

# Dream come true for MyBrain recipients

PUTRAJAYA — The MyPhD scholarship was a huge weight off Muhammad Azwan Abdul Rahman's shoulders as he pursues his PhD in International Political Economy.

The 26-year-old from Manjung in Perak had been facing financial difficulties in continuing the PhD at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

"I am very glad because prior to this, I had financial difficulties and this scholarship has provided me relief," he said after receiving his scholarship at a function here yesterday.

Azwan is currently in his second year in UKM and is due to graduate in 2018.

MyPhD is one of three categories of scholarships under the Higher Education Ministry's MyBrain15 programme. The maximum allocation for MyPhD is RM24,000.

Azwan, who was accompanied by his wife whom he met in the same university, commended the ministry's initiative to provide holistic education for all.

"I believe this effort by the government has to continue as it is an effective way for the government to show transparency and accountability, especially in the education sector.

"I say this because the country's achievement is not limited to infrastructure or development but also includes the nurturing of individuals through universal education opportunities," he added.

On what he would do after graduating, Azwan said he would probably work as a lecturer.

"If the lecturer job doesn't work out, I would take a researcher role in the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies," he said.

He added that he felt compelled to share his knowledge with others and that one must not be selfish in that matter.

"It is my dream and my way of contributing to the benefit of others," he said.

Another MyBrain15 recipient, Mohd Azham Mohd Alwi, 30, echoed Azwan's sentiments in that he felt grateful that

the government had provided him the opportunity to further his studies.

Azham, from Taiping, Perak, is currently pursuing his master's degree in Universiti Malaya (UM), majoring in Engineering Science (Mechanical) under the MyMaster scholarship programme.

"My mother came all the way from our hometown to witness this event. I am very happy for myself and for her to be here," he said.

Azham also specialises in the study and research of nuclear reactors and is presently in the second semester of the first year of his two-year course. He attributed his interest in the field after consulting his professors in Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Institute of Aviation Technology, where he was pursuing a degree in aviation engineering.

"My lecturers saw my enthusiasm and interest in nuclear reactors, and they told me that I should go for it," he said.

On advice for future postgraduate students, he said they should not be afraid of aiming higher as long as they are confident in their decision.

The maximum allocation under the MyMaster scholarship is RM10,000.



The programme allows the government to show transparency, says Azwan.



Azham encourages future postgraduates not to be afraid to aim higher.