



## The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus Graduation Ceremony



**PhD graduates.** From left: Dr Michelle Chee Kuan Lam (PhD in Applied Psychology), Dr Fadilah Puteh (PhD in Business and Management), Dr Wan Nor Aishah Wan Omar (PhD in Education).

## Congratulations, Graduates!

We wish to express our heartiest congratulations to all graduates on their academic achievements! The joy and pride was evident not only in the graduates but also those who had a pivotal part to play in making the moment possible; family, friends and academics.

Graduation is a unique occasion for celebration, as graduates mark both the end and the beginning of exciting parts of their lives. It is also an occasion on which to look forward to the opportunities available to them as the graduates of The University of Nottingham.

To all graduates, you are now well equipped for success and always be confident with the knowledge and skills that you possess. Once again, we would like to congratulate you and wish you every success in your future undertakings.

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### Did you know?

A graduation ceremony is a cultural tradition termed as a rite of passage. 'Rite of passage' was termed by anthropologist Arnold van Gennep in 1909 who believed that passage rituals has 3 steps:

1. Separation from society
2. Inculcation-transformation
3. Return to society in the new status

# UNMC Research Showcase 2016

## Tell us how your research makes an impact!

Our annual Research Showcase is a great opportunity for researchers to share their passion for their work, practice their presentation skills and engage with the wider audience.

Entries are invited from postgraduate research students (MRes, MPhil, Doctoral students).

Entering the Research Showcase will give you the chance to:

- gain confidence in communicating your research
- develop effective communication and presentation skills
- network with other researchers and build your profile
- win one or even both cash prizes

## How to enter?

### 1. Submit a press release

To apply to take part in the Research Showcase, submit a press release outlining your research and why it is interesting to the wider community. Your release could also report any preliminary findings if appropriate. **Maximum of 250 words** including title and contact details, the press release **should not include any technical jargon** and should be written for a general audience. The press release should clearly display the researcher's name and school/department, and the title of the press release.

Training session "Preparing a Press Release":  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 *\*lapsed*

Email entries to: [Amirah.Zin@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:Amirah.Zin@nottingham.edu.my)

Deadline for entries: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### 2. Entries will be shortlisted

We will choose the 30 best press releases and these researchers will go through to take part in the Research Showcase.

### 3. Design your poster

All shortlisted researchers will be offered specialist training and support to help create their poster for the Research Showcase.

Training session "Using Posters to Communicate Research": Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Training session "Creating a Poster in PowerPoint": Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Deadline for poster submission: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

### 4. Video recording

Presentation of poster will be video recorded for online voting — People's Choice.

Date: between 4<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Training session "Presentation Skills": Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Training session "Further Presentation Skills": Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

### 5. UNMC Research Showcase

The top 30 research projects will compete in the UNMC Research Showcase.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### 6. Poster presentation via video conference

The top 5 research projects will be presented, via video conference, with the UK Campus.

Date: to be confirmed

The previous winner, Yamina Boukari (left) from the School of Pharmacy. Click [here](#) to read about her experience participating in last year's UNMC Research Showcase.



# The View by...

**Dr Acga Cheng**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Biosciences*

## What's Next After PhD?

### 10 questions raised by postgraduate students — PART II

**Q: Career development: How to strategise and what to consider?**

A: Set personal goals, keep on learning and building essential skills, adopt a better attitude, learn organisation's culture, improve work performance and soft skills. If the organisation does not meet your expectations after one year or more, you may need to adjust your expectations or consider leaving the job for a better prospect.

**Q: How can postgraduates start consultation business or join a consultation firm?**

A: Postgraduates need to make sure that they are (well) qualified to become a consultant and establish their reputation before starting their own consultation business. Joining an established firm or company as a partner or employee may be a good way to get started.

**Q: What are the networking strategies that can be useful for personal and professional development?**

A: Join any related professional organisations and societies, participate in international conferences and workshops, create an online research profile.

**Q: As an early career researcher, how do I increase my value and credibility in the academia? What are the opportunities available and what should be the main focus?**

A: Gain some teaching experience while improving research knowledge and skills through training courses and workshops. Learn how to write grant proposals and try to publish one or more research papers per year. The focus should be on enhancing research visibility and impact while developing strong written and oral communication skills.

**Q: What is the one piece of advice you would give to the postgraduates who are unsure of what career path to pursue?**

A: Figure out what you love to do (the most) and go for it. As the saying goes, choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.



# SWIRL @ Nucleus

## So What's It Really Like?

Find out about life at UNMC from current postgraduate students!

**I still remember arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport after an 18-hour flight from Accra, Ghana, seemingly clueless of the future that awaits me in a place far away from home, but embracing each passing second with pure optimism and a strong desire to succeed.**

Hi, my name is Oppong Kyekyeku Appiah, a Ghanaian and I am doing my Masters of Science in International Development Management in the School of Politics, History and International Relations.

