



Horizon 2020 Seminar. [From left] Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia Attachè (Trade Section) Alfonso Pino Maeso, UNMC Vice-Provost (Research and Knowledge Exchange) Professor Claire O'Malley, Switzerland Euresearch National Contact Point Dr Juliane Sauer, EURAXESS ASEAN Regional Representative Dr Susanne Rentzow-Vasu, Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia Head of Political Section Marcel Roijen.

Horizon 2020 Seminar: European Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Researchers in Malaysia

On 22nd November 2016, The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) co-organised a seminar on Horizon 2020, one of the European Union's (EU) biggest research and innovation programmes with approximately €80 billion over seven years. The seminar was co-organised with the EU-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EUMCCI) and EURAXESS ASEAN.

In the opening remarks, UNMC Vice-Provost (Research and Knowledge Exchange) Professor Claire O'Malley said: "We are proud to co-host this seminar which serves as a platform for researchers in Malaysia to explore funding and collaboration opportunities tapping into one of the largest networks through the European Commission".

"As a leading research university both in UK and in Malaysia, we are proud to facilitate links between EU and ASEAN countries that present significant opportunities for international research and innovation to address some of the world's greatest challenges," said Professor O'Malley.

The seminar featured prominent representatives of key European research and funding agencies in introducing the programmes available for research mobility experiences in Europe and collaboration with European partners. More information is available at: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/NewsEvents/News/2016/UNMC-co-organises-EU-Research-and-Innovation-programme.aspx>

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Workshop: Effective Proposal Preparation for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Researchers from all over Malaysia attended the 3rd leg of the EURAXESS ASEAN European Research Day (ERD) series held on 23rd November 2016 at The University of Nottingham Teaching Centre. The workshop was hosted by The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC).

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) provide grants for all stages of researchers' careers — be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers — and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA enable research-focused organisations (universities, research centres and companies) to host talented foreign researchers and to create strategic partnerships with leading institutions worldwide.



More than 60 researchers attended the workshop held at The University of Nottingham Teaching Centre.

The workshop was getting the participants ready to apply for one of Europe's most prestigious fellowship programmes with lots of hands-on exercises.



The workshop was delivered by Dr Juliane Sauer, National Contact Point (NCP) MSCA Switzerland, Euresearch. In the workshop, Dr Sauer shared tricks and tools for effective proposal writing for the MSCA grants. Dr Sauer has been NCP since 2008 and has long standing experience in teaching grant writing and researchers' career development.

More information on the MSCA is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-skłodowska-curie-actions>



A group photograph of the trainers and participants.

Images of Postgraduate Experience Photography Competition 2016

The Images of Postgraduate Experience Photography Competition was recently held where postgraduate students were invited to capture the essence of their experience with a single photographic image that they had taken themselves, accompanied by an abstract that articulated how the image relates to their postgraduate experience at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC).

The theme this year was 'Through the Lens' where postgraduate students can freely express, demonstrate and share their postgraduate experience from their own perspectives.

All entries were showcased online and all staff and students of the University were invited to vote for their favourite entry using an online voting portal. The entries were also displayed on a 'photo wall' which further provided an opportunity for people to view in person. All votes were counted towards the People's Choice Award which carried a prize money of RM200.

On the other hand, the Overall Winner was chosen by a panel of judges and the prizes included a prize money of RM500 and a Canon IXUS 180 Digital Camera sponsored by Canon Malaysia.

Rayan Sabra, a PhD student from the School of Pharmacy, was crowned the Overall Winner. The People's Choice Award also went to Rayan.



Rayan (centre) was presented with the award plaques by Ms Deepa Kumari (right), Head of Graduate School. Rayan's supervisor, Professor Nashiru Billa (left) was present to congratulate Rayan on her achievement.



Rayan was also presented with a Canon IXUS 180 Digital Camera sponsored by Canon Malaysia.

Rayan described her experience in taking part in the competition: "It was a beneficial experience! I am pleased to receive both the Overall Winner and People's Choice awards and would like to thank the Graduate School for opening the door to the postgraduate students to communicate our experience in such a unique way."

The photography competition this year showed the diversity and breadth of postgraduate experience at UNMC. Well done to all the participants for their commendable effort!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Canon Malaysia for their kind sponsorship, the judges for their time and effort in evaluating the entries, and all those who took the time to vote.

We look forward to yet another exciting and interesting chapter of the photography competition next year!

Workshop: Anatomy of a Good Journal Paper

A workshop titled Anatomy of a Good Journal Paper was conducted by Professor Dominic Foo on 24th November 2016. A Professor of Process Design and Integration, he is also the Founding Director for the Centre of Excellence for Green Technologies.

