

# Alumni Sharing Session: Inspiring Work Experience & Covid19 Pandemic Challenge

The talk “Inspiring Work Experience And Covid 19 Pandemic Challenge” was delivered by the moderator, Dr. Johanna Ahmad (Senior Lecturer, School of Computing, UTM), and the speakers which are the alumni of UTM., Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah, Mohammad Zamarul Akmal, and Tan Yong Keong. The speakers share their experience on how to land a job after graduating from a University. After that, Q&A session was conducted for the students to ask the speakers about their experience in the field of work.

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According to the speaker’s point of view, various soft skills and speak our opinions can secure our work. This is because most companies will hire employees with good soft skills. Speaking our thoughts and opinions with others is a way to improve our performance in the workplace.

The speaker also shared the questions he encountered during the interview such as the projects we completed in the university, subtopics of the course that we studied and our hobbies. Answering the question confidently and clearly will give the interviewer a good expression.

In addition, the speaker also told us not to be afraid to learn a new language because learning a language is learning concepts. Speakers also shared tips for increase hire chance. First, learn new technical skills such as Excel and Python skills by participating in training or online courses via the Internet. Next, be proactive when doing tasks. Third, improve soft skills by learning new things through development projects. Mr Tan Yong Keong’s advice on the ways to improve programming skills or love programming is that we must practice coding online every day. Next, think that we are creating something new, and it can help others.

All the speakers agreed that joining the program and competition can help us to gain confidence. This is because self-confidence can be trained when we participate in a project. When we show our ideas, ourselves to others and communicate with the audience, confidence can be increased.

Mr Zamarul also shared his views on the difference between study life and work life. He said that he enjoys his study life a lot of free time to do other things besides studying, and still can make corrections when make mistakes. However, there is less free time in work life and a small mistake will affect our image and expression to others.

In the Q&A session, the speakers were asked by the audience about the importance of CGPA for future career. The speakers, Miss Qistina and Mr Zamarul said that the private sectors are not too emphasis on CGPA but attitudes toward the job, technician skills and communication skills. Mr Tan Yong

Keong encouraged the audience to maintain their CGPA at least 3 and above to get higher chance for getting a job. Dr Johanna Ahmad also said that government agency will consider about CGPA.

“Maybe we can’t win the competition but gain the experiences. The lecturers will not hate us because they know we try our best and put all of our efforts.” said Mr Tan Yong Keong. Miss Qistina also said that since most of the competition was in team mode, hence involve in a lot of competition will let the company see that you are excellent in team working. To join the competition, we need to get approval from our academic advisor to know more information. Moreover, if the company give lower wages or overwork during internship, we also need to discuss with our advisor. The language usually used in the career are depend on the project.

The speakers also gave some tips on staying motivated in daily basis which are keep loving to the job, appreciate the golden chance to handle the project, hope to give contribute to the society and also drink some caffeine drinks to keep energetic.

Miss Qistina were asked to share more about media analysis. She said, “We interpret social media data from social media application and do some tagging, dashboard for upper management of clients. Python used for data crawling and natural language processor for data tagging because different people use different word in the modelling. From the modelling, there have topic classification and different sentiments which are important in social media data.”

The conclusion to be made that is if we are finding a job we need get as many experiences because employers are looking someone with variety of knowledge and good attitude. Even though our results make the chances higher, but we must also equip ourselves with set of skills such as soft skills so that our work become easier because with communication, we can easily find a way to work in groups. Not only that, we have to keep ourselves motivated so that our work is not affected.

### Reflection

As time goes, it is concerning now as Covid-19 pandemic has affected many people in getting a job and thus affecting their way of life. It is significant to have good skills on finding a job that is suitable and demanding for us in the future. The session has given a good deal of tips on how to face interviews and job hunting. The speakers are well-informed and experienced in their field and show their persistence throughout the Q&A session thus making the sharing session look more fun and exciting and the information is very useful. Moreover, the talk is very organized and focused as the moderator and speakers collaborate to show their passion. Unfortunately, one speaker does not attend and there is some interruption during the talk making it difficult to hear the speaker and some of the talk are not detail-oriented.

The talk session has taught us a very helpful information in enhancing new knowledge and skills to apply for a job. Hence, we need a lot of experience because it is very important in the job area to see the ability and skills during internship. We need to keep motivated and enhance a good attitude in order to achieve a better quality job by showing determination and passion. Last, everywhere we go we still need to experience and learn a lot of new things that can motivate and keep us together to achieve something even if there are a lot of challenges.

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