

Student leaders set the tone

The main purpose of orientation programmes is to ease new students' transition into university life. But orientation week offers more than a map or timetable; it helps students connect in unfamiliar spaces. For student leaders, striking the right balance begins with recognising that fun and inclusivity are not mutually exclusive. Activities should be intentional, incorporating games, challenges and bonding



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moments that celebrate diversity and encourage participation without singling out or humiliating anyone. Clear guidelines and a code of conduct should be emphasised to ensure respect is maintained. By rooting every activity in values such as teamwork, empathy and mutual respect, orientation becomes not only enjoyable, but also meaningful.

The aim of university orientation is to introduce students to the culture and traditions of campus life while nurturing strong bonds among peers. It's a time when students from various backgrounds come together. Student leaders work hard to balance spiritual, motivational and engaging activities – but the real difference lies in preparation. All activities are vetted through discussions with staff, advisers and bodies such as the Student Affairs Department and



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the Islamic Centre to ensure inclusivity, respect and purpose. To all student facilitators, carry out your role with sincerity, and never forget that every action reflects not only on you, but also on your university. At the end of the day, our mission as student leaders is to uphold the university's vision – and that starts with how we welcome new students into our community.

University orientation programmes are not just about introducing new students to campus life, but also about instilling university values and a sense of responsibility as young intellectuals. We uphold this through our unique orientation known as Minggu Apresiasi Watan (MAW). Student leaders must understand that engagement and respect can coexist. Every activity is designed to be enjoyable yet guided by core values. There is no room for



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bullying, hazing or humiliation. Instead, we promote community building through interactive modules, cultural showcases and inclusive group-based games. To all facilitators, my advice is simple: build trust through empathy, not authority. You don't need to push boundaries to create connections. Be sincere, listen well, and let every interaction come from a place of care.