



2016 UNMC 3MT<sup>®</sup>: A group photograph of the contestants, judges and members of the Graduate School.

## Research Boot Camp

The offering of the Researcher Development Programme (RDP) courses in the new academic year 2016/2017 will kick-start with a Research Boot Camp, starting from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The boot camp offers a range of intensive courses to help the new postgraduates to get going with their research degrees. The courses are detailed below:

### Nature of the PhD and the Supervision Process

This course is designed to familiarise postgraduate research students with the expectations of doctoral study at The University of Nottingham and help them identify how to effectively plan and manage their supervisory sessions and relationships with their supervisors.

### Planning Research and Time Management

This course is aimed to enhance the effectiveness of postgraduate research students by using a broad range of activities that look at many different aspects of the research degree process.

### Creative Thinking

This course is designed to promote and develop critical thinking outside of the box by introducing the creative thinking process, tools and techniques, as well as associating creative thinking with problem solving.

### How to be an Effective Researcher

This course is aimed to enhance the effectiveness of postgraduate research students by using a broad range of activities that looked at many different aspects of the research degree process.

### Getting into the Habit of Writing

This course is designed to encourage the development of good practice in writing by introducing the different styles and approaches.

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# Images of Postgraduate Experience Photography Competition: Through the Lens



*Can you creatively capture the essence of your postgraduate studies, research or experience with just one photographic image and an abstract?*

If you are a postgraduate student with a flair for photography, we would like to hear from you...

The Images of Postgraduate Experience Photography Competition challenges you to capture people's interest and enthuse them about your postgraduate experience at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC).

## The theme

**Through the Lens** - capture your postgraduate experience through your own perspective. Use your creativity to deliver the theme through a photographic image and an abstract.

## The photographic image

The photograph can be anything that captures the viewers' attention but it must be related to your postgraduate studies, research or experience at UNMC. It must not be altered in any way and the faithful representation of what was captured at the time of the shot taken must be maintained - sharpening and minimal cropping is allowed but digital adjustment of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please submit as JPEG.

## The abstract

Your abstract must be short and snappy - no more than 150 words and explain why the image was chosen and how it relates to your postgraduate study, research or experience at UNMC. It must be written in plain English and jargon-free to ensure that the general audience can clearly understand it.

## Submission

Your entry should be emailed to [graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my) no later than 5pm on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

## Awards

Winner - RM500 cash prize

People's Choice - RM200 cash prize

We look forward to your participation!

## UNMC 2016 Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT<sup>®</sup>)



The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) crowned its 2016 Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT<sup>®</sup>) winner on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016. A total of 16 participants from various disciplines took part in this year's competition. The competition was judged by a multidisciplinary panel consisting of academics, non-academics and industry experts.

Initially developed by the University of Queensland in 2008, 3MT<sup>®</sup> challenges research students to communicate their research to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes. The aim is to help research students develop their academic, presentation and research communication skills.

The judges had a difficult time making decision in view of the commendable performance by the contestants. The deliberation took over an hour before they finalised their decision, with the order being as follows:

Winner — Lillian Joyce Among Olule from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Title of Presentation: Capturing Signals then Charging Batteries

The prizes included a conference fund of RM2,500 from UNMC and Mr James Wong and vouchers worth RM500 from Univillage.

Runner Up — Mohammed Ayoub Juman from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Title of Presentation: Future Plantation Helpers

The prizes included a conference fund of RM750 from UNMC and vouchers worth RM300 from Univillage.

The audience members voted for the People's Choice award and this also went to Lillian. The award came with MPH book vouchers worth RM250 and vouchers worth RM200 from Univillage.



Professor Graham Kendall, Provost and CEO,  
presenting the prizes to Lillian.



Professor Graham Kendall, Provost and CEO,  
presenting the prizes to Ayoub.

Lillian will now progress to the video round to compete against the other Nottingham campuses. The overall winner will represent the entire University of Nottingham at the [U21 Final](#), also via video, which will be judged by an international panel of industry and academic professionals. The winner of the entire 3MT<sup>®</sup> will receive US\$2,500 to visit a [U21](#) university of their choice to benefit their research or on-going career development.

## Postgraduate Refresher Programme

The Postgraduate Refresher Programme was held on 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The programme offered a variety of academic activities, practical advice sessions and social events.

The first day started off with welcome presentations by senior staff members from the UNMC Graduate School. These presentations were accompanied with an introduction to the dedicated facilities and support available to postgraduate students. It was continued on with an introduction to development needs analysis by Ms Deepa Kumari Veerasingam, Head of UNMC Graduate School.



[From left] Professor Nashiru Billa, Professor Claire O'Malley and Professor Ir Dominic Foo.

