

Excellence in Educ@tion



Biotechnology workers need to invest their time in research and pursue postgraduate studies to improve their careers.

Biotechnology staff can boost careers at UCSI

ACCORDING to the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) Human Capital Development Report this year, all industry players cited that the industry lacked people skilled in hard and soft skills.

The report also said there was an urgent need for key senior personnel and project leaders in the industry.

According to UCSI University's dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Associate Professor Dr Hon Wei Min, this was among the reasons why those in the Biotechnology industry needed to continue its studies to strengthen the nation's human capital asset.

"Those who are employed in the industry will not be able to advance much in their careers if they are only degree holders.

"They need to invest their time in research and pursue postgraduate studies to boost their careers."

While there are those who devote their time to Biotechnology research, most are climbing up the corporate ladder on the business side of the industry. According to Dr Hon, Biotechnology graduates in Malaysia usually pursued careers that were related to the sales and marketing side of

the field.

"This includes industries related to the retailing of drugs and pharmaceutical instruments, while others choose to enter the academic sector, devoting their time to research and development."

After a few years in the business side of the Biotech industry, these individuals begin to realise a need to attain better qualifications to advance their careers.

She said: "Most choose to do a Master in Business Administration, although in the Biotech industry, it is crucial to also possess strong scientific knowledge and technical skills on top of learning more about the business side of it."

By including scientific knowledge with business acumen, UCSI University believes that human capital asset in Malaysia's biotech industry can be increased.

This is among the main reasons for UCSI University to introduce the M. Sc. Biotechnology with Business Management.

The programme aims to provide students with business and laboratory research skills. It is coursework-based and guarantees completion within 1½ years for full-time students and two years for part-timers.

Those pursuing this programme will do their research and other laboratory work at UCSI University's new laboratories.

The Faculty also offers M. Sc. Applied Sciences for individuals who are more interested in research and research-based work.

Last year, BiotechCorp, an agency under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, announced that it expected to see 112 more biotechnology companies with BioNexus status by year end.

Companies with BioNexus status are equivalent to a Multimedia Super Corridor status, which means they receive tax breaks and government grants for research.

With biofuels and materials in the biotech industry expected to grow at a rate of 15 per cent, there would be an estimated 8,500 knowledge workers required by 2013.

Thus, there would be a shortage of 5,000 knowledge workers in the industry by that time. As such, there is an need for those in the biotech industry to pursue their postgraduate studies to ensure they are not left behind.

For details, call 03-91018880 or visit www.ucsi.edu.my