

# EXPECTATION FROM BEING A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT

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18 March 2021

# MY BACKGROUND



- **B.Sc (Hons) Math (Minor in Economics) 1986-1989**
- **MA Math 1989-1990**
- **PhD Math 1995-1998 (40 months)**

from State University of New York at Binghamton (now known as Binghamton University), New York, USA

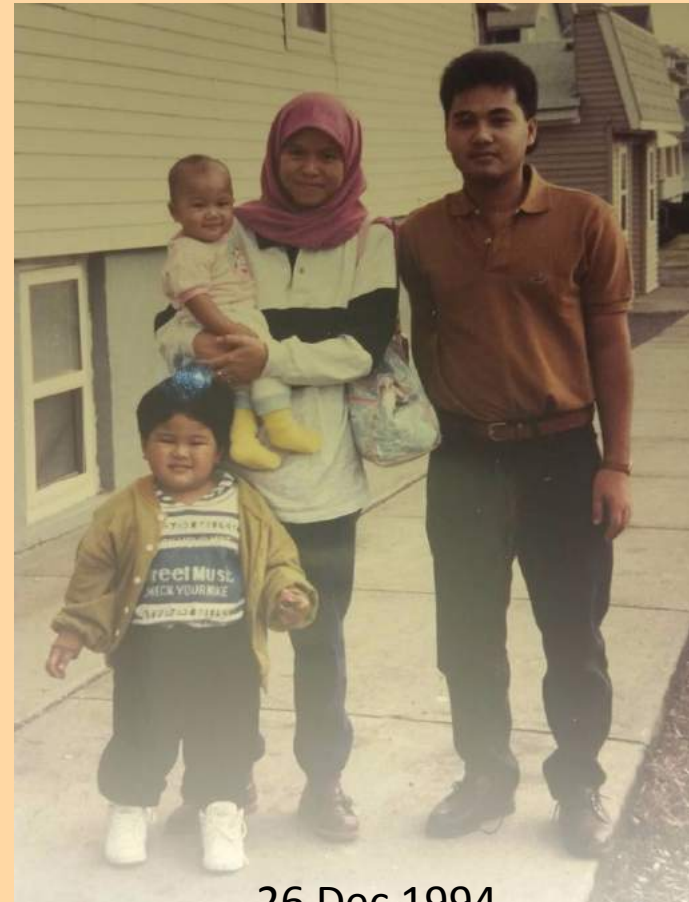
<https://people.utm.my/nizararmin/>



# STARTING MY PHD



**RESEARCH AREA :-**  
**PURE MATHEMATICS**  
(GROUP THEORY, DNA SPLICING)



26 Dec 1994

# ADMIN IN UTM



- Joined UTM on 2 May 1991 as Lecturer, Department of Mathematics
- Head, Dept of Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Science  
(Nov 2007 - July 2012)



# ADMIN IN UTM



Deputy Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
(1 August 2012 - 31 March 2016)

# ADMIN IN UTM



- Director (Global Education & Student Experience), UTM International (1 April 2016 - 31 March 2018)
- Associate Director (Student Services & Global Education Experience) , UTM International (1 April 2018 – 14 August 2019)



# ADMIN IN UTM

## GLOBAL STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT DIVISION UTM INTERNATIONAL

### International Relations



### International Alliances



<https://www.utm.my/international>

[relations@utm.my](mailto:relations@utm.my)

Associate Director (Global Strategy & Engagement) , UTM International  
(15 August 2019 – 31 March 2021)

# GRADUATED UNDERGRADUATE FINAL YEAR PROJECT STUDENTS

83



# GRADUATED MASTER STUDENTS



**26 students**

# GRADUATED PHD STUDENTS



**35 students**



# ACTIVE PHD STUDENTS



**12 students**

# FAST TRACK STUDENTS

## (First Class Undergraduate to PhD)



**11 students**



# THE YOUNGEST PHD HOLDER

Malaysia Book of Record 2014

24 years and 2 months old



Dr. Hazzirah Izzati Mat Hassim

# DIFFERENCES OF UNDERGRADUATE (UG) AND POSTGRADUATE (PG)

- **UG** : Full classes, tests and exams.  
Final year project.
- **PG** : Classes/ Learn independently.
  - Master – Taughtcourse, Mixed mode, Full research
  - PhD – Mixed mode, Research



# WHY POSTGRADUATE STUDY?

- To be a lecturer.
- Required by organization.
- Motivation for family/others.
- Self satisfaction.

# BENEFITS OF POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

- Develop perseverance and problem solving skills.
- Develop public speaking and communication skills by presenting research in conferences/seminars.
- Develop research skill, writing skill, and critical thinking.



<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/careers-advice/benefits-studying-postgraduate-degree#:~:text=By%20studying%20a%20postgraduate%20degree%2C%20you'll%20develop%20skills%20that,researching%2C%20presentation%20and%20writing%20skills.>

# PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN UTM

## ❑ MASTER' S DEGREE AWARD

- M.Eng / M.Ph / M.Ed / M.Mgt / M.Arch / MBA/ MPhil
- By Taught Course/ Mixed-Mode/Full Research
- Duration: Minimum of 1 year, Maximum 3 years

## ❑ DOCTORAL DEGREES AWARD:

- Ph.D / Eng. D./ DBA
- Full Research Study / Mixed-Mode
- Duration: Minimum of 3 years, Maximum 8 years



# MODE OF PROGRAMME

## ☐ Master by Coursework

- Courses and Master's project
- Minimum 3 semesters (including short semester)

## ☐ Mixed-Mode (Coursework & Research)

- Courses and Research/Dissertation

## ☐ Research

- Two courses (Research Methodology & University Elective)
- Thesis and oral examination at end of study

# HOW TO CHOOSE THE TITLE AND SUPERVISOR?

- Have a clear idea on what area you want to do research.
- Choose supervisor based on her/his academic background.
- Discuss the title of the research with supervisor.