After a networking lunch was a panel session on how to make the best out of postgraduate studies. The session began with an introductory remark by Professor Claire O'Malley, Vice-Provost (Research and Knowledge Exchange). It was followed by a panel session consisted of Professor Nashiru Billa, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Science, Professor Khong Kok Wei, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Professor Ir Dominic Foo, Director of Research, Faculty of Engineering.

The second day began with a session on how to write an effective CV and cover letter by Mr Jaideep Patel, a publisher for the Malaysia and Singapore offices of GTI Media Asia. Next was a social networking session facilitated by the Postgraduate Student Network (PGSN). The session featured the launch of 'Buddy System', a support system initiated by the PGSN with the aim to provide a helping hand within the postgraduate community especially to the new postgraduate students in settling down and getting to know postgraduate life at UNMC.

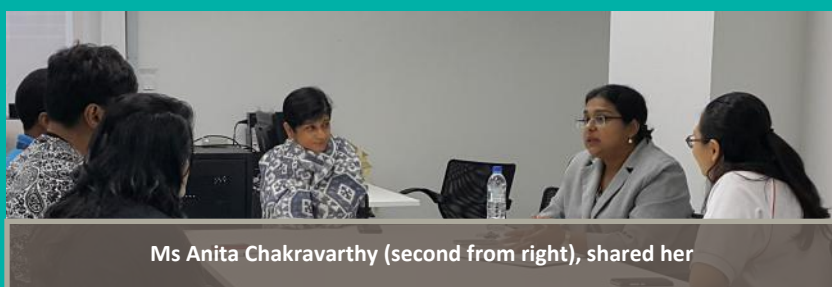


An ice-breaking activity facilitated by the Postgraduate Student Network.

The next session introduced a range of graduate attributes and the importance of these academic, personal and transferable skills in a real-life context. The session was delivered by Dr Maysoun Mustafa, Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) Manager.

The third day featured a presentation by Ms Sara Crowley-Vigneau, Commissioning Editor, Palgrave Macmillan. Her presentation included an introduction to Springer Nature Publishing Group, the Palgrave Macmillan imprint, Palgrave's different programmes and book models as well as the process of preparing and submitting a proposal and work towards publication.

The fourth and final day included a session with an alumna, Ms Anita Chakravarthy who is currently a Senior University Teaching Fellow and Deputy Director of the MBA programmes at the Nottingham University Business School in UNMC.



Ms Anita Chakravarthy (second from right), shared her

Last but not least, a session which drew upon the experiences of former postgraduate students and summarised how one could make the PhD a productive experience. The session was delivered by Dr Lee Jiin Woei and Dr Tissa Chandesa, Research Training and Development Managers.

# SWIRL @ Nucleus

## So What's It Really Like?

### The 3MT<sup>®</sup> Experience: Behind the Scenes

by Lillian Joyce Among Olule, 2016 UNMC 3MT<sup>®</sup> Winner and Recipient of People's Choice Award.

At the beginning of August I was definitely sure I was not going to compete in the 3MT<sup>®</sup> this time around. My reasons? Fear. Of public speaking. Of embarrassing myself. The second reason was the standard reason for PhD students. I was busy. However deep down inside I had the uncomfortable feeling that I would probably regret passing up the opportunity to hone my skills communicating my research.

One evening as I sat torn and agonising about whether or not to participate, a cousin of mine (who was oblivious to what I was going through) sent me a message. It read *"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid. Deuteronomy 31:8"*. I felt a sense of calm and signed up.

In the first training I attended, Dr Jiin and Dr Tissa took us through the rules of the competition. It got me thinking about how I needed to structure my dialogue, and I came up with a mantra, *"Engage, excite, inform"*.

**Engage:** When you meet a person, you have about 3 seconds to make an impression. So I figured that I would probably need about the same amount of time to draw in the audience. In other words, my opening statement had to be something captivating that the audience could identify with. (My friend Ricky suggested getting the audience to... wave their phones in the air... and shake them like they just don't care...)

**Excite:** The whole presentation had to be simple yet exciting.

**Inform:** At the end of the day the audience needs to walk away feeling like they have learnt something. If the audience hadn't paid attention to anything I said, I needed the conclusion to summarise the main idea behind my research.

The Graduate School training helped immensely. A big thank you to Dr Jiin and Dr Tissa for conducting them. Also, special thanks to my fellow contestants who gave feedback on the presentation during the training. It covered word choice, body language, gestures and so much more and helped me mould my presentation to what it was on the day. Secondly I practised. A lot. On many unsuspecting individuals. In fact I would find myself unconsciously going through my speech every night just before I fell asleep.

On D-day, I had no appetite and I couldn't really sit still. I prayed and was comforted by words of support from my supervisors Dr Gnanam and Dr Nandha. My friend, Mr Tan, literally acted like a shield for me while I inconspicuously practised power poses (I learnt from a TED talk that these poses can boost your confidence before a presentation or a job interview) right before I went on stage.

