



A group photograph taken during our annual Chinese New Year Celebration.

Chinese New Year Celebration

In celebration of the Chinese lunar calendar's most important festival, we had our annual Chinese New Year celebration in advance on Wednesday, 25th January 2017.

The celebration featured the tradition of stirring and tossing of *Yee Sang*, also known as Spring Toss. *Yee Sang* literally means 'raw fish', but its pronunciation in Chinese carries a totally different meaning - 'increase in abundance'. Thus, *Yee Sang* became a tradition synonym with abundance, prosperity and vigour.



May the Year of Rooster be filled with auspiciousness for all of us!

This issue

- Chinese New Year Celebration P.1
- Future Competitions P.1
- PG Teaching Assistant Award 2017 P.2
- Research Boot Camp, Spring 2017 P.3
- So What's It Really Like? P.4
- Doctoral Training Partnership P.5
- Researcher Development Programme P.7
- PG Student Teachers Programme P.7
- Coffee and Cake P.8

Coming soon...

Research Showcase

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

Pitch!

The inaugural Pitch! Competition challenges the postgraduate taught students to creatively and effectively communicate their work to the general audience.

Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Award 2017

The Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Award 2017 is now open to all UNMC postgraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers who teach.

What is a Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Award?

This award recognises and celebrates examples of innovative teaching and support of learning.

Applicants may support teaching and learning through a wide range of activities, including: demonstrating in laboratory classes, distance learning, leading seminars or tutorials, supporting project work, lecturing or assessing and giving feedback on student work. This award is given to people who can show innovative and reflective practice by:

- Improving effectiveness in their teaching and support of learning
- Making appropriate changes in learning activities or techniques
- Evaluating and reflecting on the impact of their intervention and possibilities for further development

How many awards are granted?

Up to three awards of a framed certificate and a £100 voucher from the Graduate School are presented annually. To be given an award is recognised as a mark of distinction within the University.

How to apply?

Submit a written application, discussing your contribution to teaching and the support of learning, which addresses the aforementioned points. Please note that you do not need to give detailed evidence of all your teaching work and your application should no longer than one page of A4. Also include a one page reference from your teaching mentor, module convenor or research supervisor in support.

Details of previous winners can be found at: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/professionaldevelopment/learningandteaching/new/index.aspx>.

Submissions or enquiries should be sent via email to: Helen.Cowley@nottingham.ac.uk.

**Deadline for submission of applications:
Friday, 10th March 2017**

How are the awards judged?

A panel of judges will consider all submissions and recommend a list of award winners. An award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 17th May 2017. Winners are automatically excluded from receiving another award for the following year.

We would like to encourage those who are eligible to submit your application. All the best!



Research Boot Camp, Spring 2017

The offering of the Researcher Development Programme (RDP) in the new academic term started off with a Research Boot Camp, held between 9th to 13th January 2017. The boot camp, which was delivered by Dr Tissa Chandesa and Dr Lee Jiin Woei, offered a range of intensive courses to help the postgraduate research students to get going with their research degree.

A new course titled *Introduction to Development Needs Analysis* was introduced. The course was delivered by Ms Deepa Kumari, Head of the Graduate School, and it was designed for postgraduate research students to gain an understanding of what critical reflection is and how it can help them. It used critical reflection tools to undertake their own development needs analysis in the context of the Vitae Researcher Development Framework.



The boot camp also featured the course titled *How to be an Effective Researcher*. The course aimed to enhance the effectiveness of postgraduate research students by using a broad range of interactive activities that looked at many different aspects of the research degree process.

The boot camp will be offered again in the next academic term.



SWIRL @ Nucleus

So What's It Really Like?

Study Experience at RIKEN

by Jason Chin, PhD candidate at The University of Science, Malaysia (Universiti Sains Malaysia, USM).

I joined the International Programme Associate (IPA) in October 2015 for the fully funded short term programme (six months) to study at RIKEN in Japan. There are different durations of studying under this programme, from six months to three years. It is possible to complete an entire PhD candidature over there. The IPA is open to all and you can check its website on how to apply.

Studying in RIKEN under this programme has been very rewarding to me. I was accepted under the tutelage of Dr Todd Taylor to learn bioinformatics from his team. Not only was I able to socialise with researchers from Japan, as the programme is open worldwide, I was also able to meet with researchers from Canada, France and various other countries as well. It provided me with the opportunity to learn various other topics and share my own work on an informal and open platform. The team I joined was a completely international team consisted of an American team leader, two post-doctorates from France and South Korea, an Indian lab officer and a Japanese secretary. Learning from them and also from the other researchers at RIKEN was an eye opener where they introduced me to different styles of teaching.

Although the work culture in Japan is very strict (serious crazy hardworking people), I was allowed free time on weekends to travel around Tokyo. As my programme was fully funded, I was paid in Japanese Yen so I did not have to worry about the conversion rates which made it easier for me to travel around without much financial worries. As a big fan of Japanese culture and anime, it was a dream come true, visiting the Japanese shrines and Akihabara which is famously known as the otaku heaven. *Otaku: noun, Japanese term for people with obsessive interests, commonly with anime and manga.*

Overall, the programme was a great experience for me. Not only did I pick up a new research skill that is benefitting me tremendously at my current PhD, I was also able to learn a new language as RIKEN provides free Japanese language classes for international members.



Jason (second from right) is currently a PhD candidate at USM.

Information about IPA is available at: <http://www.riken.jp/en/careers/programs/ipa/>

Doctoral Training Partnership

CFF-UNMC DTP

Research and Innovation

by Dr Maysoun Mustafa, CFF-UNMC DTP Manager.