2 May 2019

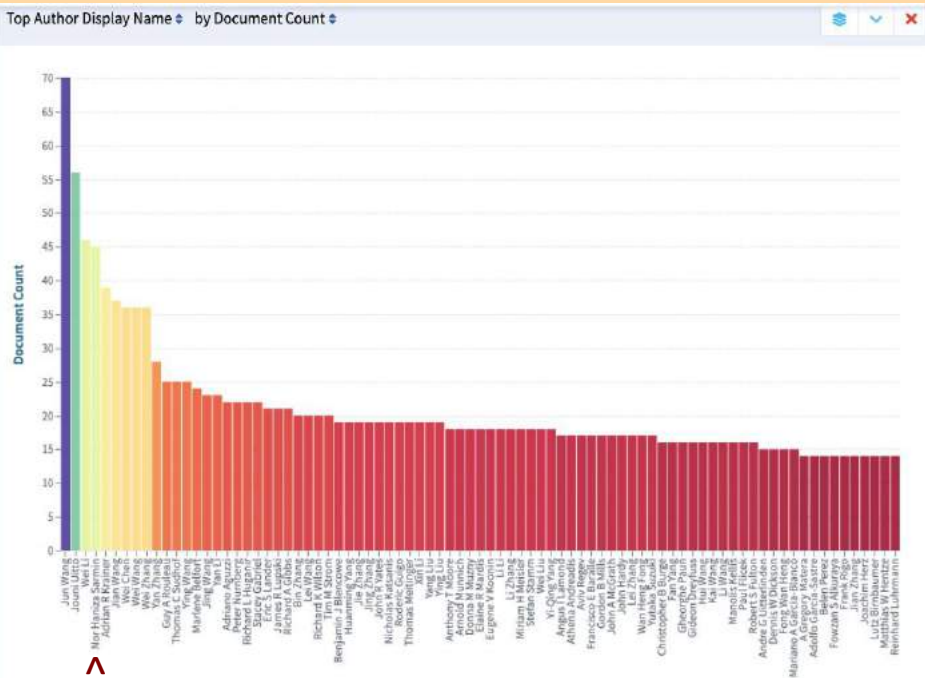


# Graduation Requirements

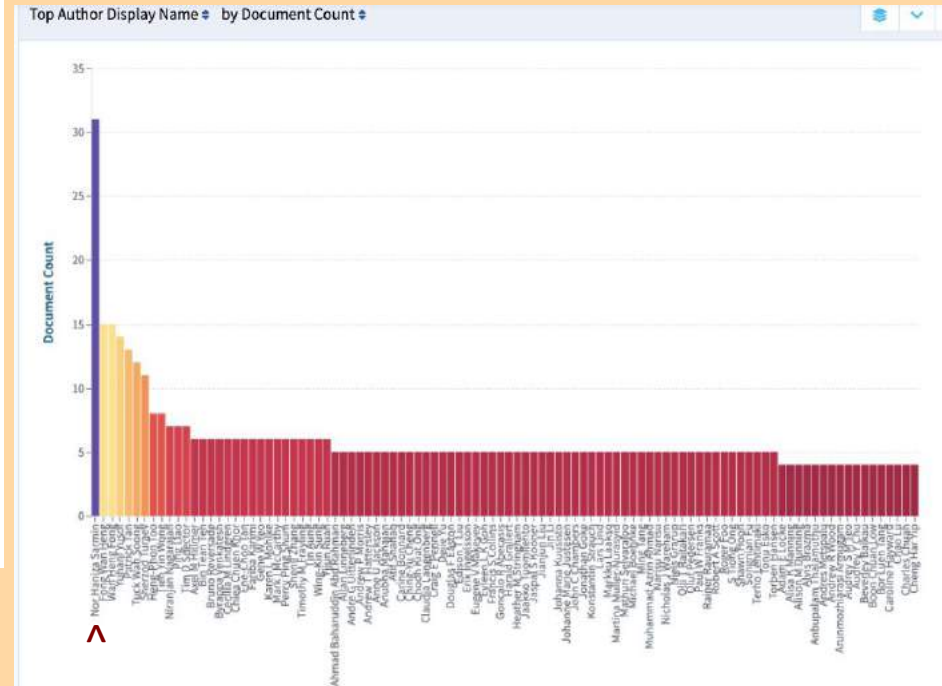
Programme	Requirements
Master by Research	Produced at least one(1) accepted or published publication from journal article, conference proceeding or book chapter.
Doctor of Philosophy	Produced at least one(1) indexed journal article or two(2) indexed conference proceedings accepted or published in SCOPUS/ERA or WOS.



