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# THE POTENTIAL OF INDIVIDUAL FACTOR TOWARDS GRADUATE ON TIME (GOT) AMONG PHD STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA (UUM)



MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA April 2020

# THE POTENTIAL OF INDIVIDUAL FACTOR TOWARDS GRADUATE ON TIME (GOT) AMONG PHD STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY UTARA MALAYSIA (UUM)

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Thesis submitted to
School of Business Management,
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Management (MHRM)



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# **Abstract**

One major issued faced by higher learning institutions in many countries' especially Malaysia is Graduate on Time (GOT), particularly among PhD students. This is followed by the concerns of university images and rankings. Past studies have shown that Graduate on Time (GOT) could be influenced by various factors. Therefore, this study investigated the relationship of individual factors such as personality type A and B, motivation, knowledge, skills, and abilities, and knowledge sharing behaviour as a predictor of graduate on time. A total of four hypotheses were developed, and binary logistic regression was carried out to examine the effect. The sample consisted of 159 PhD students and students were selected starting from 3<sup>rd</sup> semester and above. This is because the outcome of graduation among 1<sup>st</sup>-semester students is not identifiable. Two of the hypotheses were supported, and the results showed that knowledge, skills, and abilities and knowledge sharing behavior have a significant effect on the outcome of graduate on time. This study aims to implement the proposed models that comprise several factors in predicting the outcome of students that will complete their PhD studies on the predetermined time. The analysis techniques used are Binary Logistic Regression Model, whereby a set of data were examined to determine the outcome. The results and findings in this study may contribute major insights into institutions and students themselves as the gaps concerning student's personality traits as the causes of the decrease of graduation rates and how to handle and measure them. Moreover, the findings also imply that personality types seem to be a new predictor in research which lead to a person actions that may influence their completion of studies. Thus, stakeholders should join hands in providing a better solution to sustain the credibility of students and institutions as a whole.

**Keywords:** Graduate on Time (GOT), Personality Type A and B, Motivation, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities, and Knowledge Sharing Behavior.

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# **Abstrak**

Isu utama yang dihadapi oleh institusi pengajian tinggi di seluruh dunia terutamanya Malaysia adalah kadar tamat pengajian, terutamanya di kalangan pelajar PhD. Ini diikuti oleh kebimbangan terhadap imej dan kedudukan universiti. Kajian lepas menunjukkan bahawa tamat pengajian pada masa yang ditetapkan (GOT) boleh dipengaruhi oleh pelbagai faktor. Oleh itu, kajian ini menyiasat hubungan faktor individu seperti jenis kepribadian A dan B, motivasi, pengetahuan, kemahiran, dan kebolehan, dan tingkah laku perkongsian pengetahuan sebagai peramal tamat pengajian. Sebanyak empat hipotesis telah disarankan, dan regresi logistik binari digunakan untuk mengkaji hasilnya. Sampel terdiri daripada 159 pelajar PhD dan pelajar dipilih bermula dari semester ke 3 dan ke atas. Ini kerana hasil tamat pengajian di kalangan pelajar semester pertama tidak dapat dikenalpasti kerana masih dalam peringkat awal pengajian. Dua hipotesis disokong, dan hasilnya menunjukkan bahawa pengetahuan, kemahiran, dan kemampuan serta tingkah laku perkongsian pengetahuan pelajar menunjukkan kesan yang ketara terhadap hasil tamat pengajian tepat pada masa yang ditetapkan. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk melaksanakan model yang dicadangkan yang merangkumi beberapa faktor dalam memprediksi hasil pelajar yang akan menyelesaikan kajian PhD mereka pada masa yang telah ditetapkan. Teknik analisis yang digunakan adalah Model Regresi Logistik Binary, di mana satu set data diperiksa untuk menentukan hasilnya. Hasil dan penemuan dalam kajian ini boleh menyumbangkan pemahaman utama kepada institusi dan pelajar sendiri dan mengenal pasti jurang mengenai ciri keperibadian pelajar sebagai punca penurunan kadar kelulusan. Selain itu, penemuan dalam kajian ini juga mengimplikasikan bahawa jenis keperibadian seseorang menjadi ramalan baru dalam penyelidikan yang membawa kepada tindakan seseorang serta mungkin mempengaruhi penyiapan pengajian mereka. Oleh itu, pihak berkepentingan perlu bersatu dalam menyediakan penyelesaian yang lebih baik untuk mengekalkan kredibiliti pelajar dan institusi secara menyeluruh.

