



UNMC Research Showcase 2017: Exhibition and Voting

We are pleased to invite all staff and students to attend the Research Showcase competition and vote for the People's Choice Award. The competition is designed for postgraduate research students to effectively present their research, in poster format, to a general audience. It aims to promote public engagement, open discussion and exchange of views and opinions with a wider audience, who are not necessarily acquainted with the research topic or field.

Exhibition and on-site voting

Date : 27th April 2017

Time : 10am - 1pm

Venue : HB foyer

Online voting

The link to the online voting will be sent to all staff and students in due course.

Voting period : 24th - 27th April 2017

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Coming soon...

Summer Researcher Development Programme (RDP) Courses

In view of the demand from postgraduate students, we will be offering some of the RDP courses over the summer.

Full details will be announced in due course.

Call for Applications: Travel Grant for U21 Early Career Researcher Workshop

The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) is offering a travel grant to support one of its early career researchers to attend this year's Universitas 21 (U21) workshop. The grant will provide up to £2,000 to cover economy travel to Santiago, Chile and subsistence for the successful UNMC-based applicant.

About the workshop:

4th - 6th October 2017

Pontificia Universidad de Católica de Chile

This three-day interdisciplinary workshop on “**Interculturality and Multiculturalism: the challenges for changing societies**” is open to early career research-only staff and junior academics from all faculties who meet the eligibility criteria detailed below.

There are at least two major social contexts that bring about the challenges regarding interculturality and multiculturalism in changing societies: human migration and intergroup relations involving indigenous - non-indigenous communities.

The workshop will address these concepts by stimulating discussion among participants and distinguished keynote speakers as well as academics that have developed research on these issues from diverse disciplines such as Philosophy, Social Psychology, Economy, History and Anthropology. In addition, there will be an opportunity for participants to learn about specific methodological tools involving quantitative and qualitative approaches and the opportunity to present their research via poster or Pecha Kucha presentations.

Eligibility:

Delegates should have gained their doctorate within the last eight years and be employed by a U21 university in a research-related capacity.

How to apply:

Complete and submit the application form to ecr@nottingham.edu.my stating “U21 ECR Workshop Application” in the email subject line by **Wednesday, 5th April 2017**.

The successful applicant will be notified by early May 2017.



Postgraduate Research Experience Survey: Tell us what you think!

We would like to encourage all postgraduate research students to participate in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES).

PRES is a UK national survey, coordinated by the Higher Education Academy (HEA), a national body for improving teaching and learning in universities.

The survey is a chance for research postgraduates to feedback on their experience. We need to know what postgraduates think so we can address issues and keep doing what is valued. It is an opportunity to say what went well and what could be improved. The survey is confidential and the results are made anonymous so that no individual can be identified.

A link to the survey is included in the email which will be sent to all postgraduate research students in early April 2017.

The survey questions are broken down into nine areas: supervision, resources, research community, progress and assessment, responsibilities, research skills and professional development, opportunities, overall experience and demographic details.

Participants could stand a chance to win one of three RM150 cash prizes.



Graduate School Reward Scheme



We are pleased to announce the arrival of our 2017 merchandise, bottle umbrella and notebook, up for redemption!

The Graduate School Reward Scheme rewards postgraduate students who attend the Graduate School training courses i.e. Researcher Development Programme (RDP) and Postgraduate Student Teachers (PST) courses.

Simply:

- Collect a reward card from us
- Ask the trainer to initial and date each Graduate School training course you attend

Once your card is complete you can exchange it for any merchandise available at the Graduate School Administrative Office at BA02a.

For any enquiries, please email us at graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my.

Getting Started! - A Postgraduate Talk

The Graduate School delivered a postgraduate talk entitled *Getting Started! - A Quick Guide to Maximising Your Postgraduate Journey* on 25th February 2017 at the Kuala Lumpur Teaching Centre (KLTC).

The talk covered the following four topics which included interactive activities:

- Working effectively in groups
- Planning your time and projects
- Creative thinking and problem solving
- Presentation tips

One of the group activities was to build the tallest possible freestanding paper tower. This activity aimed to develop team-working skills and reflect on how group members could have worked better together.

To find out more about this talk and all other support that the Graduate School offers, please email us at graduateschool@nottingham.edu.my.



Coffee and Cake Session #2

The second Coffee and Cake session of this year was held on 31st March 2017. It was a casual session where postgraduate students from across all three faculties met and established rapport with one another whilst enjoying coffee and cakes.

Prior to the Coffee and Cake session, a meeting was held between the representatives of the Postgraduate Student Network (PGSN) and some of the members of the Graduate School. The meeting was initiated by Ms Deepa Kumari, Head of Graduate School, and it was a constructive avenue for discussion to further enhance the engagement of the Graduate School with the postgraduate students on campus.

