD in Agriculture Resource Economics*

## Achievements

- *Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Boston University*
- *Graduated with a Master of Economics from Boston University (Partial Merit-based Scholarship)*

As one of our earliest enrollees who joined us in 2008, Danial has achieved significant milestones since his time as a Nexus learner. He obtained both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Boston University. Currently pursuing a PhD in Agriculture Resource Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, he attributes his success to the holistic development he experienced during his time at Nexus.



# Khoo Qi Xuan

*Graduate, Class of 2019*

*University of Oxford, United Kingdom*

*Master of Science*

## Achievements

- *Only Malaysian to receive the Rhodes Scholarship from University of Oxford in 2023*
- *First Malaysian awarded the Karsh International Scholarship from Duke University*
- *Obtained a Perfect Score of 45 out of 45 in the 2019 IBDP Examinations*

Khoo Qi Xuan is an exceptional individual with many achievements, with the most notable being that he was the only Malaysian student to receive the Rhodes Scholarship from University of Oxford in 2023. He is also the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Technify, a platform that connects top tech talents at U.S. colleges with NGOs, NPOs, and social enterprises in Southeast Asia through pro-bono tech projects, allowing him to actively empower Southeast Asian changemakers.





# Aaliyah Yoong

Graduate, 2012–2020

Florida Southern College, United States  
Bachelor of Psychology

## Achievements

- 4 gold and 2 bronze medals at the Moomba Masters 2022
- First Malaysian and Asian to win a bronze medal in the International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation (IWFF) Under-21 Championships 2023
- Sime Darby Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Aaliyah Yoong is a highly accomplished water skier who has earned numerous medals on both national and international stages. She has represented Malaysia in many global competitions, including the 2022 World Games, where her historic bronze medal marked her as the first Asian women's skier to achieve such recognition at the world level.





# Emily Kuik

*Graduate, Class of 2020*

*University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada  
Bachelor of Psychology with Linguistics minor*

## Achievements

- *Scored 44 out of 45 Points in 2020 IBDP Examinations*
- *Lester B. Pearson Scholarship Recipient*

Emily Kuik, a recipient of the prestigious Lester B. Pearson Scholarship and 2020 IBDP top scorer (44 out of 45 points!), is currently pursuing a specialist (co-op) degree in Psychology with a Linguistics minor at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Her dedication led her to a Research Trainee position at CAMH, Canada's foremost mental health teaching hospital and a global leader in the field.



# Andrew Kuik

*Graduate, Class of 2022*

*Stanford University, United States  
Bachelor of Computer Science*

## Achievements

- *Scored 42 out of 45 Points in 2022 IB DP Examinations*
- *Grand Prix Winner in the Southeast Asia Piano Competition 2021*
- *Stanford University Scholarship Recipient*

Andrew Kuik, a distinguished pianist, delved into philanthropy at 12, organizing his first charity concert. This pivotal moment unveiled to him the transformative potential of his piano skills for charitable endeavours. Throughout his years at Nexus, he exhibited a proactive approach, consistently organising numerous events. Andrew has raised more than RM147,000 in funds through organising charity concerts in aid of refugee centres, autistic children associations, and many other charitable organisations. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor's Degree at Stanford University.





# King Ying Lau

*Graduate, Class of 2020*

*The University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada  
Bachelor of Science*

## Achievements

- *Scored 41 out of 45 Points in 2020 IBDP Examinations*
- *Awarded Faculty of Science International Student Scholarship from UBC two years in a row*
- *UBC Trek Excellence Scholarship Recipient*

On top of being an exceptional learner, King Ying Lau was also very active in co-curricular activities while she was at Nexus, including being president of the Student Council. Presently, Ying Lau is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Science with a focus on Behavioural Neuroscience at The University of British Columbia (UBC). She is also a Clinical Research Assistant at UBC Department of Medicine.