Kata kunci: Tamat Pengajian tepat pada masa (GOT), Jenis Keperibadian A dan B, Motivasi, Pengetahuan, Kemahiran, dan Kebolehan, dan Perilaku Perkongsian Pengetahuan.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GOT Graduate on Time

KSAs Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

KSB Knowledge Sharing Behavior

SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences

VIF Variance Inflation Factor

PhD Doctor of Philosophy

UUM Universiti Utara Malaysia

UTM Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

CGS Council of Graduate School

NEO Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness

OYAGSB Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business

AHSGS Awang Had Salleh Graduates School of Arts and Sciences

GSGSG Ghazali Shafie Graduate School

SE Self-Efficacy

RU Research University

US United States

UK United Kingdom

STR Senior Tutor for Research

HEA Academic Affairs Department

IPTA Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Awam

ABBPS A/B Behavioral Pattern Scale

MS Motivation to Achieve Success

MF Motivation to Avoid Failure

SEI Self-Efficacy Inventory

AMS Achievement Motivation Scale

ANOVA Analysis of Variance

ANCOVA Analysis of Covariance

MANOVA Multivariate Analysis of Variance

MANCOVA Multivariate Analysis of Covariance

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TRA Theory of Reason Action

DBMs Deepe Boltzmann Machines

SVMs Support Vector Machines

GPs Gaussian Processes

# **CHAPTER 1**

# INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

This is a study on the relationship of individual factor among PhD students and graduate on time (GOT). Hence, this chapter provides some background information on personality types and behavior of the selected respondent. This information is channeled through several part which is background of the study, followed by problem statement, research questions, research objectives, scope and limitations of the study, definitions of key terms and lastly is the organization of the theses.

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# 1.1 Background of Study

Student's academic achievement is always a key contributor to the institution's education quality. The expeditious expansion in tertiary education can be seen through the admission rate in higher institutions. This escalation is in line with the burgeoning role of tertiary education which is to achieve the objective of tertiary education development 2001-2010, aims to provide sufficient quantity and quality of manpower to meet the needs of a country. Hence, it is an obligation for higher institutions to produce graduates who excel in academic, competent, competitive and possess a good attitude. In order to strengthen the capabilities of higher learning institutions, human capital with high caliber personality needs to be generated rapidly and it can be achieved by offering a higher qualification in education commonly known as Doctorate. Malaysia's strategy

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#### APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE



# The Potential of Individual Factor Towards Graduate on Time (GOT) among PhD Students in University Utara Malaysia (UUM)

Respected participant,

Thank you for agreeing to take part in my research studies which is being conducted as a partial fulfillment for the requirement of Master in Human Resource Management (MHRM) at University Utara Malaysia.

The purpose of this research is to determine the influence of Individual Factor towards Graduate on Time (GOT) among PhD students. Below is the question to analyze about the factor influencing GOT which is, Type A and B personality, Motivation, Knowledge Skill and Abilities (KSAs), and Knowledge Sharing Behavior (KSB).

This questionnaire is in four (4) sections; the first section consist of demographic information and the rest is the independent variable questions. This study is conducted to identified whether individual factor influence a delay in PhD completion.

Your participation in this study will help in explaining these factors in detail. This study will also propose guidelines to University Management as to take in account about student's individual factor to ensure they achieve GOT. Your participation in this questionnaire is voluntary and your information will be treated as CONFIDENTIAL and your identity will be kept as ANONYMOUS. Your honesty and sincerity are required in answering the question and there is no right or wrong answer.

