

S K I L L I N *UNIVERSITY &* *INDUSTRY*

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Group 2

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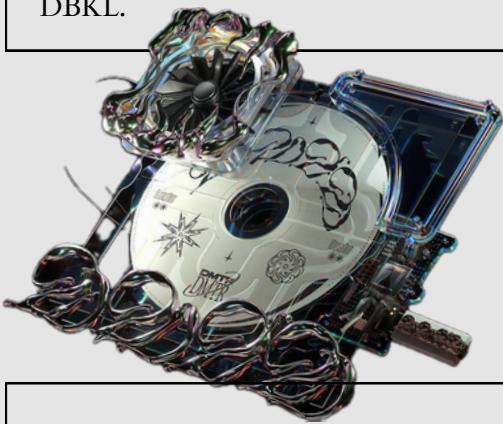
Topic

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Nik Mohd Habibullah Bin Nik Mohd Nizam, 42 years old UTM alumnus who graduated in 2005 after completing his diploma and degree studies has 18-19 years of experience in business. While at UTM, he worked on projects with the library and graphics team including the creation of a launch montage for the digital library during his third year. He also did his internship and final year project at the UTM library to develop a cataloging system for UTM theses using the STEMI method. He started his career as a special officer at the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) under Datuk Adham and later as a Research Officer at UTM. Feeling undervalued, he became an entrepreneur and created NI Solution, which provides services such as website development, computer system supply, and network establishment.

Later on, he bought Micro Semiconductor Sdn Berhad at a low cost from his friend, which specializes in the development of hardware. His recent company, Dat SINI works closely with UKM on various projects. Among his products are GetMe Hired, a platform launched in 2019 to help fresh graduates with career development and CV creation, and the Dylesist Management System. Created in collaboration with co-founder Hazwani from the Faculty of Management, GetMe Hired has helped clients land jobs at big companies such as TM, Celcom, Intel, and Samsung. Currently, his team are developing a tax assessment system for DBKL.



Basic Skills Required

Computer Science

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) guidelines for IS or IT programs emphasized on technical aspects and core courses. (Suhaimi et al., 2012) It ensures students to gain a solid foundation in computer science and IT. However, business application that is crucial for employability is neglected.

In addition to technical aspects, **Personal skills** are critical. Faculty recognized the overall importance of personal or interpersonal skills for graduates. (Aasheim et al., 2009). For example, communication skills, teamwork, and the ability to deliver oral presentation and written reports. These skills are integrated across the curriculum to prepare students for collaborative environments.

In addition, **Internship experience** are highly valued by the faculty of computer science as they offer hands-on experiences in the industry. Internships link academic learning with the real world application, allowing the students to apply their theoretical knowledge meanwhile improve their technical skills and soft skills.

Industry

In Malaysia, a notable skills gap persists among ICT graduates, particularly in soft skills and technical expertise, contributing to employment challenges (PIKOM, n.d.).

In **Technical** aspect, the IT industry places a stronger emphasis on: hardware concepts, operating systems, leadership skills, entrepreneurial/risk taker, high overall college GPA, packaged software, and any work experience for entry-level employers than the computer science faculty do.

When graduates step into the industry it's not about the paper qualification anymore, it's about the **Business fundamentals**. Understanding how IT is valuable to a company or a business organisation is a must for the greater development of a company. Entry-level employers are required to have a clear mindset of planning the information systems for a business based on the current and potential market demands.

Can't be avoided, **Soft skills** of course are required for the industry. Soft skills included problem solving, project management, team cooperation, analysis and design of solution to meet the real-world problems. (Abraham et al., 2006) An employer who are capable to communicate and work on the project effectively will have priority to be considered.



Nicole Lee

For me, over the next four years, I will focus on building a strong foundation especially in programming skills. I also plan to involve myself in various project work to gain hands-on experience while developing skills such as communication, problem-solving, and analytical thinking. Then, I will set my goals clearly to ensure that I always stay focused and work purposefully toward achieving my targets.

Sam Wei Leng

To excel in computer science, I aim to integrate industry-required skills with academic knowledge. While achieving a high CGPA is essential, thriving in this field demands more than academic learning. To succeed in the faculty of computer science and the industry, I must think beyond traditional education. Over the next four years, I am committed to proactive preparation, equipping myself to face challenges and adapt to the ever-evolving demands of this dynamic and competitive field.

Lai Shi Ni

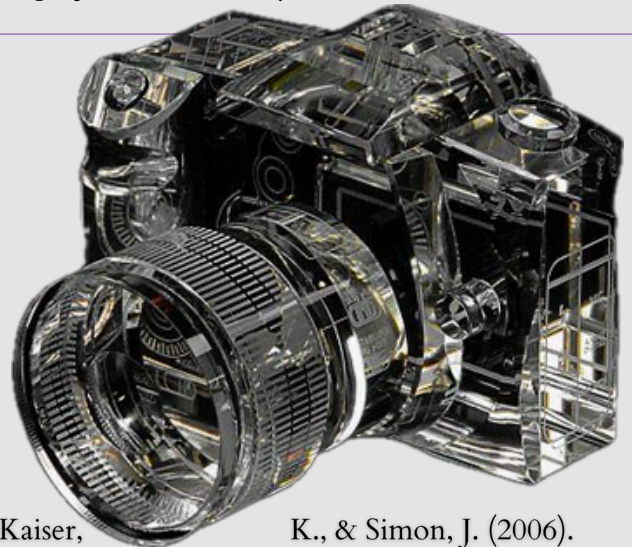
Over the next four years, I will actively participate in industry projects and competitions, including startup events. In the first two years, I will focus on improving my technical skills, including programming, and seek an internship to understand the industry. Meanwhile, I will develop communication and leadership skills. In short, I will leverage all available resources and opportunities as a computer science student.

Crystal Yap

This talk inspired me to see that success in computer science requires more than paper qualifications—it demands practical experience and the right mindset. During university, I plan to utilize available resources to grow personally and professionally. By developing soft skills and gaining experience through projects, internships, and competitions, I aim to build a strong foundation. Additionally, I will enhance my technical skills, stay updated with industry trends, and prepare for long-term success in computer science.

Aw Xu Yuen

To be successful in computer science over the next four years, I will consistently follow the events and programs provided by my lecturers to stay progressive and up-to-date. Additionally, participating in competitions to design websites or apps will allow me to gain practical experience that goes beyond theoretical knowledge. I will also organize my schedule and regularly check my calendar to ensure I stay on top of assignments and final projects to avoid any missed deadlines.



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