# Isaac Tan

Graduate, Class of 2022

National Triathlete

## Achievements

- 1st in 2023 MAS Sprint Triathlon National Championships
- Represented Malaysia in Commonwealth Games 2022
- 2nd in the Super Sprint Triathlon at the High Performance Talent Identification Camp 2021

Isaac Tan is an exceptional individual with a strong focus on his goals of becoming a National Triathlete. He continuously strives to outperform his personal best times in triathlons. Isaac is currently pursuing his career as a full-time athlete, with his latest endeavour being spearheading Malaysia's challenge in the 2024 Asia Triathlon Cup, and he aims to join the Olympics.





# Gerard Ong

*Graduate, Class of 2023*

*King's College London, United Kingdom  
Bachelor of International Relations*

## Achievements

- *Obtained a Perfect Score of 45 out of 45 in the 2023 IBDP Examinations*
- *Awarded Best Press Piece by Nanyang Technological University Model United Nations (NTUMUN) in 2022*

During his two years of IB at Nexus, Gerard Ong was actively involved in various activities. He also took up leadership roles in the Student Council and the Model United Nations programme. Having attained a perfect score in the 2023 IBDP Examinations, Gerard successfully secured admission to pursue International Relations at King's College London. He credits his current success to the valuable life lessons he learned at Nexus.



# Jeeahn Hur

*Graduate, Class of 2023*

*Yonsei University, South Korea*

*Bachelor of Integrated Science and Engineering*

## Achievements

- *Scored 41 out of 45 Points in 2023 IBDP Examinations*
- *Scored 9A\* in 2021 IGCSE Examinations*

Jeeahn Hur, an international learner hailing from South Korea, embarked on her educational journey at Nexus from the early age of 4. Scoring an impressive 41 out of 45 points in the 2023 IBDP Examinations, Jeeahn successfully secured admission to the esteemed Yonsei University in South Korea. Currently pursuing Integrated Science and Engineering, she attributes her success to the unwavering support of exceptional teachers and the strong sense of community fostered at Nexus.





# Joseph Chung

*Graduate, Class of 2022*

*The University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada  
Bachelor of Science*

## Achievements

- *Awarded the prestigious Karen McKellin International Leader of Tomorrow Award*
- *Granted a patent for his invention of a 'Safety Alert Method for Child Safety Seats'*
- *Two-time National Champion in the Sime Darby Young Innovators Challenge (SDYIC)*

During his time at Nexus, Joseph Chung secured a research internship with The Genomics Research Center, Academia Sinica in Taiwan, patented a 'Safety Alert Method for Child Safety Seats', and earned numerous accolades. As a recipient of the Karen McKellin International Leader of Tomorrow Award from The University of British Columbia (UBC), he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science there.



# Ng Yong Whye

*Graduate, Class of 2023*

*University College London, United Kingdom  
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery*

## Achievements

- *Top in the World in IGCSE Additional Mathematics in 2021*
- *Individual Global Top 10 and Gold Medalist in World Economics Cup 2022*
- *Scored 44 out of 45 Points in 2023 IBDP Examinations*

Ng Yong Whye has many achievements under his belt, including being Top in the World for IGCSE Additional Mathematics in 2021. After scoring 44 out of 45 Points in the 2023 IBDP Examinations, Yong Whye was accepted into the highly competitive field of Medicine and Surgery in University College London. The university only accepts 25 international students for this course each year so his admission serves as a testament to his academic prowess.





# Jonathan Chin

*Graduate, Class of 2021*

*University of Toronto, Canada  
Bachelor of Economics*

## Achievements

- *World Top 10 Debater in World Schools Debating Championships 2020*
- *Awarded the President's Scholar of Excellence by University of Toronto*
- *Scored 44 out of 45 Points in 2021 IBDP Examinations*

Over the course of Jonathan Chin's remarkable 11-year journey with Nexus, from 2010 to 2021, he actively contributed in various capacities, taking on leadership roles in both Model United Nations and the Student Council. Currently pursuing a specialist degree in Economics with a focus on Data Analytics at the University of Toronto, Canada, he has experience as a Summer Analyst at J.P. Morgan in equity research and will join Boston Consulting Group as a 2024 Summer Associate.