Your time and cooperation are highly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nor Farah Ain Binti Mohamed Azman

(Master of Human Resource Management) School of Business Management (SBM) College of Business Universiti Utara Malaysia

### Section A

Please tick ( $\sqrt{\ }$ ) the appropriate box provided and answer the question in the space available

### 1. Gender



## 2. Age

20 – 30	41 - 50
---------	---------

31 – 40	> 50
	4

### 3. Current year of studies

Semester	
Semester 1	BUDI BAKE
Semester 2	
Semester 3	
Semester 4	
Semester 5	
Semester 6	
Semester 7	
Semester 8	
Semester 9	
Semester 10 or above	

4. Curren	nt Enrollment Status	
	Full Time	
	Part Time	
5. Faculty	y of Study	
	Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business	(OYA)
	Awang Had Salleh Graduate School (AHSGS)	
	Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government (GSC	SSG)
6. Progre	ess of Study: If you are currently working on your the	sis, what stage are you in now?
	Submit Intent to Submit Proposal	
	Proposal Submitted	
	Proposal Defense	
	Submit Intent to Submit Thesis	
	Thesis Submitted	
	Submitted for Viva	

Section B:

Below are statements about **Type A and B Personality**. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement by tick  $(\sqrt{})$  the appropriate answer.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Disagree			G	

No	Question	Answer					
NO		1	2	3	4	5	
1.	I feel impatient when I don't have any work in hand.						
2.	I never feel rushed.						
3.	I prefer to finish the tasks at hand as soon as possible.						
4.	I am open in expressing my feelings.						
5.	I prefer to sit at one place when I am not doing anything.	nive	siti	Jtara	Mala	ysia	
6.	I prefer to complete the tasks at hand slowly.						
7.	I have many interest outside my work.						
8.	I take appointment casually.						
9.	Leisure time is welcome after a spell of work.						
10.	I relax whenever I want to do so.						

11.	I do not work under time pressure.					
12.	I prefer to move around rapidly when I am not doing anything.					
13.	I prefer to concentrate on one task at a time.					
14.	I enjoy doing two or more things simultaneously.					
15.	I have never found time sufficient for the task at hand.					
16.	I do not express all that I feel.					
17.	I always feel rushed.					
18.	I have always been struggling to achieve more in less time.					
19.	I am never late if I have appointment.					1
20.	I have very few interests outside my work.					
	BUDI BISS	nive	siti (	Jtara	Mala	iysia

Section C:

Below are statements about **Motivation**. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement by tick  $(\sqrt{})$  the appropriate answer.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

No	Question	Answer					
110		1	2	3	4	5	
1.	I prefer to choose relatively difficult tasks or work.						
2.	I am ambitious and I believe that I can achieve a great deal.				A		
3.	I lack confidence in doing challenging work.	$\cup$					
4.	I can easily cope with any problem in a crisis.	nive	siti l	Jtara	Mala	ysia	
5.	No matter how difficult things are, I can be successful as long as I can try my best.						
6.	The harder a task, the more interested I am in it and the harder I work.						
7.	I never give up when facing a problem, always trying out ideas until I resolve it.						
8.	Taking risk is necessary for fulfilling my research.						
9.	I am usually satisfied with my own choices and decisions.						

10.	I worry that I might not be able to adapt to the future work demands.					
11.	I like unfamiliar and difficult tasks, even risky ones.					
12.	I feel happy when I complete a difficult task.					
13.	I worry about failure when I deal with the task that I think are difficult.					
14.	I feel anxious when I think that I have an unfamiliar and difficult task.					
15.	I like to start a task immediately even if I have much time.					
16.	I feel anxious when I do the task that seems to be very difficult.				R	
17.	I will be attracted by the opportunity that test my abilities.	nive	siti U	Jtara	Mala	ysia
18.	I feel anxious when I don't think I am competent for the task.					
19.	I prefer to work unremittingly on unexpectable problems.					
20.	I dislike the task that examine my abilities.					

Section D:

Below are statements about **Knowledge, Skill and Abilities**. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement by tick  $(\sqrt{})$  the appropriate answer.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

No	Owerstien.			Answei	•	
NO	Question	1	2	3	4	5
1.	I have the capacity to communicate effectively with others orally.					
2.	I have the knowledge of research methodologies and capacity to interpret findings.					
3.	I have the capacity to find, evaluate and use information.					
4.	I have the ability to work with numbers and graph.	iti U	tara	Mala	aysia	
5.	I have the capacity to communicate effectively with others in writing.					
6.	I have the ability to use knowledge and skills to prepare solutions to unfamiliar problems.					
7.	I can communicate effectively with others by using ICTs or multimedia.					
8.	I have the capacity to interact and collaborate with others effectively.					
9.	I am continually conscious that time is my most critical resource.					
10.	In seeking satisfaction through my work, I tend to have a creative approach to solve problem solving.					

