

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: AINI NORHIDAYAH MOHAMED, MSc (Industrial Chemistry) Candidate

Aini Norhidayah Mohamed was born in Triang (Pahang) on October 6 1985, the last child of six siblings. Aini completed secondary education at Sekolah Menengah Sains Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (Pekan) and pre-university at Kolej Matrikulasi Pulau Pinang before going off to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia to study Plant Biotechnology. Upon completion of a Bachelor of Science degree, she enrolled at Universiti Malaysia Pahang in the M.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry program on a UMP fellowship. Supervised by Assoc. Prof. Azhari Hamid Nour and Prof. Mashitah Mohd. Yusoff, she is investigating fatty acid composition in thermooxidized vegetable cooking oil.

“Believe in what you believe, work hard to achieve, focus and you shall receive.”

Aini considers Nik Aziz Nik Mat, her industrial training supervisor at the Malaysian Cocoa Board to be a mentor and an inspiration. “He is like a father figure to me. He’s the one who convinced me that I should be in research and patiently explained what it will take to be a success in this area instead of another field,” she said during our interview.

Her B.Sc. supervisor at UKM, Dr. Che Radziah, also influenced her decision to choose a career in research. “I used to prefer biology instead of chemistry, used to think that chemistry is just about chemical equation and putting something together in test tubes, but a project with Dr. Che Radziah on volatile compounds in *Polianthes tuberosa* during my final year project has changed my perception about chemistry..” she added.



Aini’s hobby is reading, counting JK Rowling and Dan Brown her favorite authors. She also likes jogging and camping. Her motto is “Believe in what you believe, work hard to achieve, focus and you shall receive.”