



PhD graduates from the recent graduation ceremony.
[From left] Dr Mukda Pratheepwatanawong and Dr Zhang Jing.

Congratulations, Graduates!

The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus recently held its Spring Graduation Ceremony on 18th February 2017.

We wish to express our heartiest congratulations to all graduates on their academic achievements and we further wish them a bright future filled with boundless opportunities.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the graduation ceremony.



[From left] Dr Abdul Khaliq Rasheed, Dr Aliyu Siise Bamba Abdullah, Dr Isah Yakub Mohammed, Dr Yeoh Wei Keat, Dr Poh Wei Lin, Dr Renu Geetha Bai, Dr Chan Park Hinn and Dr Davannedren Chandran.

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Future Events

Coffee and Cake Session for Postgraduate Students

31st March 2017

3pm - 4pm

Postgraduate Social Space, H1B14

Writing Retreat for the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Early Career Academic Grants

Details to be announced in due course.

UNMC Research Showcase 2017: Call for submissions

An event for researchers to showcase their work and win prizes for public engagement.

Your research has the potential to have a huge impact. The Research Showcase gives you the opportunity to share what you do with the world.

Present a poster that clearly describes your work to a non-academic audience and you could stand a chance to win conference funds worth RM1,500.

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

Entering the 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

How to enter?

1. Submit a press release

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 ideally 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.

Email entries to:

graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my

Deadline for entries: **13th March 2017, 3pm**

2. Entries will be shortlisted

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

3. Design your poster

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

Deadline for poster submission: 3rd May 2017, 3pm

4. Online voting

All poster entries will be broadcasted via an online platform for voting of the People's Choice Award. Participants are encouraged to do the video recording supported by the Graduate School where the video will be included together with their poster in the online voting platform.

5. UNMC Research Showcase

The research projects will compete in the showcase.

27th April 2017, Great Hall



The previous winner, Lillian JA Olule (centre) from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Click [here](#) to read about her experience participating in last years' UNMC Research Showcase.

Coffee and Cake Session

• For Early Career Researchers

An inaugural Coffee and Cake session for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) was held on 24th February 2017. The session marked the first social event for ECRs by the Graduate School in its effort to provide support and develop a constructive network of ECRs on campus.



The main objective of the session was to update the ECRs on the current development of ECR events and activities at UNMC. It was also a platform for ECRs to discuss and give feedback on their training and development needs.

Many thanks to the Faculty Associate Deans of Research: Professor Sivakumar Manickam (Engineering), Professor Nashiru Billa (Science) and Professor Khong Kok Wei (Arts and Social Sciences), for their contribution in supporting the new initiatives for ECRs.



For further information and enquiries on ECR support, please contact us at ecr@nottingham.edu.my.

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNMCERs/>

• For Postgraduate Students

An informal Coffee and Cake session for postgraduate students was also held on 24th February 2017. The social gathering session saw a great turnout by the postgraduate students across all three faculties. It was a good opportunity for the postgraduate students to temporarily get away from their work and catch-up with fellow postgraduate students.



The Coffee and Cake session is aimed to reduce the social isolation among the postgraduate students and subsequently increase their sense of belonging within the postgraduate community on campus.

The next Coffee and Cake sessions are scheduled for:

31st March 2017

26th May 2017

25th August 2017

29th September 2017

24th November 2017

All postgraduate students are welcome!

SWIRL @ Nucleus

So What's It Really Like?

Research Internship

by Liu Haixia, PhD candidate from the School of Computer Science

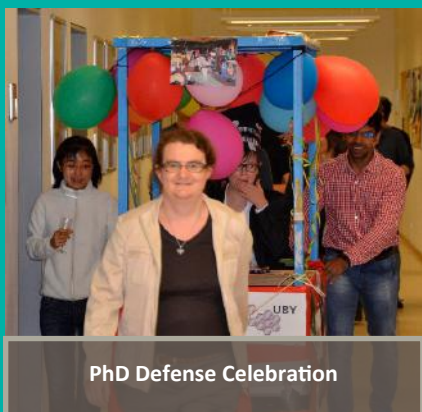
It all started by googling: *natural language processing internship* and the Ubiquitous Knowledge Processing (UKP) Lab retrieved as the top one option. I applied, got a chance of test and was offered a six months research intern position at UKP.

