



# Tracing our Alumni: Arina Nabilah Abd. Latif

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Being an accounting graduate can open doors to a multitude of opportunities. Apart from practicing as an accountant or auditor, one can also become an academician. This is the path taken by Arina Nabilah Abd. Latif, who completed her accounting degree at UiTM Machang. Arina was born in August 1995 in Mentakab, Pahang, but spent many years in different states of Malaysia in pursuit of education. She began her early education at SK Kerayong in Bera, Pahang, from 2002 to 2007. Her determination and potential were evident early on, paving the way for her acceptance to Sekolah Tun Fatimah, a premier boarding school in Johor Bahru. There, from 2008 to 2012, she honed not only her academic prowess but also the discipline and leadership skills that helped her shaped the future. Being young and away from family, Arina quickly learned to become independent person.



After her secondary education, Arina pursued her Diploma in Accountancy at UiTM Tapah, Perak from June 2013 to October 2015, marking the start of her specialization in accounting. She then advanced to Bachelor in Accountancy (Hons.) at UiTM Machang, Kelantan and completed her studies in October 2019. Her academic ambition did not stop there as she realised that she was very much interested in pursuing a career in education. In March 2020, Arina embarked on her Master in Strategic Management Accounting journey at UiTM Shah Alam. This is a challenging time as it was the time when COVID-19 had taken the world by storm. Students had to learn new skills and adapt to the new way of learning – Open and Distance Learning. Being a calm and persevering person, Arina successfully completed her master's degree in July 2021. Notably, she also earned her Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA, UK) certification in conjunction with her master's program, demonstrating her exceptional dedication to professional development.





Last day of final exam for AC220 (2019) with the girls.



All in day's work – creating memories with students



Arina has had a fair share of working experience too. She worked as a tax junior at Cheng & Co. (Pahang Branch) immediately after completing her degree and maintained her position even while studying for her master's degree. She also had a short stint working as a research assistant at UiTM Shah Alam from June until August 2021 to sharpen her research skills. Her dreams finally came true when she secured the post of an accounting lecturer at UiTM Jengka, Pahang in January 2023.

Being a lecturer at such a young age, people often consider her to be lucky. But Arina believes that it is more than just luck. It is not easy to land a job as a lecturer, especially when one has just graduated. She recalled attending multiple interviews in three different UiTM campuses around the same dates, where she had to travel back and forth to Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan to attend all interviews. She believes that Allah is always the best planner, as she finally got the opportunity to work in her state of birth, Pahang just as the saying goes – *seperti sirih pulang ke gagang*.

Arina has a lot of fond memories in Machang. She loves the beautiful landscape with lots of must-take-photo spots and the jogging, brisk walking and bicycle riding sessions with friends every weekend. She still craves for Burger Best – which for her is the best burger ever, clearly visualizing its location – “in front of the laundry outlet, near 7-Eleven”. The bond created with classmates is also something that would be cherished forever as they would celebrate birthdays and have all kind of reasons for *makan-makan* sessions in class. Honouring the saying *di mana bumi dipijak, di situ langit dijunjung*, Arina also made it a point to learn Kelantanese slang from her classmates and would use it whenever she went shopping, hoping for cheaper price.

Arina truly believes that everything happens for a reason. As a lecturer, she now advises her students to always trust Allah's decision regardless of the obstacles and setbacks faced as well as keep making du'a and be patient. She also hopes that the younger generation would have the passion towards learning –

**“learn at least one new thing each day and you'll grow wiser, stronger and more confident”.**