FOR SPM and STPM holders, deciding on their next course of action can be quite daunting.

It is the time to reflect on their ambitions, evaluate possibilities and finally deciding on what courses or programmes to take.

For those with a strong inclination towards the sciences, SEGi College’s foundation in science is worth considering as it will pave the way to disciplines of health and life sciences, engineering and computing.

It prepares students for the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering and other sciences from more than 45 universities worldwide.

"Taking a foundation programme is a smart move if you are still unsure of your career choice. Most students at the age of 17 or 18 need more time before making such a life-altering decision. "As such, foundation programmes are very 'insightful' as they not only introduce students to a variety of options but also give time to tap their interests.

"Our foundation in science programme is approved by the Higher Education Ministry and serves as a bridge to connect students to degree programmes from renowned universities in the world," said SEGi College Malaysia (Kota Damansara) chief executive Prof Dr Muhamad Awang. The foundation in science programme is a one-year course that gives students an insight into the basics in sciences. It is also specially designed to prepare students for admission into the medicine and dentistry degree programmes at Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR), Indonesia, Master’s in Pharmacy from Sunderland University and the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) programme from Sheffield University.

The foundation programmes can pave the way for university entry and career-building in engineering, computing, pharmacy, medicine and dentistry. "There are also programmes specifically designed for those wanting to improve on their results to meet university entry requirements or those wishing to secure a place for a bachelor's degree at selected universities. It also prepares students for university life."

The foundation in science programme, scheduled to start in May and July, will prepare students for entry into medicine, dentistry, pharmacy or engineering degree courses in September next year.

Muhamad said the college had secured 100 seats for medicine and dentistry at UNAIR. This is a boon for its foundation students as while medical places in highly-ranked universities all over the world are limited, they are assured of a place in the republic's oldest and largest medical faculty. Both five-year degree courses are conducted in English and recognised by the Malaysian Medical Council and Malaysian Dental Council, which means graduates are free to practise in Malaysia.

Minimum entry requirement into the foundation in science with focus on medicine and dentistry is 5Bs at SPM level or equivalent in mathematics and science subjects. The programme is also tied to the four-year Master’s in Pharmacy from Sunderland University, UK, with the focus on subjects like mathematics, biology and chemistry. One factor to be noted is that the college is equipped with pharmacy, chemistry and biology labs for students.

The programme can also be used to gain entry into the Bachelor in Engineering (Honours) degree programme, covering chemical, electronic and electrical, and mechanical engineering from the prestigious University of Sheffield, UK.

Students are prepared for the demands expected of the Sheffield 1+2 BEng (Hons) in mechanical engineering or electronics and electrical engineering courses, with a guaranteed pathway, as long as the minimum requirements are met. The full-fledged facilities at the college are another plus point for students.

SEGi also offers the foundation in commerce for students wanting to pursue a career in business, finance and marketing. For details, call SEGi College, Malaysia (1800-88-SEGi or 03-61451777) or campuses in Subang Jaya (03-86001888), Kuala Lumpur (03-20702078), Penang (04-2633888), and Sarawak (082-252566), email to askme@segiledu.my or visit www.segiledu.my.