The research intern project: *Automatic Image Captioning* started in August 2016. This project covered computer vision and natural language processing which gave me the opportunity to explore big data and deep learning. I would like to share with you my experience from the following perspectives:

- **Cultural diversity and unity.** When I joined UKP, there were seven research interns from seven different countries but all of us hold similar research dreams.
- **Academic atmosphere.** UKP is a professional research lab and the supervision team is well organised. For example, the Head of the UKP supervises everyone. The PhD researchers usually supervise the masters' research projects which could be their sub-PhD projects. Every Tuesday, there is a seminar at UKP where researchers or masters students report on their progress. I was able to join DeepDay seminar at UKP - an intense deep learning presentations. The academic atmosphere is everywhere, even during the PhD defense celebration and the Christmas party.
- **Hardware facilities.** Since the project *Automatic Image Captioning* dealing with big data and deep learning, it is necessary to access the high performance computer (HPC) and graphics processing unit (GPU). It is possible to access the clusters with high performance (e.g. 4x Sandy-Bridge, 32 cores [AVX]). The HPC management team and the TUD Computer Vision Station admin team are very efficient and helpful.

Overall, it was a great experience at UKP where I met professional researchers and gained deep learning skills. My suggestions for the PhD candidates who intend to do an intern outside of our university are: First, it is important to set the internship research goal very clearly before the project starts and evaluate the doability. After all, the internship is a short term project which should have a well-defined hypothesis or short term vision that leads you through. Second, it is better to do an internship project that is closely related to your PhD topic. Last but not least, do not be afraid to pick up challenging projects. You will be rewarded by the hardships you have gone through.

Acknowledgement for the support from: UKP members, my PhD supervisors, Crops For the Future (CFF), UNMC Graduate School, my BB79 fellows at UNMC, Lee Ai-Suan who gave me a German language training and not to forget, my flatmate at Darmstadt.



Doctoral Training Partnership

CFF-UNMC DTP

Graduation

by Dr Maysoun Mustafa, CFF-UNMC DTP Manager.

Welcome to the ongoing CFF-UNMC DTP column. In this month's issue, we look at the ultimate PhD goal: graduation.

The February graduation ceremony saw four DTP students graduating: Dr Isah Yakub Mohammed, Dr Lim Chun Hsion, Dr Mukhtar Musa and Dr Aliyu Siise Bamba Abdullah. These four researchers have invested their time, skills and experiences into advancing their careers and science at large and have now celebrated successfully. Congratulations to all the graduates!



However, as graduation approaches, questions that likely prod your mind would be:

1. What are my chances of finding jobs in academia? Outside academia?
2. How do I enhance my skills for the job market?
3. Can I start my own company?

It is no secret that PhD students would have spent the past years of their career working on a very specialised project. The many obstacles and challenges that are encountered during your PhD builds a range of strong characteristics. No surprise that

patience, hard work and determined and creative researcher - all very desirable characteristics in a professional.

Moreover, regardless of the discipline that you specialise in, dedicating these years into research and research related activities sharpens your analytical and synthetic skills. These are valuable skills that employers from various sectors - academic, industrial, governmental, etc. - are constantly seeking in their employees. Not to forget, the constant pursuit of conferences, publications and regular supervisory meetings will be reflected clearly in your enhanced communication skills.

These are just a sample of the skills that PhD students own. Dedicating years towards a specific project might make it difficult to perceive these skills or to visualise other skills that you might need for another career all together such as developing business acumen or team management skills. The Careers Advisory Service at UNMC offers a number of events and activities that support this endeavour into the next stage. The activities range from the initial stages of preparing a CV and interview skills, to career-related skills such as networking and leadership.

Final note: Carry out regular assessments of your skills and career plans - you are the best judge - and do reach out to the numerous support services that are available to you.

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 March 2017 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
6 th March 2017	10am - 12pm	What Do I Want to Get out of a Conference?
10 th March 2017	10am - 12pm	Introduction to the Skills of Teamwork for Researchers
13 th March 2017	10am - 3pm	Presentation Skills
15 th March 2017	10am - 12pm	Preparing for Your Annual Review
17 th March 2017	10am - 1pm	Further Presentation Skills
22 nd March 2017	10am - 12pm	Getting Going on Your Thesis
27 th March 2017	10am - 12pm	Finishing Your Thesis
28 th March 2017	2pm - 5pm	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 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.



Communicating Your Research: Dealing with Media

A workshop with the title *Communicating Your Research: Dealing with Media* was held on 25th January 2017. The workshop was delivered by Dr Lee Jiin Woei and Dr Ahimsa Campos-Arceiz as the guest speaker.

The workshop provided information on the best practices when communicating research and introduced how to deal with feedback from a research audience. The workshop also highlighted the importance of dissemination and wider public engagement in the research process.

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



Dr Ahimsa (centre) and the participants during one of the interactive activities at the workshop.

Graduate School

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