Adjusting to a different country or society can be quite challenging especially in my case where I had to overcome an 8-hour time difference and also embrace a new culture. I can still remember sleeping around 7am in my first few weeks here in Malaysia. Nonetheless, it is worth the pain especially if you find yourself in such a beautiful country which provides a perfect opportunity to learn the cultures of other people. Malaysia symbolically presents the perfect expression of Asia one can never get with a perfect blend of cultures.

I am not the 'travelling-around' type, however I have explored very much the beautiful Kuala Lumpur city, from the famous Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Park to the elegant Islamic Arts Museum. Hopefully, I will be able to visit certain places outside Selangor, especially the islands that have touted before my stay comes to an end later this year.

One of my most memorable experiences as a postgraduate student was at the Graduate School's Christmas party last year where I won the candy guess game. The candy guess game was one of the side attractions aside the normal feasting and merry making that usually characterise Christmas parties. Postgraduate students were asked to predict the number of candies in a jar. Luckily and to my surprise as well, my guess was the closest to the actual number of candies in the jar. My award, the jar full of candies,

still sits in the room of a colleague who believes he should have won the prize because he took the pain to count the candies one by one.

The MSc International Development Management programme along with the MA International Relations constitute the two masters programmes in the School of Politics, History and International Relations. I am one of the four representatives of both programmes at the University's Learning Community Forum, where the concerns of students are channeled to the appropriate authorities for redress. I am also a member of the University's Swimming Club.

My major conviction in life is that wherever you find yourself your life should positively impact on others and that you should always be a solution to someone's problem.

I believe as postgraduate students, we are being trained to bring out solutions to numerous challenges facing the world and the University of Nottingham provides the perfect teaching and learning in this regard.

It has been exciting and memorable journey in both my academic and social life in Malaysia so far, long may it continue.

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*[Picture] Oppong Kyekyeku Appiah, MSc International Development Management candidate, School of Politics, History and International Relations, at the KLCC Park.*





# Doctoral Training Programme

## CFF-UNMC DTP

### Researching diversity: what, how and why?

Welcome to the DTP (Doctoral Training Programme) column. In this ongoing section, we will introduce UNMC's first DTP (the CFF-UNMC DTP) and share regular updates and news from the DTP team, their research and experiences.

#### What is a DTP?

A DTP refers to a collaboration between diverse partners such as higher education institutes and research centres, industry, government bodies, charities etc. In this particular case, this partnership was established between UNMC and Crops For the Future (CFF) to form the CFF-UNMC DTP. Since its launch in 2012, this partnership has also incorporated additional support from other academic and research institutes, both national and international.

Crops For the Future is the world's first centre committed to research on underutilised crops, with a mission to develop solutions for agricultural diversification through underutilised crops. Research at CFF is focused on diversifying agricultural systems for enhancing nutrition, food security, economic well-being and addressing climate change. Through this partnership, CFF and UNMC strive to enhance the skills, capabilities and experience of their DTP students in these strategic research areas, so that they may contribute to securing a sustainable future in agriculture.

#### How does it work?

The CFF-UNMC DTP is a focused program for addressing some of today's priority research areas while simultaneously offering professional development to postgraduate students through the following:

**A focus** on the challenges for today's global issues – food security, climate change, clean energy, sustainable livelihoods – through pioneering research on agricultural diversification

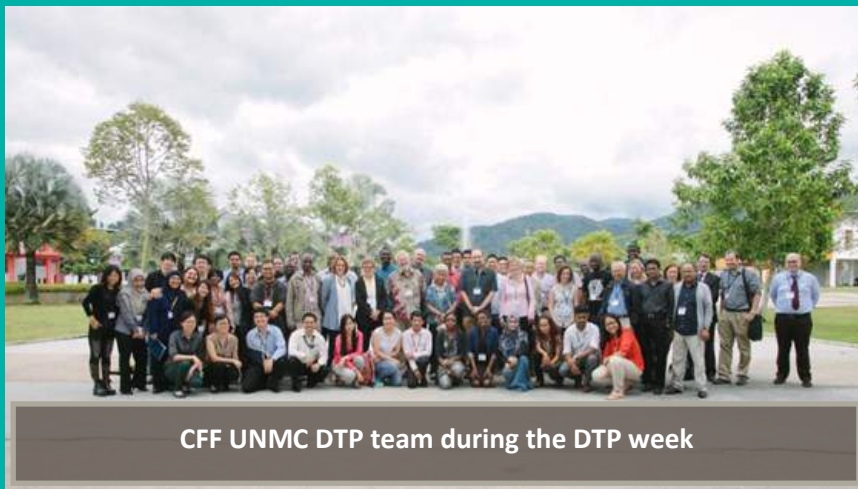
**Encouragement** of trans-disciplinary research amongst the students within the higher level objectives of CFF and UNMC

**Strengthening** collaboration amongst students and Post-Doctoral Research Associates in specific research projects

**Fostering** partnerships and collaborations with other research institutes and industrial partners

**Offering** training in line with CFF and UNMC initiatives with particular emphasis on the annual DTP Workshop

The CFF-UNMC DTP prioritises research on agricultural diversification, emphasising the role of underutilised and minor crops. Through this continuous research on agricultural diversification, the DTP programme attempts an answer to the following question: when does an underutilised crop have the potential to replace or complement a staple crop?



