

## **The Relationships of Interest, Environment and Culture on Internship in the Malaysian Public University**

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**Abstract:** This study has found factor that will influence Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) students choose their internship. The factors will discuss in this study is the interest, environment and culture. This study also to identify the relationship of interest, environment and culture will influence the UUM students to choose their internship. There are 400 UUM students have been chosen as respondents in this study and the type of sampling will used in this study is the simple random sampling. The data was analyze using the *Statistical Package for Social Science for Windows Version 21.0 (SPSS)* and the analyzed data were conducted using the descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and multiple regressions. The result of this study shows that the most influence UUM students to choose their internship is the interest and the lastly influence the UUM students choose their internship is the environment. However, the second influence the UUM students to choose their internship is the culture. The result of this study shows that the interest, environment and culture have a relationship between the UUM students to choose their internship. The conclusion of this study is the factor of interest, environment and culture will influence the UUM student for their internship choices.

**Key words:** Internships Choice • Interest • Environment • Culture

### **INTRODUCTION**

Internships provide real world experience for those who looking to explore or gain the relevant knowledge and skills required to enter into a particular career field. Internships are giving a chance for students applying what they have learned in classroom and applying it to the real world.

Warinda [1] has discussed that interns are popular methods of experiential learning where students come face to face with the real world and it is complexities. Moreover, also is something that cannot be replicated in the four walls of the classroom. All the students, the university and the employer are involved benefits. Through this study also sought to evaluate the internship experience of undergraduate accounting students with regard to career, soft skills, incentives and functional and the technical skills.

According to Mogilner, Aaker and Kamvar [2] research, discuss about how the happiness will affect choices. Another, this research also have discussed that interest is one of the factors that will influence people

make their decision. In this research also discuss that people will choose what they interest thing do to because this can make them happy. On the other hand, this research concludes that important of happiness in making decision. Akbulut and Looney [3] have confirmed that there have positive relationship between interest and choice goals.

Moreover, the Nakao, Takaishi, Tatsuta, Katayama, Iwase, Yorifuji and Takeda [4] journal discussed that the family environment will affect personality traits. Nakao *et al* [4] said that the parent relationship, sibling relationship and socioeconomic will influences the personality traits. Another, this study also examines the influences of various aspects of the family environment and child personality traits are evaluated objectively. Moreover, it can be seen that different personality traits have differentiated effects from various aspects of the family environment. It means that the environment will influence people to make different decisions. Further, individuals differ in their susceptibility to the influences of family environment.

According Westhuizen, Pacheco and Webber (n.d.) [5] study on how to understand the different cultural values can affect someone's behavior. This means that culture will influence someone to make their decision and also will different lifestyle with each other. Another study by Kohun, Skoura and Morris [6] discussed about the social-cultural environment will influences in making decision. The result in this study shows that the culture is linked with the decision making. This study also mentions that different culture will have different decision making by each other.

**Literature Review:** Internship was designed in all university either in public university or private university to expand the depth and breadth of academic learning [7] especially for students. It is also an opportunity for students to experience and applying theories they have learnt in the classroom [7] during their internship. Internship is the process of continuous learning and to fulfill the university needs in order to let them graduate. It is also the preparation for student to face the real world and challenging working areas after they have complete their studies in university.

This study is mainly about factors that will influence students in UUM to choose either the private sector, public sector or the non-government organization as their internship. Nowadays, many students confuse how to choose their internship. Moreover, students may be influenced by the people surround them, their personal interest and also the cultural heritage from parents to choose the sector as their internship. The factors will discuss in this study are interest, environment and culture.

In this study, demographics is one of the questions that will have in the questionnaires. The purpose is to analysis the background of the UUM students randomly. Besides that, it is use to identify the demographics influence among students in UUM to choose their internship. Everyone has different demographics between one and another. Through this study, it can see that how the demographics will influence students in UUM to choose their internship either at the private sector, the public sector or the non-government organization.

The first factor that influenced UUM students to choose their internship is interest. Everyone has their own interest and different with other people. This study is mainly about to find out what types of conditions students interest that will influence them to choose their internship. When assessing our interests, we need to

think about what activities we will enjoy pursuing and ideas that we will enjoy discussing with others without tiring and the areas or thing we would like or want to learn more when we have available time [7].