# Danae Zhang

*Graduate, Class of 2022*

*The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

## Achievements

- *Scored 44 out of 45 Points in 2022 IBDP Examinations*
- *Scored 10A\* in 2020 IGCSE Examinations*

During Danae Zhang's five-year journey at Nexus, the supportive atmosphere within the Nexus Boarding House became a catalyst for her growth and academic achievements. She credits her success to the support she received from the Nexus community. After scoring 44 out of 45 Points in the 2022 IBDP Examinations, Danae was offered admission to The University of Edinburgh.





# Max Ma

*Graduate, Class of 2022*

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States  
Bachelor of Economics*

## Achievements

- *Awarded Dean's List Scholar at University of Toronto*
- *Published a book about his experience being an international student*

Max Ma, hailing from China, found his time at Nexus Malaysia to be enjoyable. This inspired him to write a book - "These Years Overseas", where he shared his adventure studying abroad, like how Nexus exposed him to education beyond the classroom walls. He is currently studying Economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





# Karisma Putera

*Graduate, Class of 2018*

*Universiti Malaya, Malaysia  
Master of Public Policy*

## Achievements

- *Currently working as a Research & Advocacy Analyst at Bait al-Amanah*
- *Presented at the United Nations Global Compact Leader's Summit 2023*
- *Endorsed by the esteemed Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Young Scholars for Excellence Programme*

Having triumphed in his academic pursuits at Nexus, Karisma Putera has forged a remarkable path to success. Currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy at Universiti Malaya, Karisma stands as a beacon of accomplishment. At present, he is making valuable contributions at Bait al-Amanah, with his professional journey recently catapulting him onto the global stage. Karisma actively participated in and delivered a compelling presentation at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2023 in New York, offering an innovative solution for SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.





# Ariane Mamelle

*Graduate, Class of 2022*

*International Medical University, Malaysia*

## Achievements

- *Scored 40 out of 45 Points in 2022 IBDP Examinations*
- *Awarded the Pearson Edexcel Outstanding Learner Award for being Top in Country in IGCSE French, Summer 2019*

Ariane Mamelle, a committed and positive learner, has been an integral part of Nexus for an impressive 13 years, from 2009 to 2022. Achieving an outstanding score of 40 out of 45 points in the 2022 IBDP Examinations, she secured admission to the International Medical University. Ariane credits her success to the continuous support from her teachers, who were consistently available for guidance and assistance.





# Elizaveta Leytgold

*Graduate, Class of 2020*

*Monash University Malaysia, Malaysia  
Bachelor of Business and Commerce &  
Bachelor of Digital Media and Communication*

## Achievements

- *Awarded Top 25 Talentbank Future Leader Award in 2021*
- *Awarded Monash High Achiever Award in 2020*
- *Scored 41 out of 45 Points in 2020 IBDP Examinations*

Elizaveta Leytgold's journey at Nexus showcased her as a stellar and compassionate learner who was actively involved in co-curricular activities and volunteering. Her impressive score of 41 out of 45 Points in the 2020 IBDP Examinations propelled her to pursue a double degree at Monash University Malaysia. As Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of Ualive, an education-focused asynchronous video messaging platform, Elizaveta demonstrates a commitment to innovation, which is attributed to Nexus' dynamic environment that fostered her critical thinking and global perspective.





# Owen Huish

*Graduate, Class of 2014*

*University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom  
Master of Science in Game Development*

## Achievements

- *Obtained First-Class Honours Degree in Computer Science*
- *Obtained Distinction in Master of Science in Game Development*
- *Board of Director, Danger Rat Ltd, Indie Game Development Company*

Owen Huish was one of the earliest to join Nexus and he spent four impactful years with us. Upon graduation from Nexus, he pursued his passion in game development at the University of Gloucestershire, and even won an Erasmus+ sponsored placement in the Netherlands. During the COVID-19 lockdown, he released two indie games through Danger Rat Ltd, where he sits on the board of directors. He owes his success to the technology-rich curriculum at Nexus where he honed his skills in game design and project management.



