

ALUMNI

CONNECTING THE DOTS

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PERPUSTAKAAN TUN ABDUL RAZAK
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
CAWANGAN SARAWAK

30 MARCH 2023



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MARCH 2023

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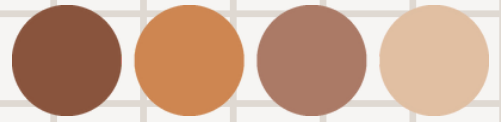
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WHAT *is* AN ALUMNI?

Alumni are people who were once part of a group that worked together at the same factory. Alumni alumnus (masculine) or alumna (feminine) are former students of a school, college, or university who attended or graduated from the institution in some way. For groupings of women, the feminine plural alumnae are sometimes used.

WHO IS CONSIDERED AS AN ALUMNI?

ALUMNI NETWORK & HOW TO JOIN

BEAUTIFUL
NATURE
FOR BODY
HEALTH



Former members, employees, and contributors of a specific educational institution; graduates or former pupils. Everyone who has ever studied anywhere is an alum, even if they don't realise it. You don't even have to have graduated; if you've ever studied there, you're an alum of that institution. The best thing about being an alumnus is the fact that the more alumni you have, the larger your alumni network develops.

Every educational school has an alumni network, whether formal or informal, and they are used for a variety of purposes. Alumni can make business contacts, plan reunions, and serve as shining examples of the type of individuals their university creates. An alumni coordinator leads these gatherings. This is the person in charge of organising great networking events, bringing students together, and creating an environment where everyone can keep connected and informed about what's going on with previous peers.

Inspiration, Role Model



Alumni can serve as a great role model for kids and are easily accepted. Alumni experiences, whether in time management, financial management, self-discipline and character development, or career management, can be more easily received as guidance and inspiration by students. Alumni who return to support the university bring with them credibility and legitimacy as members of a successful university, having breathed the same air and experienced comparable problems as the students. Alumni can help to boost confidence, increase motivation, and instill the correct culture in line with what the university wants to impart to its students in this way.

"A founder may only take an institution so far before others, including graduates, must step in. That is how an institution is formed".

-Shiv Nadar

Career Mentor

As a result of a rising number of graduates compared to a restricted number of job opportunities, competition for entry into the labour force is getting more intense. Job availability is more crucial in different industries. For example, students in their final year of study must seriously consider their employment options. Alumni can serve as a resource for faculty members interested in meeting the needs of students and graduates seeking employment in specific industries.



Alumni will assist students by coaching them on their career options in the sector and opening channels for acceptance, either in experiencing practical learning or job experience in the institutions where the alumni dwell.



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ALUMNI LOYALTY

Drivers in Higher Education

What is Alumni Loyalty?

In general, student loyalty refers to the degree to which students feel attached to the educational institution in which they are enrolled, as manifested by their attitudes and/or behavioural behaviours. Alumni loyalty is also known

as alumni faithfulness or dedication. Loyalty can relate to both the period the student was formally enrolled and the time after the student finished his or her formal education at the school.



Financial support is frequently used to demonstrate behavioural alumni commitment. Other ways that graduates contribute were also suggested by Newman and Petrosko (2011). Wearing school apparel and lending their knowledge and abilities, such as by working on advisory boards, are examples of non-financial alumni activity. Even though its significance has been recognised, not much research has been done on the factors that might influence alumni loyalty.

According to the literature on relationship and service management, student involvement may be essential for achieving beneficial academic outcomes like alumni loyalty through connections made by students to their universities.

There is no passion to be found in playing small-in setting for a life that is less than you are capable of living.

-Nelson Mandela



The idea of student participation is broad. Promoting involvement is a global issue that has bearing on industrialised nations' educational systems. The idea has been extensively investigated and theorised. Student engagement can be viewed as a variety of constructs that measure both the time and energy students devote to educationally purposeful activities and how students perceive various aspects of the institutional environment that facilitate and support their learning, despite the fact that different definitions have been used in student engagement research over the years. Thus, it is possible to consider student participation to be a meta-construct. According to recent studies, Schaufeli et al (2002) definition, which places an

emphasis on students' learning experiences, is used in this study. According to this definition, student involvement is a fruitful, good mental state associated to learning that is highlighted by vigour, dedication, and absorption. According to Schaufeli et al. (2006), the sub-dimensions of student participation are as follows: High levels of energy and mental fortitude while studying, the willingness to put effort into one's studies, and tenacity even in the face of challenges are characteristics of vigour. When someone is dedicated, they are deeply interested in their academic pursuits and feel a sense of challenge, significance, inspiration, and pride.