# WHY PUBLICATION IS IMPORTANT?



## Top Author Display Name (Splicing system) in the World

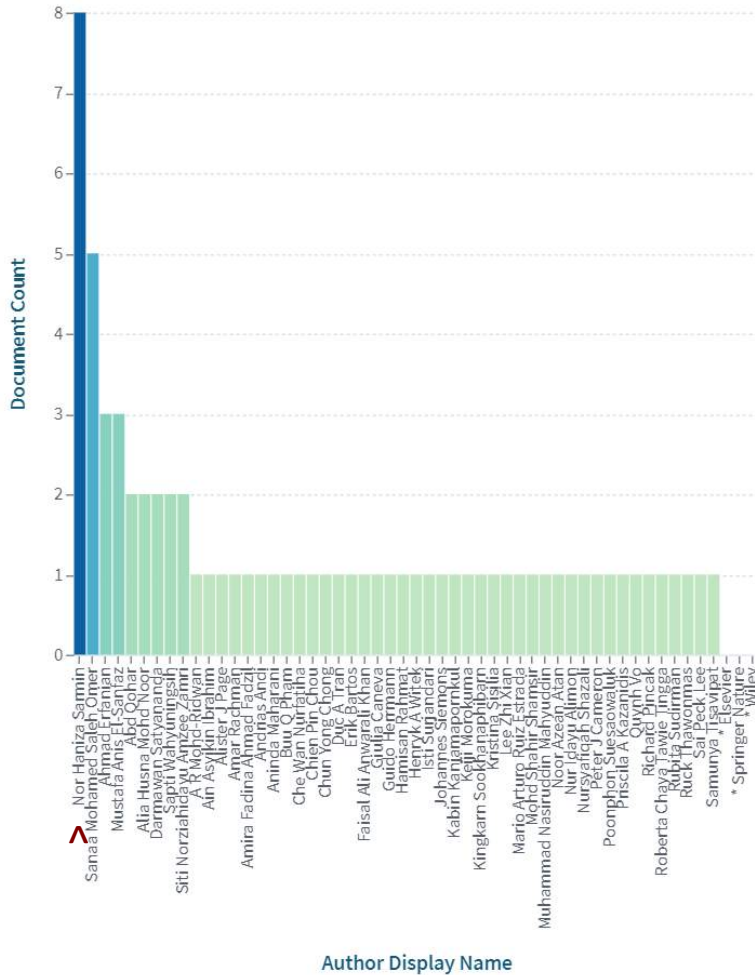


### Top Author Display Name (Splicing system) in the Asia

# Lens.org - Free & Open Patent and Scholarly Search

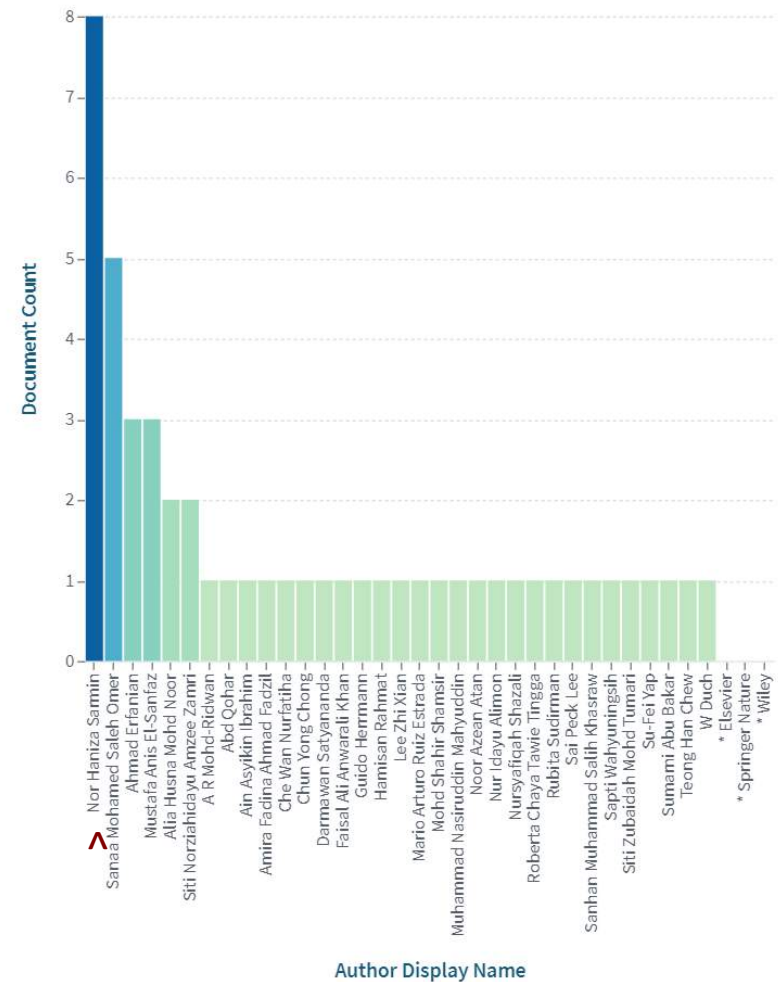
# WHY PUBLICATION IS IMPORTANT?

Top Author Display Name by Document Count



Top Author Display Name (Group Theory) in Asia

Top Author Display Name by Document Count



Top Author Display Name (Group Theory) in Malaysia

# WHY PUBLICATION IS IMPORTANT?



**Most Active Authors (Group Theory) in the World**



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

## (International Students)

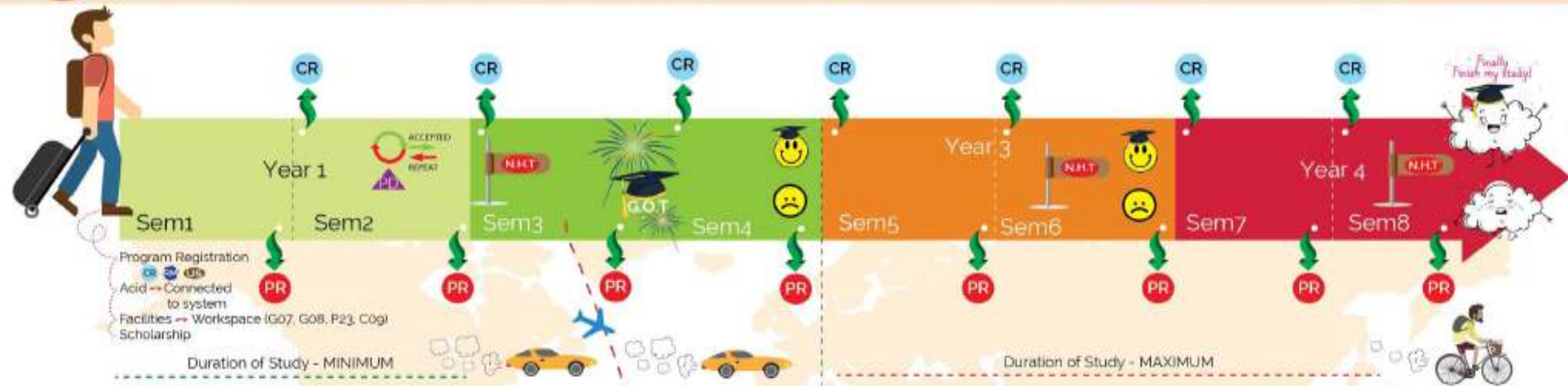
IELTS / TOEFL SCORE	ENGLISH REQUIREMENT
IELTS $\geq$ Band 6.0 TOEFL (IBT) $\geq$ 60	Exempted (Meet UTM English requirement)
IELTS $\leq$ Band 5.5 TOEFL IBT $<$ 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With English course (academic purposes) will be exempted</li><li>• Without English course, students will be required to attend an English course minimum 1 semester</li></ul>

# WHAT ARE THE SKILLS NEEDED IN POSTGRADUATE STUDY?

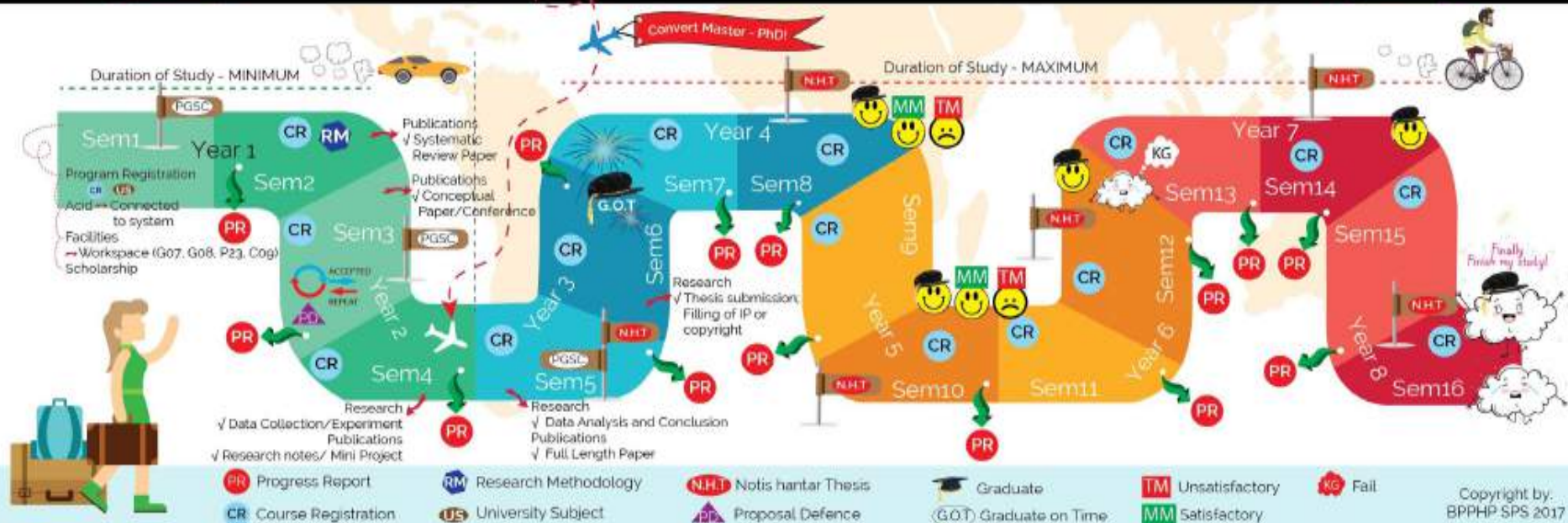
- Basic and research skills
  - ✓ Attend research methodology course.
  - ✓ Come out with research proposal.

# PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Area/Field	Subject
Pure Mathematics	Modern Algebra
Statistics	Statistics 1 & 2
Cryptography	Number Theory
Applied Mathematics	Numerical Analysis, Fluid Mechanics
Programming	C/C++ programming
IT	Programming

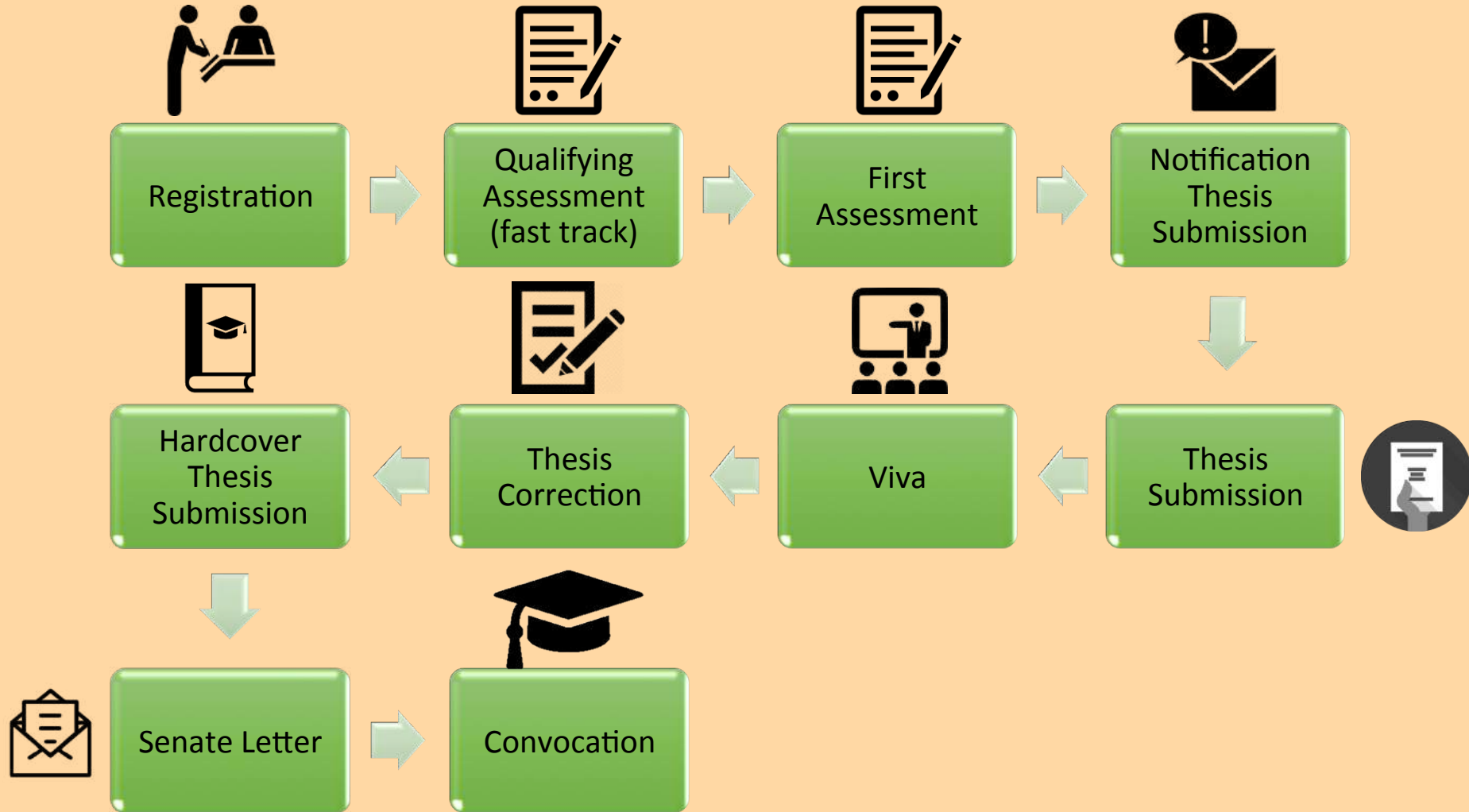


## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNEY





# RESEARCH PLANNING



# **EXPECTATION IN SUPERVISION**



**SUPERVISOR**



**STUDENT**

# MISMATCH!



supervisors expected their students to be independent and possess an intellectual capacity suitable to that of a research candidate at a postgraduate level



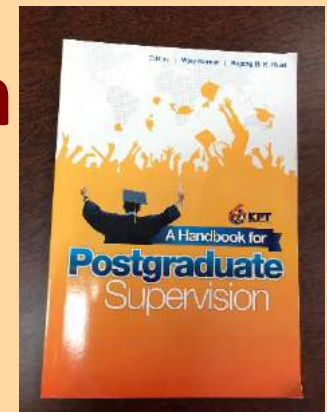
the candidates were dependent on their supervisors and required important decision making to be done by the supervisors.



