

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Distance learning success at UPM

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia's (UPM) distance learning programme provides an edge in the job market for students and career-driven individuals.

Students will be part of a high-quality learning culture in this reputable university with the convenience of accessibility at selected locations.

Khadijah Sutrisnoh is an alumni of the distance learning programme.

A mother of four, Khadijah, 42, was born and bred in Sandakan, Sabah.

She now works at the Sabah State Library as head of the Personnel Management Services Division.

"I started my distance learning with UPM in 2002 and finished in 2004. In 2005, I graduated with a Bachelor of Human Resource Development," she said.

After graduation, Khadijah took a year off and continued with her

Master of Science in Human Resource Development from 2006 to 2007, graduating in 2008.

"UPM was recommended by my friends and former boss as it is an established higher learning institution. UPM alumni are easily promoted to better positions at work due to the recognition of its qualifications by the Public Service Department, which is important for government servants," she said, adding that recognised certificates would also provide a smoother path to pursuing her PhD.

Khadijah said despite being a part-time student, she had the opportunity to experience the real environment of university learning.

"Students have tutorial classes with experienced tutors. The methods implemented in the tutorial classes follow a format recognised by the Education Ministry. This includes semester plan-

ning for assignments, examinations and other activities."

Khadijah said students of UPM's distance learning programme fared better in terms of accessibility of learning centres in comparison with other distance learning centres.

"This is because during my time, the learning centre was in the centre of Sandakan town, which is accessible by everyone. We had library facilities and audio-visual aids for learning in a comfortable and conducive setting," she said.

Khadijah said it was difficult to juggle work, family and weekend tutorial classes. She also spent money and time travelling to UPM Serdang for a few classes every semester.

"Although it was challenging for me, I had supportive friends, tutors and lecturers. The challenges strengthened my spirit and pushed me to



Khadijah Sutrisnoh, one of Universiti Putra Malaysia's distance learning programme alumni, is now head of the Personnel Management Services Division at the Sabah State Library.

achieve success."

After graduating, Khadijah said her career took off, with promotion after promotion until she was appointed head of division.

"I highly recommend UPM as a preferred choice for distance learning. UPM, as a leading distance learning institution in Malaysia, provided tremendous opportunities for employ-

ees to study and advance in their careers."

Khadijah said UPM also lived up to its reputation as a renowned research university with a legacy of excellence, thus making it one of the best learning institutions for students.

For more information visit <http://www.upm.edu.my/academic/DistanceLearning>