

PRIME NEWS

9,010 receive scholarships

DESERVING: PhD, master's students get funding under MyBrain15 initiative

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THE Higher Education Ministry has awarded scholarships to 9,010 students to further their studies in master's and doctoral (PhD) degree programmes under the MyBrain15 initiative.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh presented the scholarships to four master's and four PhD students.

He said 7,410 students received scholarships for the MyMaster programme and 1,600 for the MyPhD programme.

"The scholarship is in line with the additional allocation of RM300 million for the programme, which was announced in the recalibrated 2016 Budget last month by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak."

With the additional funds, Idris said, 20,000 students (15,000 for

master's and 5,000 for PhD) were targeted for scholarships under the programme throughout this year.

Having the opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree in Environmental Biotechnology is a dream come true for 27-year-old Dhurga Devi Rajaratnam.

"I never thought that I would be pursuing a research programme, fully funded by the government, so soon after completing my degree."

"It is a dream come true for me and my family. For that, I must thank the government."

The fast-track student was awarded a full scholarship to pursue a PhD programme at Universiti Putra Malaysia after obtaining a first-class degree in Industrial Biotechnology from Universiti Malaysia Pahang.

Another recipient of the PhD scholarship was Isna Athirah Othman, 24, from Kelantan, who wants to find a cure for diabetes.

"The government has given me an



Higher Education Minister **Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh** (second from left) talking to scholarship recipients in Putrajaya yesterday. Accompanying him is Deputy Higher Education Minister **Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching** (third from left). Pic by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

opportunity to prove myself despite being one of the youngest PhD recipients.

"I hope to do my parents and the country proud by researching alternative medicine for diabetes, as many Malaysians suffer from the disease."

Former Royal Malaysia Police Bukit Aman chief clerk Rokiah Ridza, 66, expressed gratitude to the

government for offering her son, Mohd Azham Mohd Alwi, 30, a scholarship to pursue his master's degree in Engineering Science.

"I was sad when my son had to reject an offer to do his master's degree at the University of South Wales in the United Kingdom due to health reasons in 2014.

"I'm glad he can pursue his dreams now."