Welcome to the ongoing CFF-UNMC DTP column. In this month's issue, we look at one of our themes from the DTP Week 2016; research and innovation.

Research is the synthesis or analysis of knowledge to create new knowledge or utilise existing knowledge in different approaches. As a process, it results in the creation of new concepts, theories and/or methodologies. Research is often closely linked to the two terms: creativity and innovation.

Creativity is the generation of new ideas and innovation is the application of these creative and new ideas to deliver an output. Without innovation, creativity remains static and systems soon become outdated. While it may be risky, innovation is essential to prevent stagnation and allow for continuous progress and improvement.



Innovation can take the form of new and improved products or processes; however, innovation is not to be confused with invention. While invention is the creation of new products or processes from an original idea, an invention can only be innovative if it is practical and relevant. Moreover, innovation is a broader term in comparison to invention as it also encompasses the renewal of existing processes or products.

-Continue on next page-



Application of Innovation

The application of innovation can be seen in various aspects of our ongoing research activities, which include:

- Social challenges, particularly enhancing global food security and energy security. Innovation can create new solutions for current challenges in addressing our global food and energy needs. An example can be seen in research that strives towards agriculture diversification.
- Environmental challenges, particularly mitigating climate change and sustaining biodiversity. Innovation processes or technologies are frequently sought to offer protection from our most worrisome environmental challenges today.

Innovation is essential for the creation of a knowledge-based economy and it is relevant at all stages of global development. At a national level, innovation does not stop at the creation of new tools or technologies that improve lives, but must also include processes for the diffusion and delivery of these technologies to all relevant sectors. Moreover, innovation can be seen in the following sectors:

- Driving the competitive edge in the market and industry, both locally and globally.
- Support basic and applied research as well as different aspects of inclusive growth such as education.
- Development of new technologies such as information and communication technologies.

It is clear that numerous similarities exist between the terms research and innovation as both deal with the transformation of knowledge into reality. Innovation forms the backbone of research; thus, it becomes redundant to describe your research as “innovative research” as research in principle must be innovative.

Researcher Development Programme

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

Upcoming RDP courses in February 2017 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
8 th February 2017	10am - 12:30pm	Creating a Poster in PowerPoint
27 th February 2017	10am - 12pm	Using Posters to Communicate Research

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 primarily 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.

Postgraduate Student Teachers Programme

The Graduate School offers a range of workshops to postgraduate research students who are involved in teaching. 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 February 2017 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
13 th February 2017	10am - 12:30pm	Demonstrating in Laboratory Practicals
15 th February 2017	10am - 12:30pm	Assessing and Giving Feedback
15 th February 2017	2pm - 4pm	Health and Safety Workshop*
20 th February 2017	10am - 12:30pm	Small Group Teaching
21 st February 2017	10am - 12:30pm	Lecturing for Learning

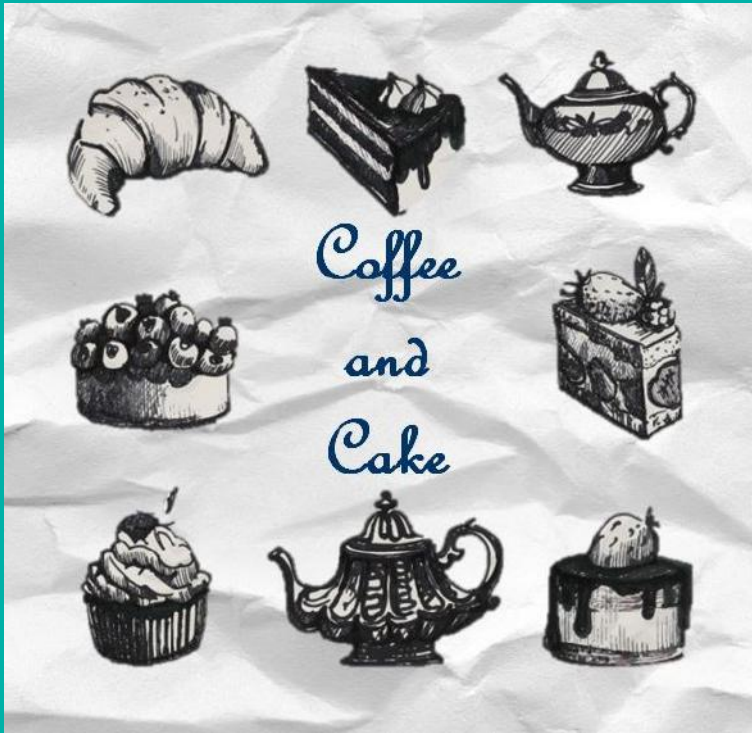
**Offered by the Health and Safety Office*

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

If you have any enquiries, please get in touch with us via email to graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my.

Coffee and Cake

Re-introducing the Coffee and Cake session!



The informal Coffee and Cake session is a platform for postgraduate students to get together and establish rapport with each other.

Postgraduate students may take this opportunity to temporarily get away from their work and catch-up with fellow postgraduate students. We aim to reduce social isolation among the postgraduate students and subsequently increase their sense of belonging in the postgraduate community on campus.

We are now holding Coffee and Cake sessions on the last Friday of the month at the Postgraduate Hub. The refreshments and cakes are on us!

Next Session: 24th February 2017
31st March 2017
26th May 2017
25th August 2017
29th September 2017
24th November 2017

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
w: <http://www.nottingham.edu.my/GS/index.aspx>

Follow us @

<https://www.facebook.com/UNMCGradSchool>
<http://blogs.nottingham.edu.my/postgraduate/>

