

# Graduating into a COVID-19 jobs market

Tips for fresh graduates that have had a rocky start in their job search in the pandemic

\$1.50

Friday, January 1, 2021

## TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AMID COVID-19

### Technical skills are important

Nurin Sofia Norazmi

**SEREMBAN** - On 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, there was a talk titled "Inspiring Work Experience and COVID-19 Pandemic Challenge" with the alumni of School of Computer. The moderator is Dr Johanna Ahmad and the speakers were Tan Yong Keong, Qistina Batrisyia bt Azman Shah and also Mohamad Zamarul Akmal Bin Mohd Hussin.

The purpose of the talk is to motivate new students and give tips on how to secure a job whenever we graduate soon. This is because, we are currently in the pandemic COVID-19 situation and live in the new norm. So, as a fresh graduate, there are few skills that need to be improved to make sure the company hired us.

The speakers also shared tips on getting hired so that the students would prepare these things during university life. They shared that we must learn new technical skills and improve soft skills. This is because, in work-life we must communicate with others about our ideas. The technical skills were used during the interview session to get hired by the company. The confidence needs to be trained by joining competitions and programs so that we get chances to present in front

of many people. This will make us increase our confidence level.

From this talk, I get to realized that I must join as many as possible competitions without neglect my studies. I need to balance both between curricular and academic so that my value will be higher for a company to hire. The speakers inspired me a lot when they said they graduated in June 2020 when that was in the middle of the pandemic. However, they manage to get a job with the skills that they built during degree life.

### Surviving After-University Life

Muhammad Nazri Izzat Hamdan

**SHAH ALAM** - On Tuesday, Dec 29, 2020 9:30 am, the third industry talk was held with the topic of "Inspiring Work Experience and Covid-19 Pandemic Challenge". This talk was an alumni sharing session where three alumni was asked about their experience in their working field and how they managed to do it. A Q&A session was held at the end of the talk so that students would have the chance to ask their own questions.

One of the questions was how they managed to learn different programming language. Tan Yong Keong answered this by stating that we should not memorize different languages but we shall understand

the concept of the language to make it easier to use and to integrate it with other programming languages.

From the one hour talk I have gained an understanding of how to cope with the everlasting challenges that every student will have to face. It is very that we expose ourselves more whether it be in classes or in work meetings. This in turn will help us experience more on how to present ourselves and to deliver important points across without many problems.

By doing this, employers will see us as outgoing and more likely to participate in group projects. This trait is highly sought after by companies and we will have a higher chance of getting hired if we show this kind of behavior.

### Job Opportunities and Covid-19 Pandemic

Ashrafur Rahman Nazin

**KLANG** - The meeting was held online due to the Covid-19 situation and 4 of the UTM Computing alumni joined the meeting. The meeting was conducted through CISCO WEBEX and it took place on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Zamarul shares that he got himself employed as a permanent staff in his industrial training company. He tried to expose himself by giving some ideas and

opinions. During his internship, he had proposed to create monitoring dashboard. Since the company was using big data company environment, there were a lot of data coming in everyday, but they were using a manual monitoring by using a big data tool. So, he proposed to create a system that can monitor all jobs at once within a single click which is a support dashboard. This proposal became his FYP. After that, he came under the attention of his supervisor. Even after the employment of his company had frozen, his supervisor still tried to add him as a permanent staff.

From this Alumni sharing session we learnt about a lot of key components for enriching ourselves in both university life along with the internship life/permanent job life. We received a lot of motivation and some real-life hacks to grind to success and opportunities. We solemnly express our gratitude toward the alumni members for their contribution and making time to help us in gaining some major factors.

### Inspiration During Tough Times Resulting from Covid-19 Virus

Jamee Shahriyar

**SKUDAI** - The exciting talk on Inspiring Work experience and Covid 19 Pandemic was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December. It was moderated by Dr. Johanna Ahmad, a Senior Lecturer of the School of Computing. In this talk 3 successful Alumni shared their success stories and shared their valuable knowledge and insight.

Miss Batrisyia shared her path to success, and she said that her internship played a very crucial part. She mentioned that her supervisor also helped her out. She worked on creating the dashboard same as Zamarul. She mentioned that she collected social media data to make the dashboard more

useful for users. She used her research to improve the branding for the company. Her work was outstanding and get recognized by the company.

In my opinion, the talk provided valuable insight on a topic that is a blur for many students- what to do after graduation? How to enter the job market? What sort of skills does it take to land a job related to one's field? Our respected alumni gave their best effort to show us what sort of things we have to keep in mind and what to expect by sharing their own stories and experiences. The effort they provided and their resolution to grasp firmly any opportunity they get brought them towards success. This is truly inspiring. They have all tried to do the best they can. Their approach to things is something we should all adapt.

### A Guide to Getting Job in the IT Industry

Ridwan Monjur

**KOTA TINGGI** - In the last Industrial Talk chaired by our own Dr Johanna binti Ahmad on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the honorable guests were recent UTM alumnis of recent years. The talk helped us to understand what skills are necessary to get a job in the Malaysian tech industry. Firstly, CGPA is important, but not as important for the private sector. Skills and attitude are more important to them, whilst a minimum CGPA (above 3) is used to filter out many entry applicants. However, it is more important and actually asked about in interviews of the public sector.

Tan Yong Keong's social skills are different from Zamarul and Qistina. Participating in many competitions, he has become an expert in pitching his ideas. Mr Tan has honed his presentation skills from these experiences. Zamarul also highlighted how important effective communication skills are required both in discussions with

teammates and while giving talks and presentations.

Qistina also displayed plenty of enthusiasm and interest for her companies during her internship. As a person she is very active; if she cannot not do something, she does not wait for others to help her out. She asks them herself for help. Also, she mingles around with her employees. For this reason, she often communicates and works with the sales and marketing team.

In my opinion, technical skills must be improved, too. All the 3 students excelled the technical requirement, beside possessing great social skills. Soft skills are quite important and must be improved. And unlike what many people say, soft skills can be trained, as mentioned by Qistina and Tan. Confidence can be improved as well.



Jamee Shahriyar



Nazri Izzat



Ashrafur Rahman



Ridwan Monjur



Nurin Sofia