Section E:

Below are statements about **Knowledge Sharing Behavior**. Please indicate your level of agreement for each statement by tick  $(\sqrt{})$  the appropriate answer.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly	y Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Disagre				

No	No Question -			Answer		
110			2	3	4	5
1.	I feel that it is important to share knowledge with other students for the benefit of all.					
2.	I am afraid of mismatch might offend others.					
3.	Students should voluntarily share their knowledge with peers.	$\bigcup$				
4.	Students have the mindset that sharing knowledge is a type of plagiarism.	nive	siti l	Jtara	Mala	iysia
5.	It is better to avoid sharing information with peers whenever possible.					
6.	Learning from each other is a very important motivator for knowledge sharing.					
7.	I preferred internet as a source of knowledge sharing for study related tasks.					
8.	I would assist other students in database search, software and library use.					
9.	I preferred face to face as a channel to share knowledge.					

10.	I only share when people share their knowledge.			

# THE END THANK YOU



### APPENDIX B: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTIC

#### Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	99	62.3	62.3	62.3
	Female	60	37.7	37.7	100.0
	Total	159	100.0	100.0	

# **Current Enrollment Status**

	WILLER CO.	VISAVIN			Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Percent
Valid	Full Time	118	74.2	74.2	74.2
	Part Time	41	25.8	25.8	100.0
	Total	159	100.0	100.0	

# **Faculty of Study**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	OYA	96	60.4	60.4	60.4
	AHSGS	33	20.8	20.8	81.1
	GSGSG	30	18.9	18.9	100.0
	Total	159	100.0	100.0	

# **Progress of Study**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SISP	1	.6	.6	.6
	PS	37	23.3	23.3	23.9
	PD	42 Univ	26.4	26.4 a Malaysia	50.3
	SIST	24	15.1	15.1	65.4
	TS	39	24.5	24.5	89.9
	SV	16	10.1	10.1	100.0
	Total	159	100.0	100.0	

# **Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skev	wness	Kui	rtosis
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
TotalAB	159	49	87	64.84	5.975	.822	.192	1.975	.383
TotalMt	159	48	93	72.42	6.854	109	.192	1.582	.383
TotalKSAO	159	18	50	40.62	5.318	685	.192	1.534	.383
TotalKSB	159	19	48	36.24	3.816		.192	2.885	.383
Valid N (listwise)	159								

### **APPENDIX C: PEARSON CORRELATION**

## **Correlations**

		TotalAB	TotalMt	TotalKSAO	TotalKSB
TotalAB	Pearson Correlation	1	.395**	.182*	.382**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.022	.000
	N	159	159	159	159
TotalMt	Pearson Correlation	.395**	1	.431**	.458**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	159	159	159	159
TotalKSAO	Pearson Correlation	.182*	.431**	1	.154
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.022	.000		.052
	N	159	159	159	159
TotalKSB	Pearson Correlation	.382**	.458**	.154	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	vers.000	Jtar.000	alays 1.052	
	N	159	159	159	159

<sup>\*\*.</sup> Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

<sup>\*.</sup> Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

### APPENDIX D: CRONBACH'S ALPHA COEFFICIENT

# a) Personality Type A and B

**Reliability Statistics** 

	- V	
	Cronbach's Alpha	
	Based on	
Cronbach's Alpha	Standardized Items	N of Items
.504	.515	10

# **Item-Total Statistics**

	WALLY BRE	VISAV			
		Unive	Corrected Item-	Squared	Cronbach's
	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Total Correlation	Multiple Correlation	Alpha if Item Deleted
ab1	30.19	15.508	.263	.246	.459
ab2	30.60	17.204	.066	.052	.526
ab3	29.36	16.459	.270	.278	.462
ab4	30.23	16.737	.156	.132	.494
ab5	30.45	15.604	.367	.194	.433
ab6	30.40	16.228	.233	.242	.470
ab7	30.33	15.527	.325	.193	.441
ab8	30.07	15.204	.313	.259	.442
ab9	29.72	16.660	.217	.112	.476
ab10	30.35	18.318	034	.031	.552