# Survey on Supervision Expectation

Vijay Kumar and Bujang B.K. Huat. A handbook for Postgraduate Supervision

[https://sgs.upm.edu.my/dokumen/92225\\_supervision..pdf](https://sgs.upm.edu.my/dokumen/92225_supervision..pdf)



●	Average marks for graduated students
●	Average marks for active students

It is the supervisor's responsibility to select a research topic.	1      2      3 ●      4      5	The student is responsible for selecting her/his own.
The supervisor should insist on regular meetings with the student.	1      2      3 ●●      4      5	The student should decide when she/he wants to meet with the supervisor.
It is the supervisor who decides which theoretical framework is most appropriate.	1      2      3 ●●      4      5	Students should decide which theoretical framework they wish to use.
The supervisor should check regularly that the student is working consistently and on task.	1      2 ●●      3      4      5	The student should not have to account for how and where they spend their time.
The supervisor should develop an appropriate program and timetable of research and study for the student.	1      2      3 ●●      4      5	The supervisor should leave the development of the program of study to the student.
The supervisor is responsible for providing emotional support and encouragement to the student.	1      2 ●      3 ●      4      5	Students should have their own support networks and this is not the responsibility of supervisor.
The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the student is introduced to the appropriate services and facilities of the department and the university.	1      2 ●      3      4 ●      5	It is the student's responsibility to ensure that she/he has located and accessed all relevant services and facilities for research.



# Survey on Supervision Expectation (Cont.)

Vijay Kumar and Bujang B.K. Huat. A handbook for Postgraduate Supervision

[https://sgs.upm.edu.my/dokumen/92225\\_supervision.pdf](https://sgs.upm.edu.my/dokumen/92225_supervision.pdf)

The supervisor should insist on seeing all drafts of work to ensure that the student is on the right track.	1      2 ●   ● 3      4      5	Students should submit drafts of work only when they want constructive criticism from the supervisor.
Supervisor should only accept students when they have specific knowledge of the student's chosen topic.	1      2   ● ● 3      4      5	Supervisors should feel free to accept students, even they do not have specific knowledge of the student's topic.
The supervisor should take over the final writing-up of the thesis if the student is having difficulty.	1      2      3      4 ●   ● 5	The writing of the thesis should only ever be the student's own work.
A warm, friendly relationship between supervisor and student is critical for successful candidature.	1 ●   ● 2      3      4      5	A warm, friendly relationship is inadvisable because it may obstruct objectivity for both student and supervisor during candidature.
The supervisor is responsible for decisions regarding the standard of the thesis.	1      ● 2   ● 3      4      5	The student is responsible for decisions concerning the standard of the thesis.

●	Average marks for graduated students
●	Average marks for active students



### Prof Niza's & her Special People <3

Private group · 34 members



+ Invite

# SCHEDULE PLANNING (SUPERVISOR'S ACTION)



Niza Sarmin

Admin · 8 November at 06:52 · 🌐



My schedule for this week (Week 4/14) :-

Sunday 8 November 2020 :-

9:30 - 10 am :- Briefing on ATU-Net Board Meeting with DAFI at VC's Office

11 am : Syiham & [Atyra Farhana Zai](#) at UTM-i

2:30 - 4:30 pm :- ATU-Net SeLF 2020 Technical Meeting at UTM-i

Monday 9 November 2020 :-

8:30 am :- ATU-Net SeLF preparation at UTM-i

9 am :- [Nuridayu Alimon](#) via Zoom

10 am :- NALI Recording at UTM-i

2:30 - 4 pm :- AAAG Bi-weekly Meeting via Webex

4 - 5 pm :- Group Theory 1 Class via Zoom

Tuesday 10 November 2020 :-

8:30 am :- [Nurhidayah Zaid](#)

10 am :- [Muhd Danial](#) & Dr Asyraf via Zoom

Wednesday 11 November 2020 :-

10 am - 12 pm :- Tha Ambassadorial GlobaLecture via Zoom

2:30 pm :- Meeting of ATU-Net MOU Renewal with Legal via Zoom

3:30 - 5 pm :- Group Theory 1 Class via Zoom

Thursday 12 November 2020 :-

10 am :- [Syiham Razak](#) via Zoom

11 am :- [Nabilah Fikriah](#), Dr [Ibrahim Gambo](#) & Dr [Sheila Ilangovan](#) via Zoom

# SCHEDULE PLANNING

## (STUDENTS' RESPONSES)



Nurhidayah Zaid  
Assalamualaikum Prof **Niza Sarmin**, can I meet you on Tuesday at 8.30am? Thank you.

Like · Reply · 4 w



Niza Sarmin Author  
Nurhidayah Zaid ok

Like · Reply · 4 w



Nurhidayah Zaid  
Niza Sarmin thank you, prof



Like · Reply · 4 w



Nabilah Fikriah  
Salam Prof **Niza Sarmin**, can we have an online meeting with Dr Sheila Ilangovan and Dr Ibrahim Gambo on thursday at 11am?

Like · Reply · 3 w



Niza Sarmin Author  
Nabilah Fikriah ok

Like · Reply · 3 w



Syiham Razak  
Assalamualaikum and good morning Prof **Niza Sarmin**.  
Can I meet you tomorrow at 10am? Thank you.

Like · Reply · 3 w



Niza Sarmin Author  
Syiham Razak ok

Like · Reply · 3 w



Syiham Razak  
Thank you Prof **Niza Sarmin** ...

Like · Reply · 3 w





# SCHEDULE PLANNING



Discussion with Nur Idayu



Discussion with Nurhidayah



Discussion with Alia



Discussion with Athirah and Dr. Hazzirah  
(co-supervisor)

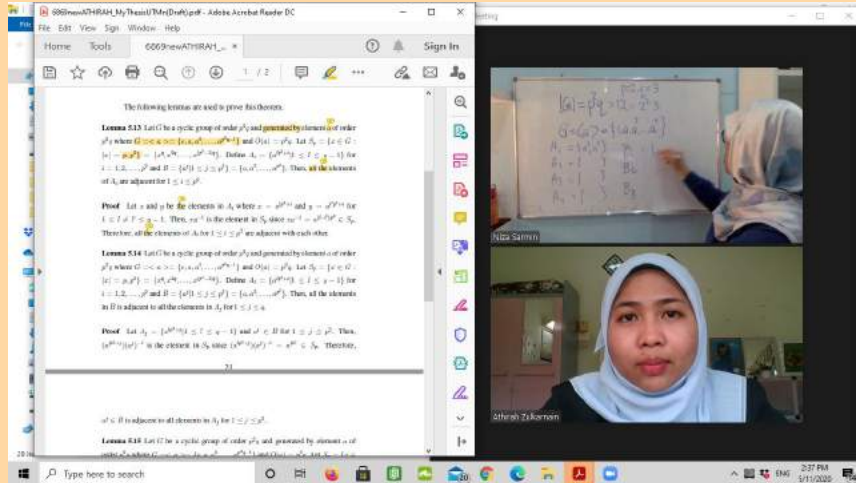


Discussion with Athirah Farhana



# SCHEDULE PLANNING

(during COVID-19 pandemic)