1 - Alumni of SMK. St Francis Convent at KK Wetlands, Sabah.
 2 - Beautiful view of the mangrove trees in KK Wetlands.



Alumni Loyalty: *Example in other countries*

As a result of decreased governmental financial support, several countries, such as the United States (US), consider alumni donation to be critical to the finance of public higher education institutions. As a result, the significance

of alumni has long been recognised. Much of the prior research on alumni loyalty was focused on studies conducted in the United States, with a focus on monetary contributions such as donations and purchasing university products. While alumni in the United States are frequently automatically enrolled in alumni associations, this is not the case in European nations such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. Following the lead of American institutions, most Dutch universities have begun to invest in

cultivating links with former students and regional businesses. Nonetheless, in comparison to the United States, the majority of higher education institutions in the Netherlands lack a defined and sustained alumni programme. Alumni involvement in Europe, and particularly in Dutch higher education, is more typically in the form of non-monetary 'membership,' that is, voluntary contributions such as participating on advisory boards.



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FACTORS PREDICTING STUDENTS LOYALTY

It is believed that alumni will report better involvement when they have a positive perception of their previous educational experiences in terms of the relationship they had with the institution. As a result, following graduation, such former students may become more loyal in terms of positive intentions such as positive word of mouth and actions, such as becoming a member of an educational advisory board.



This assumption is based on numerous principles from the service/relationship management field, as well as educational research literature, and is viewed through the lens of social exchange theory (Blau 1964; Emerson 1976). According to Zeithaml (2009), the philosophy of service and relationship management is to maintain and improve relationships with key stakeholders. Former students are important stakeholders in higher education. Favorable student-faculty connections may benefit higher education institutions by resulting in greater student involvement during their studies, such as positive recommendations from students

involvement during their studies, such as positive recommendations from students and students engaged in studying both inside and outside the classroom. Former students' involvement after graduation, such as presenting guest lectures and serving on an educational guidance council, could also be considered a benefit. How former students perceive the quality of their relationship with their educational faculty or staff may be an important predictor of how former students perceived their studies, that is, how engaged they were in studying, and, as a result, how they now feel connected to their former university and demonstrate their loyalty.

Figure 1
A group picture of senior alumni and advisor

Last but not least, absorption is characterised by being completely focused and contentedly immersed in one's studies, whereby time goes swiftly and one finds it difficult to disengage from learning. Research on the three characteristics of student engagement—vigor, devotion, and absorption—was undertaken by Schaufeli et al. in the setting of higher education in 2002. According to prior studies, we anticipate that the more involved students are, the more favourably they will perceive their education. According to a recent study by Xerri et al. (2018), student participation in academic activities increased in direct proportion to the quality of the teacher-student connections. Thus, it is crucial to investigate the relationships between student engagement and loyalty, as well as the significance of relationship quality.



The strength of a relationship between two parties, such as that between students and faculty or staff, can be characterised as relationship quality in general. Student-faculty interactions are crucial in higher education, according to earlier studies. Having social interactions while attending university may potentially strengthen one's school attachment. According to recent studies, the conceptualization and measurement of relationship quality as it is used in consumer services can also be used in a framework of higher education. According to earlier studies based on the Roberts et al. (2003) study on relationship quality, relationship quality in higher education can be thought of as a five-dimensional construct. The five dimensions are affective commitment, affective conflict, satisfaction, and trust in goodness. Students' belief in the educational faculty and staff's credibility, sincerity, and ability to fulfil their responsibilities successfully and dependably is referred to as their trust in honesty.

Therefore, it is essential to begin by comprehending each student's unique needs in order to encourage students' happiness with the educational faculty/overall staff's performance and to demonstrate the educational faculty/knowledge staff's and empathy for students. It goes without saying that fostering links between students (i.e., future alumni) and higher education institutions can be advantageous for all parties in the long and short term, including alumni, local businesses, the government, and students.