One of the key things discussed during the meeting was Postgraduate (PG) Link Conference which has been annually held at the UK Campus for the past three years. This year, following the footsteps of the UK Campus, the PGSN at the Malaysia Campus will organise its first PG Link Conference in collaboration with the Graduate School. This conference is aimed at PhD students across all faculties and at any stage of their research. In addition to student presentations, the conference will include talks from guest speakers and networking opportunities. Whether you are interested in exchanging your academic opinions, meeting new people or just enjoying the atmosphere, this is one conference that you should not miss out! Stay tuned for more details!



The View by...

Dr Aryo Feldman

Senior Research Programme Coordinator, Crops For the Future (CFF)

Career paths are changing and everyone should embrace this. As a postgraduate student, I imagine that you have set yourself a target for the type of job that you wish to pursue. There may be some of you who do not have a fixed idea or indeed whose idea has changed over the course of doing your degree. Everyone will be okay! These days, career paths meander, take detours, grind to a halt in a sunny deserted beach in the Pacific Ocean for a year...

This does not necessarily reflect a lack of commitment to a particular linear career progression (though it might in some cases). It is more likely to reflect how we grow and change in our interests and motivations as we gain new experiences, engage with different people and ideas, and develop as human beings in a broad sense. The trend appears to be to follow your heart rather than your wallet. I am not advocating one over the other (in this article at least) but it certainly seems that having your nose follow the trail of intellectual curiosity and more noble motivations is more likely to lead to greater job satisfaction. The obvious argument against this is that you will be compromising or sacrificing how high you could climb that career ladder. In a sense, this is certainly true. Employers generally reward temporal loyalty with increases in responsibilities, job titles and salaries. On the other hand, as the nature of career paths change, so does the nature of employers. Gaining diverse experience, knowledge and skills is becoming more valued. It can contribute to thinking outside the box, breaking down silos, wearing many hats or multi-tasking, and encouraging trans-disciplinary approaches. It is these interactions that promote novelty and emergent properties that may end up as game-changers, which the world values so much nowadays.

We are living in the age of start-ups, online media and globalisation. All sorts of things are becoming more rapid, transient and fluid. So, as they say here, "*Rilek lah bro*".



Dr Aryo Feldman specialises in plant physiology and has considerable training in plant breeding and genetics. His main responsibility is coordinating multi-locational activities within the programme, which currently consists of designing, organising and managing field trials with partners from Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Dr Feldman received his bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees from the University of Nottingham. He received the Humber Prize for graduating at the top of his class in MSc Crop Improvement. His PhD was funded by the Monsanto Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Programme.

His passion is in international agriculture and how it can contribute to relieving global hunger, poverty and environmental degradation. He has related interests

in the natural resource base, the climate crisis, dietary diversification and food sovereignty. - See more at:

http://www.cffresearch.org/Research_Team-@-Dr_Aryo_Feldman.aspx#sthash.dTUIySHI.dpuf

SWIRL @ Nucleus

So What's It Really Like?

3 years in the lab

by Mohammad Reza Ketabchi, PhD candidate from the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering.

The story began on 29th October 2013. It was a peaceful sunny day. I was officially a PhD student at the Faculty of Engineering. On those very first few days, I was well informed by the members of the Graduate School, supervisors and close friends about the role of publication and its importance in academia. Therefore, I prepared myself to put all my effort and focus to conduct a fruitful journey. I started with literature review. I reviewed and summarised 250 journal papers on the first three months of my PhD. The revision provided a great understanding on the topic of my project. Based on the literature review, I became clear about the basic requirements of my project including the materials, tools, instruments and the tests that I had to conduct. Later, I ordered, collected and prepared the requirements to securely turn on the lights of the lab and tackle the challenges.

During this period, I was in the lab running the experiments one after the other, preparing journal papers and at the same time participating in different local and international competitions. Thankfully, I was honoured to collect quite a number of valuable awards during this period. I received many first-place awards which I believe was the result of my passion

generated in the lab. The greatest award that I received in my first year was a travel fund by the Faculty of Engineering which provided me the opportunity to visit the UK. During this visit, I met quite a number of academic and industry members in the UK. It was at this stage that I believed in the quote "hard work pays off". There were many nights that I had to sleep in the office and didn't have the time to reach my bed even though I was staying on campus. I skipped meals to prepare samples in the lab. It was all about the attention that I was getting from outside of the lab. This included the attention in conferences, academic and industries. The days passed and the experiences and the memories became treasures.

The story came to a historical ending on 5th January 2017. I passed my viva. Prior to it, many people encouraged me to relax and enjoy it, including my supervisors and friends. To prevent any stress or pressure, my family didn't know about the date of my viva until the moment that I called them and said: I passed my viva! The joy in that ten minutes' conversation was enough for me to forget all the hardships and remember the good days. It was only after that conversation that I felt I need to find a new lab to keep the lights on and continue my journey. Not giving up was the best lesson that I learnt in my three years of PhD. After all, I need to thank the University for providing me the opportunity to believe in myself and build a better future.



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 April 2017 are outlined below:

Date	Time	Course
3 rd April 2017	10am - 12.30pm	Word Essentials for Researchers (Beginners)
4 th April 2017	10am - 3pm	Applying for Academic Jobs
5 th April 2017	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 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.

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