Discussion with Athirah



Discussion with Nurhidayah, Dr. Ibrahim (UTM) and Dr. Sanhan from Iraq



Discussion with Dr. Ibrahim and Hassan from Afghanistan



Discussion with Nabilah at home

# UNSCHEDULE PLANNING





# PRESENT RESEARCH PROGRESS



**MAKLUMAT PENGAJIAN (PROGRAMME DETAILS)**

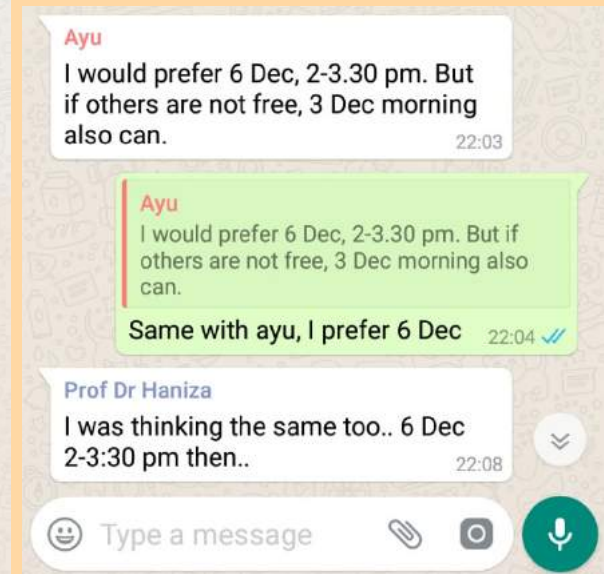
Program yang diikuti: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (MATHEMATICS) (4 <sup>th</sup> Semester)		
Bidang Pengkhususan: PURE MATHEMATICS		
Tempoh masa pengajian (Length of study): 36 MONTHS	Tarikh pendaftaran pertama (First date of registration): 18/09/2018	Tarikh tamat pengajian (Expected date of completion): AUGUST 2021
Mata Pelajaran Kodah Penyelidikan (Research Methodology)	Kod mata pelajaran: (Subject code): UCP110	Tarikh ambil: (Date taken): 2018
Nama Penyerah/Penyelaras Program (Name of Supervisor/Co-supervisor):	1. PROF. DR NOR HANIZA SARMIN (Main) 2. DR SANJIAN MUHAMMAD KHALIL KHAIRAW (Co)	
Tempoh laporan ini dibuat: (Period of which this report is based)	Mula: 2/12/2019 (From)	hingga: 29/4/2020 (To)

# RESEARCH PROGRESS

## (DISCUSSION IN WHATSAPP GROUP)



Update research during  
MCO



Discussion on the progress  
report presentation



# RESEARCH PLANNING (GANTT CHART)

No.	Research Activities	Years																																				
		2017				2018								2019								2020																
		S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J		
1.	Literature review on concepts of DNA, splicing systems and formal language theory.																																					
2.	Generalise the splicing languages resulting for DNA splicing systems with palindromic and non-palindromic restriction enzymes.																																					
3.	Develop a graphical user interface for DNA splicing system with palindromic and non-palindromic restriction enzymes by using C++ visual programming.																																					
4.	Construct the graphical representation for the generalisations of DNA splicing systems with palindromic and non-palindromic restriction enzymes via automata and graph theory.																																					
5.	Verify the model of DNA splicing system with palindromic and non-palindromic restriction enzymes through in vitro experiments.																																					
6.	Thesis writing, presentation and submission																																					
Technology Transfer Activities																																						
1.	Papers for conference proceedings																																					
2.	Publication of research paper(s) in indexed and non-indexed journals																																					
3.	Exhibition																																					

11 INATEX 2018

# RESEARCH PLANNING

## (ACADEMIC CALENDAR)

SEMESTER I						
18 OCTOBER 2020 – 11 MARCH 2021 (UTM JB)   19 OCTOBER 2020 – 12 MARCH 2021 (UTM KL)						
NO.	PROGRAMME	DURATION	WEEK	CAMPUS		REMARKS
				JOHOR BAHRU	KUALA LUMPUR	
1.	Registration of Courses for Semester I, 2020/2021 Session ( <b>ONLINE</b> )	3 weeks	-	1 – 23 Oct 2020		<a href="https://my.utm.my">https://my.utm.my</a>
2.	Semester I, 2020/2021 Session Lectures (Part 1)	7 weeks	Week 1 – 7	18 Oct – 3 Dec 2020	19 Oct – 4 Dec 2020	Birthday of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W 29 Oct 2020
3.	Application for Reduction and Exemption Tuition Fees	8 weeks	Week 1 – 8	18 Oct – 10 Dec 2020	19 Oct – 11 Dec 2020	Deepavali 14 Nov 2020
4.	Deadline for Registration of Courses ( <b>ONLINE</b> )	-	-	23 Oct 2020		<a href="https://my.utm.my">https://my.utm.my</a>
5.	Amendments of Course Registration ( <b>ONLINE</b> ) <b>1<sup>st</sup> phase</b>	1 week	Week 2	24 – 30 Oct 2020		<a href="https://my.utm.my">https://my.utm.my</a>
6.	Deadline of Amendments of Course Registration ( <b>ONLINE</b> ) - <b>1<sup>st</sup> phase</b>	-	Week 4	30 Oct 2020		<a href="https://my.utm.my">https://my.utm.my</a>
7.	Late Registration of Courses ( <b>WITH PENALTY</b> )	1 week	Week 3	1 -5 Nov 2020	2 - 6 Nov 2020	A penalty of <b>RM100.00</b> for each course will be imposed for late registration/ amendments
8.	Deadline for Late Registration of Courses ( <b>WITH PENALTY</b> )	-	Week 3	5 Nov 2020 3.30 pm	6 Nov 2020 5.00 pm	
9.	Amendments of Course Registration ( <b>ONLINE</b> ) <b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase</b>	1 week	Week 4	8 – 13 Nov 2020		<a href="https://my.utm.my">https://my.utm.my</a>
10.	Deadline of Amendments of Course Registration ( <b>ONLINE</b> ) – <b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase</b>	-	Week 4	13 Nov 2020		<a href="https://my.utm.my">https://my.utm.my</a>
11.	Amendments of Courses Registration ( <b>WITH PENALTY</b> )	1 week	Week 5	15 -19 Nov 2020	16 -20 Nov 2020	A penalty of <b>RM100.00</b> for each course will be imposed for late registration/ amendments
12.	Deadline for Amendments of Courses Registration ( <b>WITH PENALTY</b> )	-	Week 5	19 Nov 2020 3.30 pm	20 Nov 2020 5.00 pm	
13.	Course Withdrawal (TD)	4 weeks	Week 6 – 9	22 Nov – 17 Dec 2020	23 Nov – 18 Dec 2020	
14.	Faculty Check and Remind Students Who Did Not Register Any Courses	5 weeks	Week 6 – 10	22 Nov – 24 Dec 2020	23 Nov – 24 Dec 2020	Christmas 25 Dec 2020

