



**FACULTY OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**FACTORS INFLUENCING STUDENTS' INTEREST  
TO PURSUE MUSIC TEACHING AS A CAREER CHOICE**

**MUF655**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors influencing students' interest to pursue music teaching as a career choice among Music Education students in the Faculty of Music, UiTM Shah Alam. Specifically, this study looked at two (2) elements: external factors influencing students' interest to pursue music teaching as a career choice and internal factors influencing students' interest to pursue music teaching as a career choice. The sample comprised of 73 students from one program in the Faculty of Music, UiTM Shah Alam which was the Music Education (MU220) program. Subjects were asked to complete a survey and rate factors influences on the selection of the students in pursuing music teaching as their career choice. Survey results indicated that for external factors 54.8% of the students said that their parents give them moral support to study at UiTM while for internal factors 74.0% of the students said that they really enjoy music.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background of the Study**

Career selection is one of the important choices students will make in their life in the effort to determine their future plans and goals. This decision will impact them throughout their lives. Work is one of our biggest dedications. Every student carries the different history of their past and this determines how they look up to the world.

Secondary school students who are finishing school are faced with the prospect of choosing a course to pursue for further study at tertiary level and there are a variety of choices for their future. However some students will continue into higher education, while others may directly enter the workforce. For a student who wants to enter college, they may or may not have a realistic reason for choosing a certain course to major in. Some reasons may be due to internal factors while others may have reasons that are due to external influencing factors, such as parents, teachers or other life experiences. Bright (2006) describes this “decision-making process as complex and involving many factors”.

Much research has been conducted on the reasons why people consider teaching as a career. Previous research findings have reported that “those factors include the desire to nurture or make a difference” (Hoffman, 2002), “an interest to work with children” (Thornton & Reid, 2001), “a desire to continue one’s education” (Richardson, 2005), an intention to gain fulfilling employment (Thornton & Reid, 2001), an inclination to impart knowledge (Richardson & Watt, 2005), and for some, the intention to obtain employment that allows for a schedule that is compatible for raising a family (Richardson & Watt, 2005; Thornton & Reid, 2001). Reasons given by those considering music teaching have included a love of music (Bergee, Coffman,