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THE ALUMNI AND FUTURE GRADUATES EMPLOYABILITY CHALLENGES POST-COVID-19

“
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Lessen the Friendship
of Those Who Are
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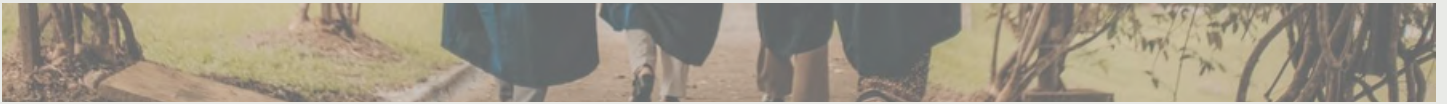
-Robert Southey

Covid-19 which started in Wuhan province, China has spread all over the world. The spread of the virus has had a major impact on the world's economy. No country is unaffected. Therefore, all countries in the world are taking various strategic measures to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Following that, most economic activities stopped and some industries did not operate.

This epidemic has had a major impact on the Malaysia's economic sector. Movement Control Order (MCO) has caused the economic activity to contract where consumers are no longer making purchases as usual and this causes supply to exceeding the demand for goods and services. Due to that, many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were forced to shut the operations or bankruptcy because of the losses suffered by them. here were reports that stated that some companies cannot run their businesses and having difficulties in paying the workers' salaries in turn resulting in layoffs to minimize the costs operation.

There were also some companies that had to freeze hiring new employees during this period as well as reducing the number of working hours for existing employees to allow their company to continue operating. In general, the industry losses a source of income and incurs costs to be financed. Directly, the industry took reactive action to reduce the operating costs through the method of reducing the number of employees.





Impact on the Employment Sector

The United Nation (UN) states that 1.25 billion workers are at risk worldwide due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The International Labor Organization (ILO) stated that this pandemic has a very serious impact on various employment sectors, especially hotel and food catering services, manufacturing and retailing. According to the International Labor Organization

(ILO) expectations, the world will lose 25 million workers throughout the year 2020. The Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) has conducted an epidemiological study and a comprehensive analysis published on this year. The findings show that a total of 2.4 million will lose their jobs. 67% of them are unskilled workers. The MIER study also found that online businesses

activities are in very high demand. This provides new employment opportunities for the transport sector and the courier services to provide the delivery services. High demand among customers provides new opportunities in the service sector. It also requires new skills among employees based on the use of digital technology.

Changing Employment Landscape

With the latest developments of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, most of the management of industries and companies were conducted through various of online platforms. This kind of situation has changed the job landscape and new ways of working. Alumni and future graduates are facing a career world that has changed because the competition is getting fiercer and the number of unemployment is increasing due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which has demanded universities to deal with this issue at the campus level again. University graduates receive the opportunity to prepare



themselves to adapt to the rapid evolution as the marketability of graduates changes according to the current needs of the gig economy and the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) based on smart technology. For graduates who have not yet obtained a job, they need to try to adapt to the current situation by identifying the new skills required by the industry and the current needs of the career market in line with the gig economy and IR 4.0. Digital entrepreneurship is a phenomenon that overshadows the transformation of gig economy businesses leading to IR 4.0 digital technology with the broad involvement of Malaysian families as a result of changes in entrepreneurship practices globally. Digital entrepreneurship which contains elements of information technology skills and Internet portals through new media platforms in the new millennium business makes it easier for graduates to master gig economy activities without large capital, physical companies, work flexibly and trigger wider employment.



Technical knowledge and the latest new media platforms need to be mastered by university students in line with the demands of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 which is the concept of new media and the digital economy. The gig economy refers to a style of free market system that gives organizations and workers the freedom to undertake voluntary work contacts without having to employ full-time workers as they act as “freelancers”. Online sales and purchases correspond to the new norm of the endemic phase by allowing them to work from home or online companies, use “popular influencers”, dominate viral elements or dominate digital business platforms such as Shopee and Lazada.

They can also venture into “dropship”, to promote and eventually sell. Universities need to improve the digital entrepreneurship agenda through skills training to produce graduates who have value-added skills compared to mere academic supplies to meet the challenge of employability. Apart from the re-evaluating their respective academic curricula and programs so that digital entrepreneurship measures enhanced, this agenda can be strengthened at the credit co-curriculum level or at the residential college and association level on campus. The graduates need to highlight the difference of their ability with digital entrepreneurship as an added value to be hired during the job interviews. The opportunity to enrich knowledge through training programs and online skills certificates organized by domestic and foreign parties is very important without having to wait for training from superiors.



