MyMentor Programme Brief Details

My Mentor Objectives

- Support early career researchers, who are just out (within two years) of their PhD, to start establishing an independent research career and assisting them to get into the habit of carrying out research and publishing the results as a normal part of their academic life.

- Motivate and support experienced scientists, who are not active researchers, to enable them to publish high quality papers in the leading international journals.

- Help early career researchers to develop international networks and collaborations via structured support and participation in key international conferences.

- Over the five year project period, mentor 230 Malaysian scientists (year 1=10, year 2=25, year 3=50, year 4=70, year 5=75).

- Each mentor/mentee to publish at least one, high quality, paper.

- In total, publish at least 350 papers in high quality, high impact journals.

- Organise a workshop each year. Everybody currently enrolled on the programme at that time will be expected to attend

How does the My Mentor programme work?

The mentee would be expected to bring their own research ideas (which may have lay dormant for a while) and develop those ideas with the help and assistance of the mentor. Any papers that arise from this collaboration would be jointly authored and we would expect only high quality outlets to be targeted (i.e. ISI papers, especially for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects).

There are two extremes as to how the mentor/mentee arrangement could be arranged. At one extreme, the mentee would remain at their home institution for the duration of the mentoring programme and would attend regular meetings with their mentor. The meetings would take place at a mutually convenient location, at mutually agreed frequencies. The frequency of the meetings would be part of the project proposal and would inform the selection process.

At the other extreme, the mentee would be based at the same institution as their mentor for the duration of the project. This will enable them to work more closely with their mentor but they would be unavailable to their home institution for teaching/administrative tasks. It is also potentially an expensive option as there may be travel and accommodation costs involved (e.g. if the mentor is based in KL and the mentee is not).

The programme would welcome proposals at either of these two extremes but we would also welcome proposals that sit between these two extremes. For example, a three month period spent at the mentor's institution, with the other nine months at their home institution.

Due to the significant costs, this programme does not fund travel, accommodation and subsistence for seconded periods (i.e. staying away from home for three months, travelling home at weekends). However, we note that it is still possible to spend significant time at another institution, assuming the institution is located close to the mentees home institution. We would also welcome support from the mentees home institution if they felt that the benefits justified the expense.

The programme will support the costs for regular meetings and the annual workshop.

Costs covered by this programme.

- ☐ **Annual Networking Event** - Funds will support an annual networking event (including venue hire, lunches, tea/coffee, travel and accommodation), which will bring together all the mentors/mentees. The actual amount to each person will depend on requirements and will be defined at the start of each project for each person

- ☐ **Support Costs (per mentee)** - The mentor's institution will receive a token amount for each mentee. The amount has been set at RM 4,000 for the first year and RM 2,000 for the second year. That is a total of RM 6,000 will be paid for each person being mentored.

- ☐ **Travel Expenses (for mentors/mentees)** -This budgetary item will provide funds for the mentors to travel to visit their mentees (or vice versa). We have allocated RM 8,000 per project (RM 5,000 in the first year and RM 3,000 in the second year). The same amount will not be provided to every project. The amount will be agreed at the project start, to reflect the particular project.

- ☐ **Conference Attendance** - Conference costs, as the budget is not available to support this activity. However, we do recognise that this is an important activity (from a networking point of view) and the public universities are encouraged to support this activity for the mentees.

Consumables

It is difficult to budget for consumables as we have no indication of the type of research projects that this initiative will generate. Therefore, it would be difficult to place a value on this budgetary item. However, we believe that the initiative is largely about developing individuals and if they were to do this outside of this project, then consumables would be paid for by their home institution. This, we believe, should be the case for projects funded under this programme.

In the documentation for each project, it will be stated that consumables will not be funded through the project and, unless the two intuitions agree otherwise, then the institution where any research is carried out will be responsible for any consumable cost

Contact

- If you have and enquiry about the programme, please contact us at mymentor@nottingham.edu.my.
- If you wish to speak to us kindly call Deepa on (03) 8924 8257.