



2016 U21 3MT<sup>®</sup> Recipient of the Highly Commended Award, Lillian JA Olule, receiving a Certificate of Achievement from Professor Claire O'Malley, Vice-Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange.

## Winners announced in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual U21 3MT<sup>®</sup> competition

We are pleased to announce the 2016 recipient of the Highly Commended Award of the annual *Universitas 21* (U21) Three Minute Thesis (3MT<sup>®</sup>) competition is our very own Lillian JA Olule!

Lillian represented the University of Nottingham after winning the tri-campus round. For four consecutive years the Malaysia Campus had been selected to represent the entire University of Nottingham to compete against other universities at the U21 final.

The 2016 U21 3MT<sup>®</sup> competition pitted the leading presenters from U21 member universities against one another. Each participating member held their own internal 3MT<sup>®</sup> competition to select a local winner who was then put forward for the U21 final.

This year's winner is Kate Riegle van West from the University of Auckland for her talk 'Poi for your health: A spin on aging' - a presentation on her PhD research into the health effects of poi, while the recipient of the People's Choice Award is Islam Mosa from the University of Connecticut for his presentation on 'Miniaturised Power Sources for Implantable Bioelectronics: Ultrathin Power Sources for Cardiac Pacemakers'.

Congratulations to all winners!

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## U21 3MT<sup>®</sup> Highly Commended Award

Lillian JA Olule, a second year PhD student from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC), won the Highly Commended Award at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual *Universitas 21* (U21) Three Minute Thesis (3MT<sup>®</sup>) competition for her talk

‘Capturing signals then charging batteries’. Her presentation described research on the potential to transform wireless signals into energy to power small devices. The applications for such technology are vast from powering sensors used in biomedicine or hazardous environments, to charging your mobile phone on the go.

Lillian described her experience in taking part in the competition: “The 3MT<sup>®</sup> experience has been amazing! It was great to see people from all walks of life getting excited about the research I am doing. I got a lot of “Oooh... so THAT’S what you are doing!” and I am glad I participated. It has made me more comfortable discussing my research jargon free. Anyone who has the opportunity to participate in the 3MT<sup>®</sup> should definitely give it a shot.

I would like to give a very big thank you to everyone who showed their support and gave feedback from my colleagues, supervisors, family, friends, UNMC particularly the Graduate School, the University of Nottingham and last but not least God.”

Professor Claire O’Malley, Vice-Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange, spoke of Lillian’s achievement: “I am delighted that Lillian has won the runner-up prize for the U21 3MT<sup>®</sup> competition. Her research project is outstanding and she is clearly a highly effective communicator of her science. It is a great testament to the high quality of postgraduate research students at the University of Nottingham and especially pleasing that a student from UNMC is a prize winner. This sends a great signal not only about the quality of our students but also the excellent research training and support by UNMC’s Graduate School.”

The 3MT<sup>®</sup> provides doctoral students with the opportunity to develop their communication skills by explaining their research to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. The local competitions may choose to challenge the students to present face-to-face, and additionally the virtual final hones skills associated from being filmed for an international audience, receiving international peer review, and gaining skills surrounding the presentation of their research to a wider audience.

*“The 3MT<sup>®</sup> experience has been amazing! It was great to see people from all walks of life getting excited about the research I am doing. I got a lot of “Oooh... so THAT’S what you are doing!” and I am glad I participated.”*



Lillian JA Olule proudly showcasing her Certificate of Achievement.

## Images of Postgraduate Experience Photography Competition: Vote for your favourite entry!



We are pleased to invite all staff and students to vote for your favourite entry for the People's Choice Award via an online voting platform.

The photography competition challenges postgraduate students to take interesting and innovative photographs that best capture people's interest and enthuse them about their postgraduate experience at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC). The theme this year is **'Through the Lens'** where postgraduate students can express, demonstrate and share their postgraduate experience from their own perspectives.

The online voting opens from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The link will be provided in due course.