# **Reliability Statistics**

	Cronbach's Alpha	
	Based on	
Cronbach's Alpha	Standardized Items	N of Items
.500	.495	10

#### **Item-Total Statistics**

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item- Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
ab11	28.49	15.859	.224	.130	.469
ab12	28.53	15.947	.249	.117	.462
ab13	27.90	15.775	.234	.192	.466
ab14	28.22	16.628	.147	.111	.492
ab15	28.10	16.635	.143	.086	.494
ab16	28.81	14.386	.411	.302	.404
ab17	28.11	15.729	.232	.135	.466
ab18	28.63	15.399	.301	.290	.444
ab19	27.25	17.633	.037	.113	.522
ab20	27.85	16.863	.107	.088	.505

## b) Motivation

**Reliability Statistics** 

	Cronbach's Alpha Based on	
	Standardized	
Cronbach's Alpha	Items	N of Items
.715	.742	20

**Item-Total Statistics** 

	TAR		Corrected Item-	Squared	Cronbach's	
	Scale Mean if	Scale Variance	Total	Multiple	Alpha if Item	
	Item Deleted	if Item Deleted	Correlation	Correlation	Deleted	
mt1	69.33	42.312	.302	.316	.702	
mt2	68.44	41.134	.460	.437	.687	
mt3	70.07	48.166	157	.376	.751	
mt4	68.81	42.436	.341	.452	.698	
mt5	68.20	42.972	.336	.559	.700	
mt6	68.50	41.783	.408	.550	.693	
mt7	68.19	41.850	.519	.668	.687	
mt8	68.35	42.987	.326	.502	.700	
mt9	68.64	42.436	.360	.390	.697	
mt10	69.29	42.283	.252	.415	.708	
mt11	69.12	43.676	.211	.294	.710	
mt12	67.92	43.379	.390	.404	.698	
mt13	68.88	42.372	.267	.490	.706	
mt14	69.03	45.157	.084	.617	.722	
mt15	68.18	43.416	.336	.230	.700	
mt16	69.02	42.614	.292	.535	.703	
mt17	68.65	42.546	.450	.429	.693	
mt18	68.93	44.002	.198	.355	.711	
mt19	68.62	43.363	.258	.253	.706	
mt20	69.73	41.819	.334	.304	.699	

# c) Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs)

**Reliability Statistics** 

	Cronbach's Alpha	
	Based on	
Cronbach's Alpha	Standardized Items	N of Items
.879	.882	10

**Item-Total Statistics** 

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
ksao1	36.53	22.782	.543	.557	.873
ksao2	36.69	22.128	.630	.586	.866
ksao3	36.59	22.813	.679	.528	.862
ksao4	36.59	23.813	.494	.407	.876
ksao5	36.52	22.682	.653	.547	.863
ksao6	36.64	22.750	.698	.585	.860
ksao7	36.64	23.233	.594	.397	.868
ksao8	36.40	24.457	.549	.395	.871
ksao9	36.38	24.225	.580	.485	.869
ksao10	36.57	23.234	.678	.586	.862