These elements of digital entrepreneurship will help graduates during the interview process or when they have not yet getting themselves a job so that they can run a gig economy business first. The experience that graduates gain while managing gig economy products can equip them with the skills to build even bigger businesses and become more creative, innovative, “job generators” and loved by companies. Exposing students to the knowledge and skills of digital entrepreneurship can create job opportunities and contribute to the economic development of alumni and future graduates. This kind of valuable experience and exposure of students through international level activities at the campus also needs to emphasize international entrepreneurial collaboration between the two parties as an important agenda because so far these activities revolve around normal mobility activities only.



TABUNG SERI KENYALANG

Tabung Seri Kenyalang (TSK) merupakan tabung khas bertujuan untuk membantu pelajar yang kurang berkemampuan dari segi kewangan sepanjang tempoh pembelajaran di Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Sarawak. Sumbangan TSK meliputi bantuan kepada pelajar yang memerlukan kewangan membayar yuran, sara hidup, dan bantuan bencana alam. Semenjak penubuhan TSK pada tahun 2018, ia telah digunakan untuk:

- Membantu pelajar Bumiputera (B40) membayar yuran pelajaran, atau latihan atau kursus bagi tujuan pembangunan diri dan akademik;
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- Membantu pelajar Bumiputera (B40) yang layak tetapi kurang berkemampuan menjalani program mobiliti (dalam dan luar negara);
- Memberi bantuan kepada pelajar yang ditimpa musibah seperti kemalangan, kematian ibu/bapa, bencana alam (banjir, ribut, kebakaran, dan tanah/bangunan runtuh).

Semua bakal graduan dipohon untuk menyumbang sebanyak RM10 sahaja kepada Tabung Seri Kenyalang bagi memastikan objektif penubuhan tabung dapat diteruskan.

Bayaran boleh dibuat melalui kod QR yang tertera. Sila isikan nombor pelajar dan nama graduan di ruang student/staff/participant ID (contoh: 20126422319 / SERAH). Resit pembayaran perlu dicetak dan ditunjuk kepada petugas di Kaunter 1 (Alumni). Kaunter akan dibuka dari jam 08.00 pagi sehingga 02.00 petang semasa sesi pengambilan jubah.

Semoga sumbangan semua graduan ini mendapat ganjaran yang sewajarnya dan seterusnya menyumbang dalam melonjakkan prestasi dan reputasi UiTM Cawangan Sarawak ke persada dunia.



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Info & Sumbangan

<https://uitmpay.uitm.edu.my/othersservices/products/AAW1/02/1188>



Preparation of Alumni to Face the Challenges

& Government Assistance

The fact is the current situation is very affected to the prospective graduates or alumni for the year of 2020.

The competition rate in getting a job is also very fierce. Prospective graduates have to compete to meet the needs of the job market. Graduates who have skills and competence, will have an advantage in job marketability. It allows employers to make choices in facing the challenges of the current economic uncertainty. The alumni or prospective graduates need to be well-prepared to face these challenges and use creativity to run a business. For those who have graduated and have not obtained a job, they need to try to adapt to the current situation by identifying the new set of skills that required

In the context of this country, Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has presented an Economic Stimulus Package of RM250 billion. It is one of the government initiatives in order to provide assistance to all groups affected due to the implementation of Movement Control Order (MCO) to reduce the spread of Covid-19 epidemic. This kind of government efforts aims to reduce the cost of living due to the job loss.

The assistance provided includes the exemption of business premises rental fees, electricity bill discounts, telecommunication service incentives to support work from home efforts.

A wage subsidy assistance program of RM600 is implemented for three months for people with an income of RM4000 and below. There are many more assistance programs such as financial assistance for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), loan funds and levy exemptions to ensure business activities run smoothly. All these efforts are expected to help reduce the risk of job loss among the people.



The alumni or prospective graduates need to be well-prepared to face these challenges and use creativity to run a business. For those who have graduated and have not obtained a job, they need to try to adapt to the current situation by identifying the new set of skills that required by the industry.

Ready to Compete

In addition, alumni and future graduates need to be well-prepared in order to be able to compete by offering diverse abilities, have high entrepreneurial power and can easily adapt to the current situation more quickly. It is clear that there are various opportunities that exist to be utilized in order to continue a more prosperous life. In this kind of situation, the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) need to focus on solving the graduates marketability issue. KPT needs to establish strategic collaboration with various ministries in this country itself to explore new opportunities, new sectors and provide initiatives to strengthen skills among graduates.

In this regard, the government needs to take the initiative to provide new skills training programs, improve existing skills and retrain alumni and future graduates to be more competent and able to meet the current needs. One fine example, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia has explored this initiative by introducing the “Ready Life Graduates” framework. This program emphasizes the cultivation of innovation and entrepreneurship among students, the value of sustainability and well-being for all the stakeholders to benefit from.