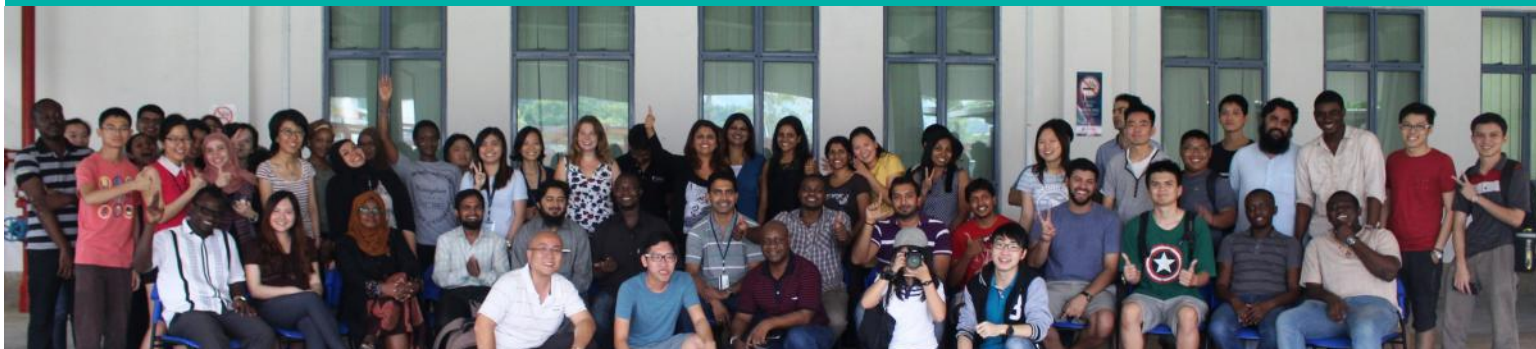
We will also create a 'photo wall' and display all entries at the Postgraduate Hub (H1B12) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Do take the time to vote and show your support for this dynamic and engaging student activity!

## Peer Support: Postgraduate Student Network

The Postgraduate Student Network (PGSN) caters to all the postgraduate students here at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC). The network is governed by the Student Association (SA) Postgraduate Officer and comprised of committee members dedicated to postgraduate student welfare, education, events and public relations. The key priority of the network is to ensure that any issues that the postgraduate students encounter are resolved by bringing the issues to the attention of the relevant authorities. In addition, the network also organises events dedicated to postgraduate students to build a better sense of community among the students and provide options to meet others that share similar interests.

Last September, the PGSN launched the *'Buddy System'* which focuses on pairing up new students with seniors for a period of four months. The intention behind the programme is to help speed up the process of settling down and acclimating to the university procedures as well as showing them the various ins and outs of living on/around campus.

If you wish to find out more about PGSN or the *'Buddy System'*, please contact [sapgofficer@nottingham.edu.my](mailto:sapgofficer@nottingham.edu.my).



The PGSN hosted a *'Postgraduates' Satay Night'* on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

## Research Boot Camp



This picture was taken during the *How to be an Effective Researcher* course.