# d) Knowledge Sharing Behavior (KSB)

**Reliability Statistics** 

	<u>*</u>	
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.715	.739	6

**Item-Total Statistics** 

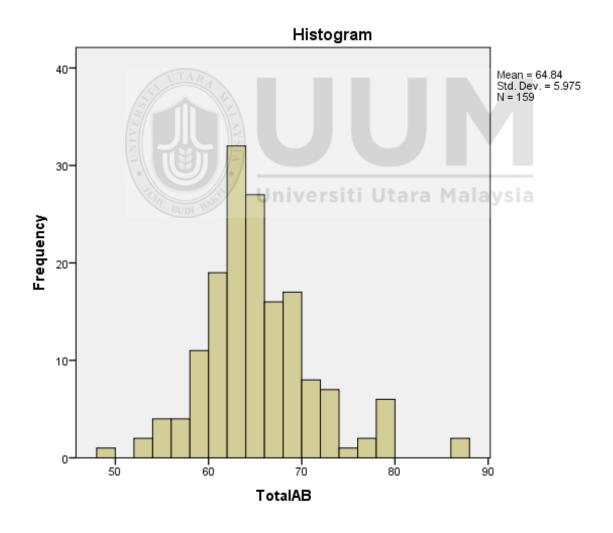
			Corrected Item-	Squared	Cronbach's
	Scale Mean if	Scale Variance	Total	Multiple	Alpha if Item
	Item Deleted	if Item Deleted	Correlation	Correlation	Deleted
ksb1	20.30	5.855	.635	.477	.620
ksb2	21.21	6.296	.256	.083	.759
ksb3	20.37	6.197	.450	.369	.675
ksb6	20.37	6.501	.483	.318	.668
ksb8	20.51	6.239	.559	.365	.646
ksb9	20.60	6.684	.420	.284	.685

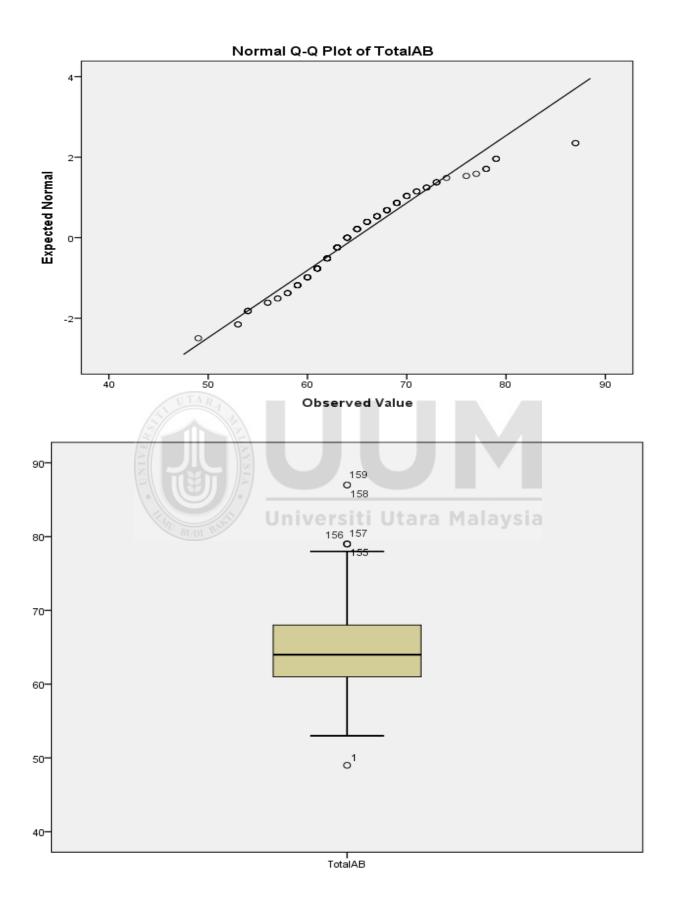
### **APPENDIX E: NORMALITY TEST**

**Tests of Normality** 

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup>			Shapiro-Wilk			
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.	
TotalAB	.118	159	.000	.950	159	.000	

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction





## APPENDIX F: MULTICOLLINEARITY

#### Coefficients a

# Collinearity Statistics

Model		Tolerance	VIF
1	Total AB personality	.784	1.275
	Total Motivation	.656	1.525
	Total Ksao's	.840	1.191
	Total Knowledge Sharing Behavior	.753	1.328

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a. Dependent Variable: Progress of Study

## APPENDIX G: BINARY LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Variables in the Equation

								95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
		В	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	Lower	Upper
Step 1 <sup>a</sup>	TotalAB	024	.033	.554	1	.457	.976	.916	1.040
	TotalMt	033	.033	1.018	1	.313	.968	.908	1.031
	TotalKSA O	.012	.037	.109	1	.742	1.012	.941	1.089
	TotalKSB	.014	.054	.070	1	.791	1.014	.912	1.128
	Constant	3.782	2.417	2.450	iti Y	.118	43.925	sia	

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: TotalAB, TotalMt, TotalKSAO, TotalKSB.