

**FOLLOWING THE ACADEMIC PROGRESS
OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED THE PRE-SCIENCE COURSE IN
MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SARAWAK**

**PREPARED BY:
IRIS SYAWE SEH LING
ONG MOOI LIAN
KHADIJAH HJ KHALID**

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Head
Bureau of Research and Consultancy (BRC)
MARA Institute of Technology
40450 Shah Alam

Dear Associate Professor,

**FINAL RESEARCH REPORT "FOLLOWING THE ACADEMIC PROGRESS
OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PRE-
SCIENCE COURSE IN MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SARAWAK"**

With reference to the above, enclosed are three copies of the Final Research Report entitled, "Following the Academic Progress of Students who have Successfully completed the Pre-Science Course in MARA Institute of Technology Sarawak" by a group of researchers in ITM Sarawak.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



IRIS SYAWE SEH LING
Leader
Research Project

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ABSTRACT

This study on Pre-Science graduates of ITM Sarawak was conducted to trace the performance of the Pre-Science graduates in their respective Diploma courses at other ITM campuses. The main objectives of the study were to examine the socio-economic background of the Pre-Science graduates, to determine the success rate of the Pre-Science graduates in completing their respective Diploma courses and the effectiveness of the Pre-Science course in providing a second chance to the SPM low achievers. A questionnaire survey was conducted where a total of 113 Pre-Science graduates of ITM Sarawak in ITM Shah Alam, Perlis, Pahang, Perak and Sarawak responded. Examination results were obtained from ITM. Inferences were made based on the results from relevant correlation analysis carried out on the CGPA of the graduates at Pre-Science and Diploma levels, and their correlations to the individual SPM subject performance. The findings showed that the Pre-Science graduates did not do well at SPM level, especially in Mathematics and Pure Science subjects. The Part 1 Pre-Science graduates tend to perform better at Diploma level than the Part 2 Pre-Science graduates. However, there were excellent Pre-Science graduates who failed at Diploma level. Generally, the increasing number of Pre-Science graduates who were promoted to Diploma level was an achievement for ITM Sarawak. Besides, a greater achievement for ITM Sarawak was shown in this study where the success rate of these graduates in completing their respective Diploma courses was found to be very high.

Chapter 1

Introduction

In the past, MARA Institute of Technology (ITM) Sarawak usually recommends students from Sarawak for the Pre-Science course offered in certain campuses in Peninsular Malaysia. However, in each semester, only a handful of them were selected due to competition with students from other states in Peninsular Malaysia. Hence, the main objective in starting the Pre-Science course in ITM Sarawak is to provide an opportunity for Sarawak students to pursue science courses. This is because the shortage of skilled science and technical manpower is becoming even more crucial and alarming in the wake of rapid development of Sarawak State which has always been the concern of the State Government.

The Pre-Science course started in ITM Sarawak in July 1992 with the initial intake of 55 students, one permanent Physics lecturer and one temporary Chemistry lecturer. There were no laboratory facilities in ITM Sarawak campus in Semariang at that time. So the students had to do their practical classes in Kolej Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji (DPAH) Abdillah. Although there were problems and obstacles along the way, out of the first batch of students, 16 (29.1%) were promoted directly to Diploma courses after completing Semester One of Pre-Science course while 25 (45.5%) were promoted after completing Semester Two.