

# PROTÉGÉ ROLLS OUT JOB TRAINING EVENTS

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SHAH ALAM: The Entrepreneur Development Ministry has organised a series of Professional Training and Education for Growing Entrepreneurs (Protégé) programmes in several states this month for graduates, undergraduates and youths to secure training stints with employers.

Protégé secretariat head Norashikin Ismail said 13 public universities have collaborated with the ministry to reach out to these target groups via career fairs, industrial relation and education expos, a skill festival as well as motivational sessions with celebrities.

The Protégé programmes are Career Fair 2019 at Universiti Malaysia Pahang in Gambang (April 5-6), Talent Recruitment and Career Exhibition at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak in Kota Samarahan (April 10-11), UTM Career Carnival 2019 in Skudai (April 16-17), Career and Entrepreneurship Expo at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Bangi (April 16-17), Career and Entrepreneurship Day at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (April 18), Mega Northern Career Fair at Universiti Malaysia Perlis (April 22-23), Career Fair at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (April 23-24), Career Carnival 2019 at Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (April 24), Career and Entrepreneurship Expo at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang (April 24-25), and Career, Entrepreneurship and Skills Festival at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (April 25-28).

"They are open to the public.



**Empowering the youth:** Norashikin (right) explaining to Eizul Aiman the eight flagship programmes under Protégé during the UiTM Career and Industrial Relations Expo.

Our aim is to help university graduates and undergraduates, and youths to take advantage of our Protégé programmes," she said at the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) 16th Career and Industrial Relations Expo held at UiTM's Anjung Seri Budiman hall here.

"We bring in different companies for these events," she added and urged graduates, students and youths to register at [www.protege.my](http://www.protege.my) for the companies' selection.

During their eight to 12-month attachment with the companies, trainees will receive a RM2,000 allowance per month.

Protégé is a rebrand of Skim Latihan 1Malaysia (SL1M), which gives importance to entrepreneurship training to produce more entrepreneurs or job creators.

Norashikin said the ministry aimed to assist 15,000 graduates and youths with Protégé's entrepreneurship and employability training programmes.

The entrepreneurship programmes are Protégé Entrepreneurship Intern, Protégé Boot Camp, Protégé Business Accelerator, Protégé Co-op and Protégé in ICT, while the employa-

bility programmes are Protégé Ready-To-Work, Protégé Booster and Protégé for Industry.

"For the initial stage, we received RM5mil from the government to speed up Protégé programmes this year," she said.

"In September, we will hold the Protégé Open Day, and we will be inviting government-linked companies, companies which received government tenders and the corporate sector to participate in this event."

Norashikin said Protégé would also implement a business accelerator programme for graduates in

business who wish to upgrade their operation.

Also, a UniPreneur competition will be held for university students

"A total of 200 participants will be chosen to compete at national level, and 20 winners will get grants and business coaching from selected industry leaders," she said.

She added that the ministry's Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) has database on startups and social enterprises which would be useful to budding entrepreneurs in setting up their business ventures.

Entrepreneurs under Protégé could seek from Tekun Nasional funding of up to RM100,000 per proposal, she said.

UiTM second year computer science student Eizul Aiman Adnan who visited the Protégé booth at the UiTM Career and Industrial Relations Expo, said that registering with Protégé was "a smart way to secure a good future, as Protégé has a complete database for youths to seek employment with various companies."

"It also provides a platform for us to be entrepreneurs. We can apply for a business loan from Tekun if we register with Protégé," said the 20-year-old.

Fellow computer science student Wan Nor Alifah Wan Hanafi, 20, believes that Protégé could help graduates find a job faster after graduation.

Protégé senior IT executive Fattah Abd Rahmat, who was among the officers manning the booth, said there is no expiry of the students' personal data registered with Protégé.

"Registration is free of charge, and employers will have access to their details for selection," he said.