Moreover, the environment also one of the factor that can influence UUM students to choose their internship. The environment is easily influence the students to make their decision for the internship whether at the private sector, the public sector or the non-government organization. Through this study, it is also to see how the environment influence students to make their decision to choose their internship. Environment is everything that will affects an individual except his genes. The environment of an individual have the sum total of the stimulation which he receives from his conception to birth.

The environment can be explained by home, school, maturation and personality and also as early experiences. While, the students personality will influence by their parents behavior and attitude, their expectations for their children, their education and also their attention to the children. Parents are the most influence to children in order to make their decision and choices. Besides that, the economic status will influence the child's personality. School is one of the effects for the child's personality too. As we know, children are spending more time at school, so that their friends, senior and also their teachers will influence their personality [8].

The culture also is a factor that will influence students to choose their internship either at the private sector, public sector or non-government organization. Everyone has their culture that legacy from their parents. Culture that legacy from parents will influence students to make their decision. Through this research, can see that how the culture influence students to make their decision to choose their internship. The culture will influence one person to make their decision. Each of the people has their own culture. People with the different cultural background have different expectations, norms and values which will turn the potential to influence their decision as well as subsequent behaviour.

**Objectives:** The objectives of this study are to identify the relationship of interest, environment and culture on internship in the Malaysian public university focusing to UUM students as the respondents in order to choose their internship either at the private sector, public sector or the non-government organization. The specific aims of this study are as follow:

- To identify the relationship between the interest and UUM students to choose their internship.
- To analyze the relationship between the environment and UUM students to choose their internship.
- To determine the relationship between the culture and UUM students to choose their internship.
- To determine the most influential factor that affect UUM students to choose their internship.

**Methodology:** This study covers the whole UUM students. The respondents' consists of three college which is College of Law, Government and International Studies (COLGIS), College of Business (COB) and College of Arts and Science (CAS). There are 400 UUM students have been chosen as respondents in this study and students are selected by simple random sampling.

Questionnaires were used to collecting datas in this study. The questionnaires were adapted from Noor Qhuzaimah binti Arisan, Norhidayu binti Samsury, Siti Fasihah binti Yusoff and Syafinaz binti Zolkifli. [9], Hashimah binti Sharin [10] and Salni Salamat [11]. These questionnaires were divided into five sections. Section A is demographics characteristic, section B is interest, section C is environment section D is culture and section E is UUM students choose their internship. The form questionnaires is answered in five point Likert scale from section B to section E. The data was analyzed using the *Statistical Package for Social Science for Windows Version 21.0 (SPSS)*. The analyzed data were conducted using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and multiple regressions.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study has a total of 400 respondents. Table 1 shows the results about *demographics characteristics* that consists of age, sex, college, race, residence area and yours choice of internship. There has 31 respondents (7.8%) for 18-20 years old, 348 respondents (87.0%) for 21-23 years old and 21 respondents (5.3%) for 24 and above age. There has 97 males (24.3%) and 303 females (75.8%). Table 1 also shows that have 111 respondents (27.8%) are from COB, 105 respondents (26.3%) from CAS and 184 respondents (46.0%) from COLGIS. There has 160 respondents (40.0%) for Malay, 203 respondents (50.8%) for Chinese, 34 respondents (8.5%) for Indian and 3 respondents (0.8%) for other race. In this study, most of the respondents of 227 (56.6%) are from urban area and the least of the respondents of 173 (43.3%) are from rural

Table 1: Demographics Characteristics

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Age</b>		
18-20	31	7.8
21-23	348	87
24 and above	21	5.3
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	97	24.3
Female	303	75.8
<b>College</b>		
COB	111	27.8
CAS	105	26.3
COLGIS	184	46
<b>Race</b>		
Malay	160	40
Chinese	203	50.8
India	34	8.5
Other	3	0.8
<b>Residence Area</b>		
Rural	173	43.3
Urban	227	56.6
<b>Yours Choices of internship</b>		
Public Sector	140	35
Private Sector	253	63.3
NGO	7	1.8

area. Lastly, there has 140 respondents (35.0%) are choose public sector as their internship, 253 respondents (63.3%) choose the private sector and 7 respondents (1.8%) choose the NGO as their internship.