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SEMESTER I						
18 OCTOBER 2020 – 11 MARCH 2021 (UTM JB)   19 OCTOBER 2020 – 12 MARCH 2021 (UTM KL)						
NO.	PROGRAMME	DURATION	WEEK	CAMPUS		REMARKS
				JOHOR BAHRU	KUALA LUMPUR	
15.	Application for Deferment or Withdrawal From Programme	9 weeks	Week 7 – 15	29 Nov 2020 – 27 Jan 2021	30 Nov 2020 – 29 Jan 2021	<b>New Year (KL Only)</b> 1 Jan 2021  <b>Thaipusam</b> 28 Jan 2021
16.	Mid Semester Break, Semester I, 2020/2021 Session	1 weeks	Week 8	6 – 10 Dec 2020	7 – 11 Dec 2020	
17.	Deadline for Application of Reduction and Exemption Tuition Fees Deadline	-	Week 8	10 Dec 2020 3.30 pm	11 Dec 2020 5.00 pm	Applications will not be accepted after this date.
18.	Deadline for Course Withdrawal (TD)	-	Week 9	17 Dec 2020 3.30 pm	18 Dec 2020 5.00 pm	Applications for course withdrawal will not be accepted after this date.  A penalty of <b>RM100.00</b> for each course will be imposed for TD.
19.	Continuation of Semester I, 2020/2021 Session Lectures (Part 2)	7 weeks	Week 9 – 15	13 Dec 2020 – 28 Jan 2021	14 Dec 2020 – 29 Jan 2021	<b>Christmas</b> 25 Dec 2020  <b>New Year (KL Only)</b> 1 Jan 2021  <b>Thaipusam</b> 28 Jan 2021
20.	AMD Issues Termination Letter For Students Who Did Not Register Any Courses	1 week	Week 15	24 - 27 Jan 2021		
21.	Deadline for Application for Deferment or Withdrawal From Programme	-	Week 15	27 Jan 2021 5.00 pm	29 Jan 2021 5.00 pm	<b>Thaipusam</b> 28 Jan 2021
22.	Revision Week	1 week	Week 16	31 Jan – 4 Feb 2021	1 – 5 Feb 2021	<b>Federal Territory Day (KL Only)</b> 1 Feb 2021
23.	Final Examination for Semester I, 2020/2021 Session	3 weeks	Week 17 - 19	7 - 25 Feb 2021	8 - 26 Feb 2021	<b>Chinese New Year</b> 12 - 13 Feb 2021

# FUTURE PLANNING

- Seminars/Conferences
- Publications
- Notice of Submission of Thesis
- Thesis Write-Up (Table of Contents)
- Thesis Writing
- Viva
- Corrections
- Submission



# TIPS ON PUBLICATIONS

## Plan for publication

- of at least a review paper during the first semester
- in conferences (once a year/ every semester?)
- in SCOPUS journals
- in WOS journals



## Plan for

- attending a publication workshop

# RESEARCH GROUP

## APPLIED ALGEBRA AND ANALYSIS GROUP (AAAG)



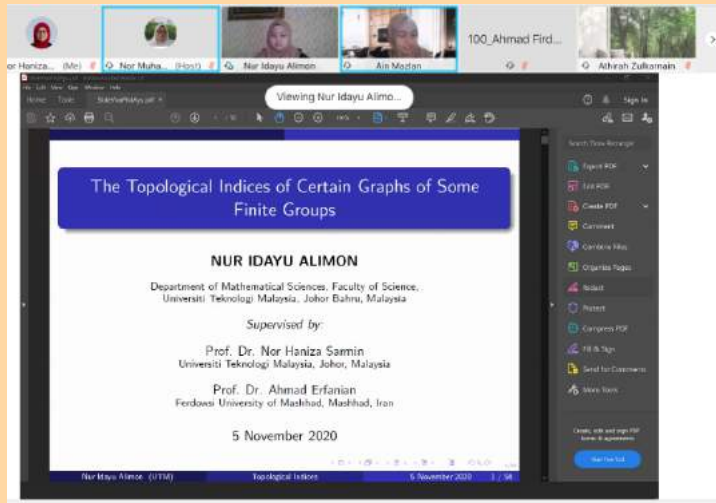
### Applied Algebra and Analysis Research Group (A<sup>3</sup>G)

🔒 Private group • 102 members



+ Invite

# ROLE OF RESEARCH GROUP



Mock  
Viva



GAP Workshop







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# ATTEND SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES TOGETHER



AAAG Meeting



Conference at Institute Technology of Bandung



Seminar at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)





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# HARI RAYA CELEBRATION





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## AAAG BOWLING



# SO, WHAT TO DO?





# GET TO KNOW YOUR SUPERVISORS

- Respect your supervisor.
- Get to know the supervisor's family.
- Think of him/her as your family.





# WHAT DO SUPERVISORS EXPECT FROM THEIR STUDENTS?

- Always be around
- Come to appointments on time and fully prepared
- Always check and reply emails and messages
- Always update their research progress
- Able to share problems with the supervisor
- Keep up the good attitude
- Do more than what is asked

# WHAT DO SUPERVISORS EXPECT FROM THEIR STUDENTS?


- Always write a report for any academic activity
- Do not mix personal problems with research
- Able to work independently (not to rely on supervisor)
- Understand that the supervisors have many other responsibilities
- Show some appreciations to supervisor

# WHAT DO SUPERVISORS EXPECT FROM THEIR STUDENTS?

- All of my students need to write a short report whenever they go to a workshop or talk.

• [REPORT] Web of Science User Training 4 Yahoo/Inbox ★

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 • **Athirah Zulkarnain** <athirah.zulkarnain91@gmail.com> 🖨️ Aug 15 at 3:01 PM ★

**To:** Nor Haniza Sarmin, Prof Dr, HAZZIRAH IZZATI BINTI MAT HASSIM FS, Fong Wan Heng, NOR MUHAINIAH BINTI MOHD ALI FS  
**Cc:** Nurhidayah Zaid, Amirafadina Ahmadfadzil, Aqilah Farhana, Nurul Izzaty Ismail, Alia Husna Mohd Noor and 9 more...

