



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**STUDENTS ATTITUDES TOWARDS
NEW ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

HALIMATUL SAADIAH OSMAN

2006103259

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

In improving the quality of education in our country, Ministry of Education has introduced several approaches for our education in order for Malaysia to be on par with other countries. The introduction of the new session does not only focus on the primary education but also focuses on higher education. In achieving the government's desire to make Malaysia on par with other countries, Ministry of Higher Education has introduced several important policies and organized several programs for higher education. In 2011, Ministry of Higher Education, Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin has dissolved and changed academic calendar for IPTA 2011-2012 session. This effort is consistent with government's desire to make Malaysia a hub of education choice, particularly among foreign students at the regional and international.

The improvement of higher education system not only relies on local students but also foreign students. Since of foreign students play as a significant factor that can contribute to improve our education, there is a need to change our academic calendar. The main purpose of the new academic calendar for IPTA is to attract students to learn in our local universities as well as keeping Malaysia from losing its brightest to overseas universities. In the new academic calendar, students will start their learning process in September instead of July. This is because the intake session in our local university is too early compare to the other countries and it is quite hard for foreign students to choose our local universities to further their studies. As reported in The Star on January 3, 2011, Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin said that Malaysia's customary July intake hampered international students' recruitment as many foreign

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