Through this initiative, all parties need to work together or be cooperative to prepare a program towards enriching the experience of students so that they can explore strategic job opportunities. In addition, they also can play a continuous role to improve the lives of the community. In other words, all prospective graduates need to be given enough exposure needed and preparation to enter the more challenging world of job.

Conclusion

With the cooperation of all relevant parties, especially in the organization of various programs, prospective graduates will be able to prepare themselves through soft skills that are a priority such as mastering the English language well in communication skills can be possessed by future graduates and the alumni then, the unemployment statistics among graduates will decrease every year due to the ability of them graduates of foreign universities. Therefore, graduates should prepare themselves with various skills so that they can compete in a very competitive job market. They should also be aware that academic achievement alone no longer guarantees them in a position that equivalent to the qualifications they have obtained.

Career Advancement Programme (CAP)

Career Advancement Programme (CAP) is an initiative between Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and Malaysia No.1 IT training center - Iverson to skill up and boost the employability of university fresh graduates.



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THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN ALUMNUS

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

A

lumni associations provide opportunities for networking. A networking opportunity connects young graduates with established professionals who can help them pursue their desired jobs. Networking

The networking opportunity has the potential to become a resource. Along with volunteering for alumni committees, it will be considered to become a resource for other aspects of the school.

can take on many forms. Alumni associations could organize virtual networking events with job interview tips or host online career fairs. For example, there are numerous alumni networks that keep in touch via LinkedIn and social media sites like as Facebook and Instagram. Networking opportunities can assist you in becoming involved with your alumni association.

These are excellent methods to give back to one's alma mater while also advancing one's profession. Committing to staying in touch with significant people is a hidden benefit of networking. The key to getting the most out of shared college connections, as with any other sort of networking, is consistency in remaining in touch. Emails, notes, and greeting cards are all viable possibilities. Set up Google alerts for people's names to be the first to send a promotion congrats email.

Volunteers are something that alumni associations value more than donations. The core of the association is typically made up of full-time school staff, while event planning, alumni coordination, and other activities are frequently driven by alumni. As a result, it will put you in touch with like-minded alums and help you to build significant relationships.



CAREER ASSISTANCE

Alumni associations provide career assistance to both young graduates and long-term alumni. Career services can assist professionals in choosing a career path, transitioning into a new field, and exploring career options. Alumni career services also assist graduates who choose to return to school to obtain a higher degree, and many alumni organizations provide discounts on test prep services and graduate school application expenses. Career services have aided in career discovery. To clarify, obtaining a degree can either prepare students for a job in a certain industry or give students with abilities that can be applied in a variety of career fields. Career services can assist students in locating work opportunities that match their interests and abilities.

As students begin their job hunt, a career services department will assist them in preparing and reviewing a resume. Whether you need to create a resume for a summer job or are ready to graduate and enter the workforce in your desired industry, career services will assist you in developing a marketable resume that will appeal to employers. They can accomplish the same

thing with a cover letter. Interview preparation and advice Career services frequently offer hands-on assistance for students preparing to enter the labour force. This includes aid with interviewing skills development. A member of the career services staff may be able to assist through a seminar or a one-on-one session.

Set aside time to practise answering interview questions and reacting to an interviewer, as well as practising your verbal tone and nonverbal indicators. Students may be unaware of the variety of occupations accessible based on their degree programme and expertise. Through aptitude tests and advice, career services can provide guidance and information about a number of careers. Furthermore, career services are vital in job recruitment. Career services departments exist to assist students in finding jobs that are a good fit for their degree background and personal skill set. Through job fairs and employment search websites, they build connections and collaborate with businesses to ensure students have possibilities to pursue a profession.





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GIVING BACK TO FUTURE STUDENTS

Colleges rely on its alumni to assist current and recent students and graduates. Alumni can aid current and future students in a variety of ways by giving back to their communities. To begin, several alumni associations provide scholarships to incoming students. Universities are always looking for volunteers to help out at events, make phone calls, or serve in the community with students or other alumni.