CFF UNMC DTP team during the DTP week

## Underutilised: unrealised potential

Underutilised crops often suffer from multiple knowledge gaps which can be researched. These research knowledge gaps exist across the breadth of the disciplinary chain – from breeding to nutrition to marketing etc. The research that is undertaken by the DTP studentships (and CFF at large) aims to tackle these gaps in the research knowledge for underutilised and minor crops; providing research platforms and learning experiences, while also enhancing the actual use of those crops.



As it becomes clearer that we need to embrace diversity of agricultural systems and crops species, CFF has taken the lead once again by launching the Declaration on Agricultural Diversification at the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) COP21 in Paris. With an aim to build agricultural resilience and enhance food security under the global challenges of changing climates, the Declaration calls for an agreed Global Action Plan for Agricultural Diversification (GAPAD) to address the whole question of agricultural diversification for future agriculture.

You can all take part in this global effort by signing and sharing the call for action which can be found on [gapad.org](http://gapad.org).

*Follow us on this series as we introduce the trans-disciplinary model of research and the ongoing activities and research at our DTP Programme.*

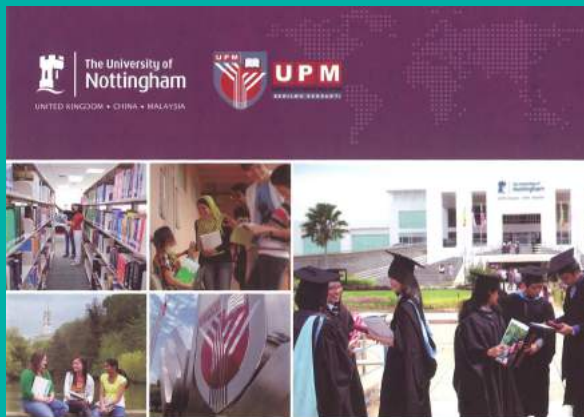
*For more information, visit <http://www.cff-unmc-dtp.com/> or [www.cropsforthefuture.org](http://www.cropsforthefuture.org) or for examples of current research activity and international networks, [www.bamyield.org](http://www.bamyield.org) and [www.bambaragroundnut.org](http://www.bambaragroundnut.org) for examples of research activity on an African underutilised legume, Bambara groundnut.*

## Dual PhD Programme

### A collaborative programme between Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and The University of Nottingham

The dual PhD programme with UPM is a dual PhD degree in areas offered by both universities. The dual PhD programme is developed and quality assured by both universities.

The programme enriches the international study and experience of PhD candidates. Students get to work in two universities and have access to the latest research equipment and facilities. Students will also gain from the knowledge and experience of the department and research groups from both universities. The dual PhD programme not only facilitates international experience and networking, it offers a more substantial association and real collaboration in research supervision. It provides PhD students with an unforgettable international experience and personal and professional links at the start of their career.



**INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**  
**Dual PhD Degree**  
A collaborative programme between Universiti Putra Malaysia and the University of Nottingham

*For more information, please get in touch with us via email to [graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my).*

# Researcher Development Programme

The Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme (RDP) provides free training for University of Nottingham registered postgraduate researchers and taught Masters students of the University to develop a range of transferable skills.

Upcoming RDP courses in March 2016 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016	10am — 12pm	Introduction to the Skills of Teamwork for Researchers
14 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	10am — 12pm	Using Posters to Communicate Research
16 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	10am — 12.30pm	Creating a Poster in PowerPoint
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	10am — 3pm	Presentation Skills
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016	10am — 1pm	Further Presentation Skills
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	2pm — 4pm	Publishing in High Quality Journals

Note: Please register your attendance at <http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=11606>.

We are also open to conducting tailor made courses which are driven primary by the students request, input and interactions. If you wish to us to conduct such courses, please get in touch with us via email to [graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my).



# Early Career Researcher Network



The Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN) is dedicated to support the development of early career researchers (ECRs) at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC)

The ECRN will host an annual 'brown bag' seminar series and workshop series soon. This initiative complements the work of Graduate School by

providing postgraduate students, post-doctoral researchers and academics within the first five years of their careers with a platform to showcase, discuss, and gain feedback on their research from peers, colleagues and senior academics. It also creates an opportunity for professional skills training, networking and mentoring.

For more information, please get in touch with us via email to [graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my).



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