After the first part of my presentation, I glanced at the clock and realised that I was speaking a little too fast. Having practised a lot I was roughly aware of how much time it would take to go through each section so I slowed down a little and the rest of the presentation went smoothly. All in all the whole experience was an enriching one.

I am grateful to everyone who enjoyed my presentation enough to vote for me, the judges for taking the time to preside over the event and to the Graduate School for organising the event. I will end with a word of encouragement. *"You can be the greatest obstacle to your own accomplishments. Change your mind-set. Believe and achieve."*

# Doctoral Training Programme

## CFF-UNMC DTP

### Researcher Visibility

*Welcome to the ongoing CFF-UNMC DTP column. In this month's issue we will look at methods of promoting your research and nurturing your profile as a researcher.*

As a researcher, no doubt the value of your work and its contribution to scientific and non-scientific communities depend on how well it is communicated with relevant parties. Researchers play a key role in disseminating information and increasing public awareness on various issues, however making your research discoverable is equally important to your professional advancement.

In the age of digital knowledge, online platforms and social media channels are important tools for sharing your research and connecting with the audience. These tools are increasingly integrated into researchers' everyday work to nurture their online presence by sharing published articles, conference updates as well as their own scientific thoughts.

These are 10 simple techniques for making your research discoverable to improve your visibility as a researcher and the impact of your research outputs:

1. The title of your research paper creates the first impression and should be as captivating as it is informative;
2. Keywords on a research paper should not replicate words that were included in the title;
3. Publishing in open access journals eliminates online financial barriers, thus making your research more readily available in most online searches;
4. Publishers increasingly offer the service to include supplemental material when publishing a paper such as presentations, data set, graphical abstract. Try to make use of these services as they give the audience more visibility to your research;
5. Make use of social networking profiles such as ResearchGate and LinkedIn for listing publications – including those in press. Other online platforms and online reference managers such as Google Scholar, Mendeley and Zotero can be useful for listing your publications online;
6. Be descriptive when uploading your data online by including the full title, abstract and keywords;
7. Maintaining consistency in your profile is very important to ensure that all your different research outputs and research profiles can be linked back to you;
8. Participating productively through online social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook groups, blogs etc. will enhance your online presence;
9. Twitter can be a powerful tool for sharing your research outputs. Use relevant hashtags such as conference hashtags and tweet to relevant audiences such as potential collaborators, colleagues and key influencers;
10. Traditional platforms for engagement such as conferences, workshops etc. are still highly relevant today and could also contribute towards your visibility as a researcher.

Moreover, not only is it important to build your online platform, you also need to track and monitor it. Google is the world's most popular search engine, and by routinely looking up the Google Search results on yourself and your work, you can monitor your online presence. Moreover, Google Scholar can also track the citations of your publications, along with dedicated scientific platforms such as Scopus and Web of Science.

On a final note, keeping numerous online profiles can be rather testing and exhausting. However, there is nothing worse than a neglected profile. Thus, keep your online profiles to only those that you can commit to maintain and monitor.

## 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.

The offering of RDP courses in the new academic semester will kick start with a Research Boot Camp, starting from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The full list of upcoming RDP courses in October 2016 is outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12pm	Nature of PhD and the Supervision Process
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12pm	Planning Research and Time Management
12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12pm	Creative Thinking
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 5pm	How to be an Effective Researcher
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12pm	Getting into the Habit of Writing
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	2pm — 4pm	Understanding How to Use EndNote*
26 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12pm	Preparing for Your Viva
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	2pm — 4pm	Understanding How to Use Mendeley*

\*UNMC Library Course

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).



## Postgraduate Student Teachers Programme

The Graduate School offers postgraduate research students, who are involved in teaching, a range of workshops. The workshops cover different methods of teaching, including giving feedback when assessing undergraduates' work. Schools identify which of the workshops are relevant to the style of teaching that the postgraduate student teachers (PSTs) will be doing. PSTs must complete the specified workshops before they can take on their teaching duties.

Upcoming PST courses in October 2016 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12.30pm	Assessing and Giving Feedback
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10am — 12.30pm	Demonstrating in Laboratory Practicals
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	3pm — 5pm	Health and Safety Workshop <i>*by Health and Safety Office</i>
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	2pm — 4.30pm	Small Group Teaching
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	2pm — 4.30pm	Lecturing for Learning

Note: Please register your attendance at <http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=12021>.

If you wish to attend the above training courses at a later date, kindly register under the 'Waiting List' on the respective tutorial booking page, for our reference.

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## Graduate School

The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus  
Jalan Broga  
43500 Semenyih  
Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Malaysia

t: +60 3 8924 8633/8634/8280 f: +60 3 8924 8651  
e: [graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my)  
w: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/GS/index.aspx>

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