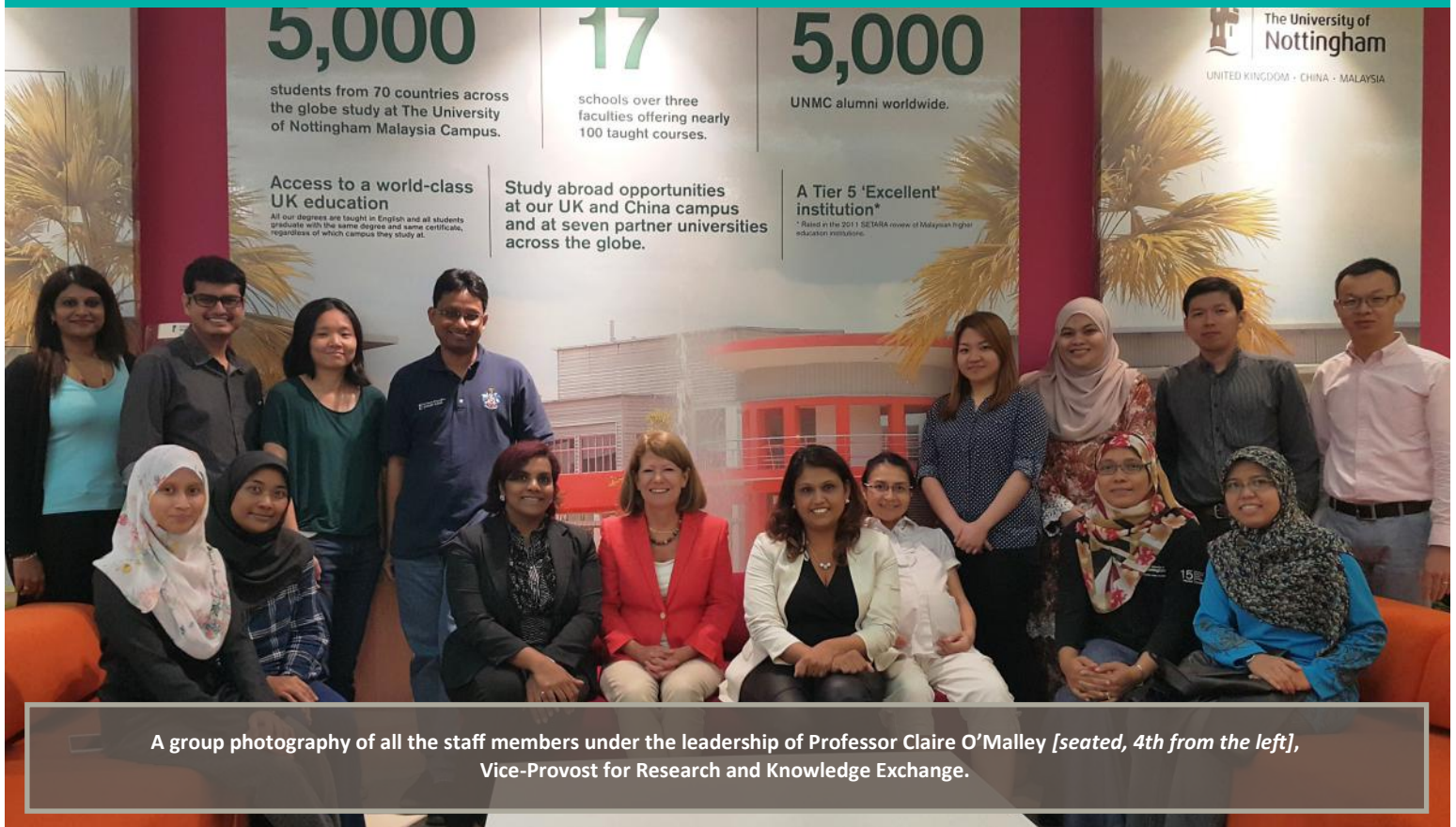
*What do PhD students need to get them started on their research degrees?*

A research boot camp was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The boot camp, which was delivered by Dr Tissa Chandesa, Dr Jiin Woei Lee and Dr Maysoun Mustafa, offered a range of intensive courses to help the new postgraduate research students to get going with their research degrees.

## UNMC Research and Knowledge Transfer (R&KE) Away Day

A joint team away day for Business Engagement and Innovation Services (BEIS), Research Support Office (RSO) and Graduate School was held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the Kuala Lumpur Teaching Centre (KLTC).

The main goal of the away day was to discuss quality ideas and formulate clear action plans in supporting the University's research and knowledge exchange strategy in line with the Strategic Roadmap 2013 — 2020 of The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.



A group photograph of all the staff members under the leadership of Professor Claire O'Malley [seated, 4th from the left], Vice-Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange.

# SWIRL @ Nucleus

## So What's It Really Like?

### My 3MT<sup>®</sup> Experience

by Mohammed Ayoub Juman, 2016 UNMC 3MT<sup>®</sup> Runner Up.

Taking part in the 3MT<sup>®</sup> competition this year and even coming in as the Runner Up was an amazing experience. Even though I had previously been up on stage, this was the first time I was put on the spot to talk about my research to a big audience, which was a completely different trial. I had to make sure that the key points of my research got through clearly to the audience, yet not to sound as though I was giving them a lecture. It was both terrifying and exhilarating as you never know what others would think of your work until you see their expressions while you present it to them.

The reaction of the audience once my talk was over really boosted my confidence in the way I present as well as the content of my research. Getting to know that people from fields completely unrelated to mine found my work interesting was a reward in itself and finally winning second place was just icing on the cake. All the training sessions, the feedback from the organising team as well as the other participants and even the multitude times I repeated the speech myself while walking around campus were all worth it in the end.