In the workshop, Professor Foo discussed effective ways to write up key parts of a journal paper, with emphasis on the aspects that are common to effective journal publication regardless of discipline.

The workshop will be offered in the future as it is part of the Researcher Development Programme (RDP) by the Graduate School.



Workshop: LaTeX for Researchers



A newly introduced workshop titled LaTeX for Researchers was held on 28th November 2016.

LaTeX is a document preparation system for writing long documents and complex mathematical equations.

The inaugural workshop was conducted by Professor Graham Kendall and Dr Tissa Chandesa. The workshop saw a great turnout where participants filled the training room to capacity. The offering of the workshop was part of our continuous effort to provide better support to all researchers on campus.



The View by...



Dr Svenja Hanson

Associate Professor, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

PGRs — Thank you for being there

A shout out to PGRs, and an apology if you have only ever heard from me – and most of my colleagues – when you were allocated to help us teach. No, we don't think you are expendable, cheap labour. But we are probably all at one time or another guilty of taking you for granted.

So, for all the times I have only thought it but not said it: Thank you! Thank you for being in the examples class when 5 groups of freshers have questions at the same time, thank you for being in the lab session and actually knowing how the equipment works, thank you for sitting through countless presentations with me and making sure my marks aren't getting meaner and meaner as time goes on, thank you for looking through my marked scripts and making sure I didn't overlook anything or add up the marks wrongly, thank you for coming on the industrial or field trip and making sure I bring all the undergraduates I left with back to campus unharmed. Thank you. You should hear those words more often from the academic staff you assist. Your help is valued and important to us.

PGRs have always, as long as I can remember back, been an important part of every department, school and faculty. To a large extent you are the glue that holds us together, reminding us of research when we are in full swing mid-semester teaching mode, and bridging the age gap between us and the undergraduates (who seem to be getting younger every year).

I remember being a PhD student and later post-doc, and I was lucky to have a sizeable research group which gave me some sort of sense of belonging. But I was still never quite sure how I fitted into the university structure. In some respects you were staff, but not allowed into staff meetings or on committees (I now, of course, realise that was a treat, not a punishment), in other respects a student, but without the power of the undergraduate masses dominating the student union. To any PGR who feels that way, don't. Being neither is your strength as it makes you the link holding departments and schools together. Having one foot in each camp, so to say, makes you an arbitrator, somebody young undergraduates feel more comfortable opening up to than crusty academics, and somebody who can help people old enough to be their parents or grandparents understand the latest generation of youngsters.

You are valued as a vital part of academic life. Please remember that next time you feel unappreciated because we, the senior academics, are rubbish at saying 'thank you'.

SWIRL @ Nucleus

So What's It Really Like?

My PhD journey thus far

by Arun Prabhakar, PhD student from the Department of Mechanical, Materials and Manufacturing Engineering

My journey as a PhD student has been comparable to a mountain hike without a doubt. Throughout this ride I've come through peaks of joy and downfalls. My supervisors, Dr Yousif (UNMC) and Dr Kathy (UNUK), have always stood by me as supportive pillars and uplifted my spirits ceaselessly. They have placed a huge amount of confidence and given me the chance to work with a project in collaboration with a leading aerospace engineering company, Rolls Royce. This has been one of the driving reasons for me to keep moving forward continuously. During the course of my PhD they also gave me the opportunity to visit the Gas Turbine and Transmissions Research Centre (G2TRC) at Nottingham, UK. The visit exposed me to a number of researchers working in a similar area of research, and considerably enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the project.

The Graduate School at UNMC has been playing an important role in moulding me and paving my pathway in research. Dr Tissa and Dr Jiin from the Graduate School have been two inspirational people and mentors who I really look up to. Many of the training programmes delivered by them have taught me valuable things apart from research itself. One of the training programmes that I highly recommend for incoming students is "How to be an Effective Researcher". It is a day long programme that comprises of activities which are more like warm up exercises to research life.

For a PhD student or researcher, the clock runs quite fast and it is vital to have plans and targets set in mind. I've personally experienced that planning my research milestones has allowed me to achieve a lot over a short period of time. Tools such as "Gantt Charts" have tremendously helped me do my research planning. Following the two years into this exciting journey, I've learned that patience, determination and self-motivation are three essential qualities that PhD students should develop and possess. To the folks stepping into this incredible ride, bear in mind whatever happens "Life must go on and so must your PhD", don't give up!



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 December 2016 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
5 th December 2016	10am—12.30pm	Word Essentials for Researchers — Beginners
7 th December 2016	10am—12.30pm	Word Essentials for Researchers — Advanced

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.

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