Table 2 shows the results about *hypothesis testing*. The results of the Pearson Correlation shows that there has relationship between the factor of interest, the environment and the culture and the UUM students to choose their internship. There is a significant relationship between interest and UUM students to choose their internship. The correlation coefficient value is 0.466. The statistical formula ( $r(398) = 0.466, p < 0.01$ ). The probability (p) value is 0.000 where is smaller than confidence interval of 0.01. Thus, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

There is a significant relationship between environment and UUM students to choose their internship. The correlation coefficient value is 0.211. The statistical formula ( $r(398) = 0.211, p < 0.01$ ). The probability (p) value is 0.000 where is smaller than confidence interval of 0.01. Thus, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

And, there is a significant relationship between culture and UUM students to choose their internship. The correlation coefficient value is 0.210. The statistical formula ( $r(398) = 0.210, p < 0.01$ ). The probability (p) value is 0.000 where is smaller than confidence interval of 0.01. Thus, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. Hence, the interest, environment and culture will influence the UUM students to choose their internship.

Table 2: Hypothesis Testing

Alternate Hypothesis	Correlation		
	Coefficient	p-value	Result
HA : There is a relationship between the interest and UUM students to choose their internship.	0.466	0.000	Significance and supported
HA 2: There is a relationship between the environment and UUM students to choose their internship.	0.211	0.000	Significance and supported
HA 3: There is a relationship between the culture and UUM students to choose their internship.	0.210	0.000	Significance and supported

*Correlation is Significant at 0.01 confidence level*

Table 3: Regression Analysis: UUM Students Internship Choices

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized CoefficientsX		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	6.688	1.250		5.350	.000
	INTEREST	.281	.029	.437	9.736	.000
	ENVIRONMENT	.029	.025	.067	1.163	.246
	CULTURE	.065	.041	.090	1.570	.117

a. Dependent Variable: UUM

Table 3 shows the results about *regression analysis: UUM students internship choices*. The regression analysis help to see which among of the independent variable is the most influence to the UUM student internship choices. The title Coefficients provides us to see which among the three independence variable is most important in explaining the variance in UUM student internship choices. Table 3 shows that the column beta of the higher number in the Beta is interest (0.437), followed by the culture (0.090) and the lastly is the environment (0.067). This means, the interest factor is the most influence for the UUM student internship choices, the second factor influence UUM student internship choices is the culture and the last factor influence UUM student internship choices is the environment.

### Conclusion and Recommendations for Further Research:

This study is discussed about the factors influencing the UUM students to choose their internship. The factor that discusses in this study are interest, environment and culture. Every student has their own decision on their internship choice. Different personality of the students will make different decisions on their internship. Moreover, the environment of the students also will influence them to make their internship decision. The culture of the students also influence them when choosing the internship. The result of multiple regression shows that the most influence the UUM students choose their internship is the interest. However, the low influence student internship choices is the environment.

From the result of this study, there has some suggestion for the parties that involve. The suggestion is to improve the UUM students to make their decision on

their internship choices. The first party is the students. The students need to understand what they need and their interest when choosing their internship. Some students will choose the internship that they have no interest and follow their parents or seniors step. Students need to choose their internship that interest them in order to have a bright future. They should not just choosing their internship just because to fulfill the university needs and syllabus in order to let them graduate on time. UUM student needs to understand their expertise and skill that they have learned and mastered before they choose their internship. This will help the students to choose the correct internship and also suitable for their knowledge.

The second party is the lecturer or teacher. The teacher or lecturer can give the information about choosing the internship. The teacher or lecturer can give some advice and opinion about which of the sector is best for students. Counsellor also one of the party that can give the advice for the students when choosing internship. The counsellor can hold a talk about internship for the UUM students. Through this talk, they can give the information and guidance to the students and the students will consider which sector is suitable for them.

Parents also play an important role in choosing internship. Parents need to give some suggestions, advices and opinions for their children when they are choosing their internship. Parents need give the correct information for their children. This information could help the students to make the correct decision when they choose their internship. Parents play an important role for their children. Parents need to ask their children interest for their internship first. By doing so, it can avoid the conflict between the family and the children when choosing the internship. The student easy influences by their parents. So, the parents need to understand what their children interest.

The last party is the university which is UUM. UUM needs to understand what the students need and also held some activity that relate to their internship. UUM have to hold some program that can help students to choose their internship. UUM can have a talk from another company, carnival about the internship choices

and also carnival from many type of company for the students. Through this activity it can give students chance to understand the working environment of each company and also can help the student more understand what is their need and their interest. In that way, it can help UUM students to choose the correct internship. The result of this study shows that the interest, environment and culture have a relationship between the UUM students to choose their internship. The conclusion of this study is the factor of interest, environment and culture will influence the UUM student for their internship choices.

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