For future participants I just have to say this. Be confident in yourself as well as your research and let your enthusiasm show while you talk about it. Just be yourself and try to have fun while on stage. At the end of the day, give it your best shot so that in the end you don't have any regrets on the way you presented your research.



Professor Graham Kendall and Mohammed Ayoub Juman during the 2016 UNMC 3MT<sup>®</sup> held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016.



Mohammed Ayoub Juman presenting his research titled 'Future Plantation Helpers'.

# Doctoral Training Programme

## CFF-UNMC DTP

### Networking through conferences

*Welcome to the ongoing CFF-UNMC DTP column. In this month's issue we discuss on networking and building your professional network, specifically through conferences.*

As postgraduate students or early career researchers, this is the time to build your professional network and establish connections within your field and beyond. Conferences are the ripe environment to do so, as they attract people from various backgrounds who share common interests. In the midst of exchanging the latest updates on your field at a conference, there are countless opportunities for meeting new and established professionals with plenty of conversation starters at hand.

In order to ensure a valuable conference experience you need to develop your “conferencing” skills. It will involve utilising the time spent at the conference to engage with new acquaintances and exchange ideas and knowledge, while building your intellectual identity.



Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gulltaggen\\_2013\\_Networking\\_\(8704862324\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gulltaggen_2013_Networking_(8704862324).jpg)

Conferences provide a platform for slowly building a network of professionals with similar interests and goals at various stages of their careers. Promising connections can arise when attending conferences, however it requires both parties to put mutual effort into conversing with each other in the first place. The following are tips to enhance your conferencing skills:

1. The first step is to select the right conference that draws in relevant experts from your field.

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2. If possible, attend the conference alone as this will encourage you to branch out and interact with more people. If it does happen that a colleague or a friend is attending the conference with you, arrange to mingle alone and catch up after the sessions.
3. Prepare to engage during the conference. Familiarise yourself with the conference program and the speaker profiles.
4. Get involved in sessions where it will be easier to meet people. Sessions with smaller audiences can serve as good starting points.
5. Keep your business card ready and prepare to get other people's contacts if they do not have their business cards.
6. Prepare your elevator pitch for quick introductions, but do bear in mind that networking is about maintaining mutually beneficial relationships rather than promoting yourself.
7. Group activities and meals are good opportunities to network with people. Bear in mind that the conference attendees share mutual interests as yourself, so asking about the conference itself could always be a starting point for a conversation.
8. Make a point of following up with people of interest that you met at the conference with a quick email. While not everyone may respond, chances are the few positive responses that you may receive could be worthwhile.

The DTP team will be organising our annual postgraduate student conference "DTP Week" in December of this year. It will be organised as a blend of professional development workshops and scientific symposia for sharing your research contributions. Join us to test out your conferencing skills!

Find out more details on <http://www.cff-unmc-dtp.com/dtp-events.html>.



## 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 November 2016 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Communicating Your Research: Dealing with the Media
4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 12.30pm	Creating a Poster in PowerPoint
7 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Using Posters to Communicate Research
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	What Do I Want to Get Out of a Conference?
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 3pm	Presentation Skills
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 1pm	Further Presentation Skills
22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Introduction to the Skills of Teamwork
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Preparing for Your Annual Review
24 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Anatomy of a Good Journal Paper
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Getting Going on Your Thesis
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	10am — 12pm	Finishing Your Thesis

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).





## New Workshop: LaTeX for Researchers

We are pleased to introduce a new workshop titled LaTeX for Researchers. This course is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 9am — 5pm in H1B13. It will be delivered by Professor Graham Kendall and Dr Tissa Chandesa. The course is targeted at early career researchers (ECRs) and postgraduate research (PGR) students who are using, or think they may benefit from using LaTeX for academic writing.

### Overview

LaTeX is a document preparation system used for writing long documents. It is an alternative word processor to Microsoft Word. LaTeX makes writing long documents and complex mathematics equations easy. It also integrates easily with existing bibliography managers (e.g. Mendeley and/or EndNote and/or BibTeX).

### Objectives

- Learn and become familiar with the installation process
- Understand the structure of LaTeX documents as well as scope of commands/environments/packages
- Learn to manage citations more efficiently
- Access and use pre-defined LaTeX templates by high quality journal publications

Seats are limited. Please register your attendance at: <http://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=28899>.

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