If you reside in the region, contact your alumni organisation and express your willingness to serve on an event committee, lead a volunteer project, or even seal and label envelopes. Giving your time is just as vital as contributing money, and you never know who might be serving beside you! Most institutions have



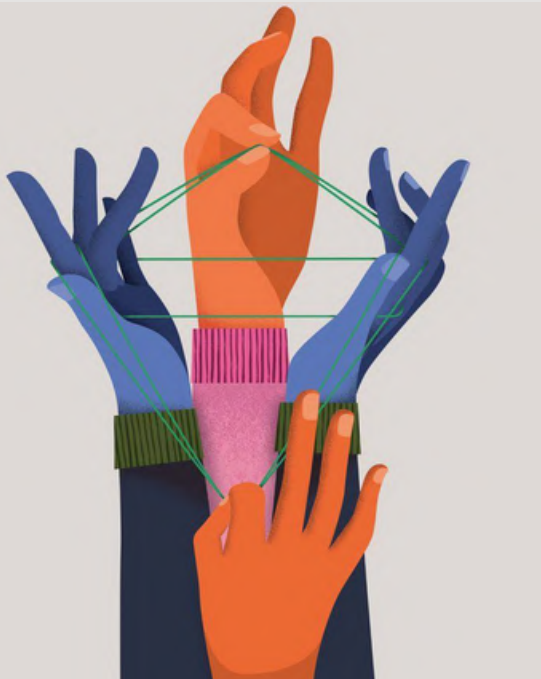
alumni clubs in locations around the country, and they are always looking for new members and new ideas to keep them going. So, put your leadership talents to the test by joining a committee or becoming a chapter officer. This is an excellent opportunity to stay connected and give back while also boosting your CV and networking. Even if you are unable to assume leadership, do not underestimate the power of participation: Attending area alumni gatherings or returning to campus for Homecoming is a simple way to demonstrate your support and passion for your college—also it's a wonderful networking opportunity. People at your alma mater want to know what you're up to in life because they want to see how college shaped

you. So, keep your alumni association's contact information and communication choices up to date so they can assist spread the news about your achievement. People at your alma mater want to know what you're up to in life because they want to see how college shaped you. So, keep your alumni association's contact information and communication choices up to date so they can assist spread the news about your achievement. Inform them if you have received a significant promotion, have been featured in a podcast, or are associated with a cause that others may like to support.

CONTACT WITH CLASSMATES

Another advantage of membership to an alumni group is the ability to reconnect with former classmates. Whether it's for a job or just to catch up with old friends and acquaintances, graduates will benefit from alumni directories and online social media groups that keep the lines of connection open long after the caps and gowns have been removed. Add your classmates to social media. It's a terrific method to get to know your classmates; you should add all of them, or at least a few of them, to your social media page. You should approach them and inquire about their Facebook and Twitter handles for this purpose.

Some of them may be hesitant to give their profile IDs, so you can share yours to establish trust and confidence. When you add them on social media, talk to them about your studies and publish posts on friendship, tagging your classmates and letting them know that you truly need a good buddy and want to become close to them. Participate as a volunteer. Volunteering does not imply joining an NGO or a social welfare group. In fact, you will be taught how to assist your peers and teachers. Even if the situation is out of control or you are out of the competition, try to respond graciously to everyone and be humble.



There is no reason to make a shambles for anyone in the class. Instead, be polite and courteous to them throughout and after class to urge them to be your friends. Attending activities on a regular basis. Attending events on a regular basis is one of the finest networking strategies for college students. You will not only be able to communicate with your students, but you will also be able to get to know your teachers better.

Don't forget to personally participate in the event to inform them of your presence. If possible, propose a topic in front of the event participants to quickly win their hearts.



Discover your passion. Pursue your passion. Then your passion can enrich your life and the lives of others.

-Donna Stchell



AT732 MASTER OF SCIENCE (AGRONOMY) (MIXED MODE)

INTAKE MARCH 2023

SYNOPSIS

This mixed mode programme consists of 70% research and 30% taught course. The core courses of this programme are Plant Ecophysiology, Plant Nutrition and Fertilizer Technology, Research Dissertation I and II. One more course will be chosen from any of the three elective courses of Transformation in Crop Production Technology, Crop Improvement and Conservation, and Microbiological Processes in Soils.

CAREER PROSPECTS

- Agronomist
- Plant Nutritionist
- Research and Development Officer
- Agricultural Consultant
- Extension Officer
- Educator

MODE AND DURATION

Full time : Min.-1.5 years / Max.- 2 years

Part time: Min.-1.5 years / Max.- 3 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENT

Please visit the link for further information:

<https://bit.ly/AT732>



SCAN HERE

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