

Headline	Creating the next generation of front-runners		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2015	Language	English
Circulation	288,916	Readership	866,748
Section	StarSpecial	Color	Full Color
Page No	16	ArticleSize	405 cm ²
AdValue	RM 20,461	PR Value	RM 61,382



Creating the next generation of front-runners

WITHIN five years of its inception, the Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government (GSGSG) at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) has admitted more than 500 students into its postgraduate programme – a testament to the university's track record.

"The postgraduate students who have graduated from GSGSG include at least eight deputy ministers. At least six of them are pursuing their PhD at the school," says Assoc Prof Dr Samihah Khalil, former dean of GSGSG.

Its flagship programmes are the Master of Public Management (MPM), Master of Human Resource Law, Master of Science (International Business), Master of Science (Strategic Studies), Master of Commercial Law and Master of Corporate Law.

These programmes are conducted part-time and full-time at the main campus in Sintok, Kedah, where students can either choose to do the programmes by coursework, research or mixed-mode.

The school also offers a one-and-a-half year modular fast-track MPM programme, which is taught on weekends at its city campus in Kuala Lumpur.

The GSGSGs comprises the School of International Studies, School of Government, School of Law, and School of Tourism and Hospitality.

"We bring together scholars and leaders from the public sector to tackle pressing national problems. Our students and lecturers are not merely confined to the classroom as we provide our students with real-life scenarios to deal with. We have to address problems and find solutions for our

country," says Assoc Prof Samihah.

Besides academic programmes, GSGSG also provides executive training programmes for experienced public sector officials to further boost their leadership and governance skills.

Until last year, GSGSG was under the leadership of Assoc Prof Samihah; she was recently appointed interim director of Ghazali Shafie Executive Enhancement Programme (GSEEP).

The school introduced the GSEEP, which emphasises four areas – law, tourism and hospitality, government and international studies. The executive training provides the opportunity for professionals in the private sector and government officials to network with people from other industries and governmental departments.

Leadership and governance modules are targeted at senior government officials while diplomats and expatriates attached to multinational corporations can benefit from GSEEP's cross-cultural training programmes.

The graduate school also boasts an academic staff of 124 lecturers – 64% of whom are PhD holders – and visiting scholars from 18 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, India and Sweden.

The cultural diversity of the graduate school does not end there – GSGSG's students comprise local and international students from 52 countries with myriad professional backgrounds.

"The multi-cultural community, where 32% of our students are foreign students and 15% of our visiting scholars

come from overseas, provides a global learning environment and networking opportunities," says Assoc Prof Samihah.

Besides that, GSGSG programmes also allow credit transfer so that its MPM postgraduate students can earn credits to contribute towards their degree.

The students in MPM can spend a semester abroad at UUM's partner universities – Universitas Gajah Madha in Indonesia or Maejo University in Thailand.

The graduate school continues to build international cooperation with partners locally and abroad through its four institutes that help position GSGSG as one of the most dynamic schools of governance in the region.

The four institutes housed under GSGSG are Institute of Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore, Institute for Malaysian Political Analysis, Institute for Governance and Innovation Studies, and Institute of Excellence for Islamic Jerusalem Studies.

"The future is about internationalisation – governance and leadership involve far more global cooperation and communication than ever before. This is why we look towards making our programmes not just more internationally relevant but also globally accessible," says Assoc Prof Samihah.

The GSEEP is committed to help the civil and private sectors improve the qualifications and skills of the personnel in the fields of public management, law, international affairs, business, and tourism and hospitality to become competent leaders and policy-makers.

Headline	Creating the next generation of front-runners		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2015	Language	English
Circulation	288,916	Readership	866,748
Section	StarSpecial	Color	Full Color
Page No	16	ArticleSize	405 cm ²
AdValue	RM 20,461	PR Value	RM 61,382

