FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING (DIA) STUDENTS’ DECISION TO PURSUE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING PROGRAMMES

Thesis Submitted to the College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science (International Accounting)

By

NOORAIN OMAR

© Noorain Omar, 2009. All right reserved
PERMISSION TO USE

In presenting this thesis in partial of the requirements for a postgraduate degree from Universiti Utara Malaysia, I agree that the University Library may make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying of this thesis in any manner, in whole or in part, for scholarly purposes may be granted by my supervisor or in his absence, by the Dean of Research and Innovation. It is understood that due recognition shall be given to me and Universiti Utara Malaysia for any scholar use which may be made of any material from my thesis.

Request for permission to copy or to make other use of materials in this thesis, in whole or in part should be addressed to:

Dean of Research and Innovation
College of Business
Universiti Utara Malaysia
06010 UUM, Sintok
Kedah Darul Aman
Penyelidikan ini mengkaji pengaruh (1) Jantina; (2) Himpunan Purata Nilai Gred (HPNG); (3) Tahap Bahasa Inggeris (4) Latar belakang pendidikan ibubapa; (5) Kemudahan Geran Pengajian; (6) Ciri-ciri ketrampilan dan (7) Tanggapan pelajar-pelajar ke atas keputusan untuk meneruskan pengajian dalam program professional perakaunan. Berdasarkan kajian ke atas 66 orang pelajar yang bakal menamatkan pengajian yang terdiri daripada bahagian 6, 7 dan 8, hasil kajian mendapati Himpunan Purata Nilai Gred dan kemudahan geran pengajian adalah dua pembolehubah yang utama yang kuat mempengaruhi keputusan pelajar-pelajar Diploma Perakaunan untuk meneruskan pengajian dalam program professional perakaunan. Keputusan yang diperolehi amat berguna kepada Fakulti Perakaunan Universiti Teknologi MARA untuk merangka strategi yang sesuai bagi meningkatkan pencapaian Himpunan Purata Nilai Gred dan mengadakan polisi yang menitikberatkan batuan kewangan.

Kunci kata: Keputusan meneruskan pengajian, Diploma Perakaunan, Program Professional Perakaunan, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)

This study examines the influence of (1) Gender; (2) Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA); (3) Level of English; (4) Parent’s educational background; (5) Availability of study grant; (6) Personal attributes and (7) Students’ perception on the Diploma in Accounting (DIA) students’ decision to pursue professional accounting programmes. Based on a survey of 66 graduating students of parts 6, 7 & 8, the findings reveal that CGPA and the availability of study grant are the two main variables found to be significant in influencing the DIA students’ decision to pursue professional accounting programmes. The results would be useful to the Faculty of Accountancy of UiTM to formulate the appropriate strategy to improve the CGPA achievement and to have a clear cut policy on financial supports.

Keywords: Decision to pursue, Diploma in Accounting, Professional Accounting Programmes, Universiti Teknologi MARA or Mara University of Technology (UiTM).
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Universe, Who gives the blessings and strength to complete my Master Project. Peace and Prayers be upon His Final Prophet and Messenger Muhammad, the ideal role model for human beings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my supervisor, Dr. Mohd. ‘Atef Bin Md. Yusof for his valuable guidance, input and advice throughout the completion of this Master Project. My appreciation of his contribution is very heartfelt indeed, and may Allah reward him for all his efforts.

My deepest appreciation goes to my mother, son, brother and sisters for their endless love, support and understanding. My thanks for their continuous encouragement and prayers go well beyond what can be expressed here.

My deepest appreciation also goes to my friends and lecturers of UUM, for sharing their knowledge and valuable thoughts and for their willingness to listen. Not forgetting, my sincere appreciation to my students at UiTM Kedah for their concern and support.

Lastly, I would also like to extend my warmest gratitude to UUM’s library for valuable resources and information which have greatly assisted me towards completing this Master Project successfully.

This Master Project is dedicated to my family.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**TITLE PAGE**

**CERTIFICATION OF PROJECT PAPER**

**PERMISSION TO USE** ii

**ABSTRAK (BAHASA MELAYU)** iii

**ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)** iv

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** v

**TABLE OF CONTENTS** vi

**LIST OF FIGURES** viii

**LIST OF APPENDIXES** viii

**CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 Problem Statement 6
1.3 Research Objectives 6
1.4 Research Questions 7
1.5 Significance of Study 8

**CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

2.1 Introduction 9
2.1.1 Gender 10
2.1.2 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) 12
2.1.3 Parents’ educational background 13
2.1.4 Level of English 15
2.1.5 Study grant 15
2.1.6 Personal Attributes 17
2.1.7 Students’ Perception 18
2.2 Theoretical Framework 23
LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1.1</td>
<td>Theoretical Framework</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1.2</td>
<td>Percentage of respondents according to gender</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIST OF APPENDIXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX I</td>
<td>The Professional Programmes Course Structure</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX II</td>
<td>First Schedule of the Accountants Act, 1967 (Part I &amp; II)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX III</td>
<td>Questionnaire Paper</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX IV</td>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Universiti Teknologi MARA or MARA University of Technology (UiTM) is one of the Public Institute of Higher Learning in Malaysia. It currently has twelve branches throughout Malaysia and produces the most Bumiputera graduates.

In respect of accounting programmes, UiTM is the only Public Institute of Higher Learning that offers professional accounting programmes which is conducted at its Shah Alam Campus. The first professional accounting qualification offered by the Faculty of Accountancy of UiTM is Chartered Institute of Management Accountant (CIMA) in 1961, followed by ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) in 1967, MICPA (The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants) in 1978 and Certified Practicing Accountants (CPA) Australia in 2002. Recently, the faculty is proposing the introduction of the Institute of Chartered Accountant of England and Wales (ICAEW).

Of the above five, MICPA is the only local professional accounting qualification. Nevertheless, it has recently signed major accountancy agreement with ACCA. The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) provides a route for members of both MICPA and ACCA to join the other body, and enjoy the benefits which both respected designations can offer. Both institutions of reputation and traditions have joined forces to work on strengthening the Malaysian accountancy profession.
The contents of the thesis is for internal user only
REFERENCES