Dear Prof & all,  
The report for yesterday's talk about Web of Science is as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Title:** The First Stop to Research Discovery  
**Venue:** Bilik Seminar 3, Level 4, PSZ  
**Speaker:** Dju-Lyn Chng (Solution Consultant ASEAN)

The speaker began the talk by introducing the Web of Science (WoS). The WoS is previously known as ISI (Institute for Scientific Information), Thomson Scientific, Thomson Reuters and the latest one is Clarivate Analytics. All of these are just the same. The WoS is not a full-text database, but just a citation database. There are 21000 total journals in WoS core collection. Clarivate Analysis is neutral; not a publisher and do not plan to become a publisher. Clarivate Analysis does not own journals. They are an information company.

Before the speaker explains more on WoS, she gave four important points needed for the researcher. The first one is time. As a researcher, your time is very crucial. Therefore, everything you do must be strategized. The other three important points are accuracy, novelty, and impact. Novelty is one of the important points because with novelty you can catch others to read your paper. Besides, your research must give impact to society to be recognized and cited by other researchers.

- All of my students need to write a short report whenever they went to a workshop or talk.



**Nur idayu Alimon** <nuridayualimon@yahoo.com>



Aug 1 at 10:12 AM ★

To: Prof Dr Nor Haniza Sarmin

Cc: HAZIRAH IZZATI BINTI MAT HASSIM FS, NOR MUHAINIAH BINTI MOHD ALI FS, Dr Fong Wan Heng

Assalamualaikum & Salam Sejahtera,

Dear Prof,

On 18th July 2019, I have attended a High Publication Workshop which has been organized by UTM CIAM. The workshop is divided into two sessions and conducted by two different speakers.

The first session is conducted by Prof Graham Sander. Here are the tips to publish in high impact journals.

1. Know the editors' expertise.

The main reasons for rejecting the papers are the scope, quality of writing of the contribution, novelty, and significance of contribution.

2. The abstract must be clear and state what is the importance of the research.

3. Literature review

- Not simply a list of papers stating which problem they solved.

- Need to provide some sense of historical narrative and what are their contributions to scientific understanding.

- Identify gaps of knowledge.

- Conclude the literature review section by stating which of the gaps that your manuscript is addressing and how this will be achieved.

Short Report on the Structured Course: Facing Your Viva Voce 8th A

3



**Amira Fadina Ahmad Fadzil** <amirafadinaahmadfadzil@yahoo.com>

To: Prof Dr Nor Haniza Sarmin

Cc: Nurhidayah Zaid, Nabilah Najmuddin, Nabilah Fikriah Rahin, Athirah Zulkarnain, Nur Idayu Alimon and 4 more...

Assalamualaikum wbkt,

Dear Prof,

A structured course was held today. The talk was on Facing Your Viva Voce by Prof Azman Hassan from Faculty of Engineering at SPS. The following is the short report for the course.

**What is Viva?**

Viva = an oral defence of our research and our knowledge of the academic area in which our research has been carried out.

**Duration:** 1.5 to 4 hours

Student need to explain and defend:

- o What we have done.
- o What we know about the subject area.
- o Other research that has been carried out.
- o Foundation of knowledge on that topic.

Types of examiners:

- Friendly.
- Adversarial - They will challenge our views in order to hear our argument.



# STUDENT LIFESTYLES

PGSS activities

College activities

Toastmasters Club

Culture Corner

Global Buddies

Outbound Mobility-  
Research Attachment

International Student  
Society (ISS)

Other students'  
activities

# PGSS Activities

## PGSS Faculty of Science



- Nur Athirah Farhana Zai (2020/2021)
- Syiham Razak (2019/2020)
- Nur Idayu Alimon, Nurhidayah Zaid (2018/2019)
- Amira Fadina ahmad Fadzil (2017/2018)
- Siti Norziahidayu Amzee Zamri (2016/2018)
- Siti Afiqah Mohammad (2015/2016)

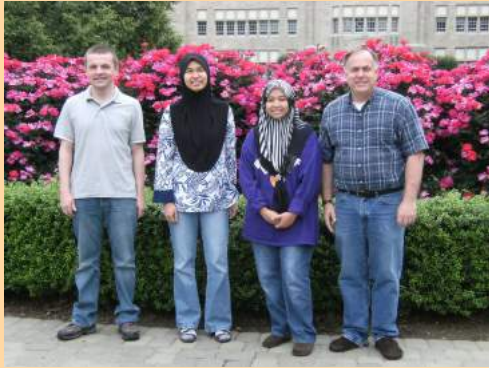


## PGSS UTM

- Nur Idayu Alimon (2018/2019)
- Siti Afiqah Mohammad (2015/2016)



# RESEARCH ATTACHMENT ABROAD



University of Evansville, Indiana, USA



SUNY Binghamton, New York, USA



SUNY Binghamton, New York, USA



Leeds University, UK

# RESEARCH ATTACHMENT ABROAD



**Towson University, Maryland, USA**



**Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran**



**Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, Brasil**



**Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran**



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We provide a **supportive and positive** learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater **self-confidence and personal growth**.



## COMMUNICATION & LEADERSHIP

Improve communication skills by presenting speeches

Build leadership skill by taking up roles in meetings

## AWARDS

Get awards and certificates for every achievement



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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**ATHIRAH ZULKARNAIN**  
**IN ACHIEVING**  

**DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP LEVEL 4**  
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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SOCIETY





# TIPS FOR FAST TRACK STUDENTS

## Weaknesses

- No experience in research.
- Lack of knowledge on research field.
- Lack of writing skills and knowledge on publications.
- No confidence in his/her own research.

## Tips

- Attend as many master's courses.
- Attend structured courses organized by PGSS.
- Attend seminars/academic programs.
- Update research progress to supervisor regularly.
- Approach seniors and research group members.

Alumni Award



Pro-Chancellor Award





# HOW TO MANAGE OUR TIME?

- Time for research
- Time for classes
- Time for curricular activities
- Time for family
- Time for self?
  - Leisure
  - Ibadah
  - Hobbies
  - Exercise



**How much time do we have in a day?**

# MY VIVA



21 April 1998

# ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS

Life is not always easy.

Success is not an easy thing to achieve.

There is no short cut.

You need to sacrifice.

But try to enjoy life while doing it.

While you can.

## PROF. DR. NOR HANIZA SARMIN



<https://people.utm.my/nizasarmin/>



[nhs@utm.my](mailto:nhs@utm.my)



Niza Sarmin



Niza Sarmin



**GOOD LUCK & ALL THE BEST!!!**



**THANK YOU! 😊**

Credit :



Nur Idayu Alimon