

CLASS REP

Change your life in 12 minutes

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FATIN Areena Azlan's love for the oil and gas industry started at a very young age. She remembers her mum telling her of her friends' successful careers in the sector.

Even at that age, she was drawn to the lucrative field and the chance to work with multinational companies. Most importantly, she is ready to challenge herself to be one of the very few women in the male-dominated environment.

But Fatin Areena, 24, was not interested in pursuing an engineering course per se as she is more inclined towards the business of oil and gas. She enrolled in a degree programme in oil and gas management at UCSI University, the only tertiary institution in the country which offers such a course.

One of three siblings, the Sekolah Tun Fatimah, Johor Baru student was raised to be independent and hardworking, and thrives in a competitive environment.

Life at the university opened her eyes to a new perspective. "I was very shy and was afraid to speak up. But in my foundation year, I realised university life is more than just studies. After four years at university, I knew that I would need a return on it. I knew I needed to experiment, give things a try and find my purpose in life while moving closer to the Creator," she said.

She started getting involved in extra-curricular and off-campus activities. "I was co-founder of the Liberal Arts Club on UCSI Terengganu campus. I worked with Yemeni friend Shaima Abdulkarim to establish this club from scratch.

"During my foundation year, I joined a four-month exchange programme on the Sarawak Campus in my last semester. I returned to Terengganu with a purpose as the experience boosted my confidence," she added.

Later in the first semester of the degree programme, Fatin Areena decided to run for the Student Board president post. "I won the election and served as president for a year. Student Board members seek to bring about a win-win solution for both the university management and students alike. We organised events such as Bridging the Gap, International Cultural Night and Sports Tournament."

Fatin Areena has also acted as emcee at the Inaugural UCSI Scholars' Lecture, volunteered at the Twins of Faith under Mercy Mission, and

participated in the Youth Leadership Academy by McKinsey & Company and Shell 360 Ideas as well as TedxKL 2016 and TedxYouthKL 2015.

In 2015, she represented Malaysia in a brain-child programme initiated by former United States President Barack Obama. She was placed at the University of Montana, Missoula under the Academic Fellows: Institute of Environmental Issues for Fall intake (August to November 2015). There were 20 fellows who came from eight Southeast Asian countries — Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines.

"It has always been my dream to visit the most powerful country in the world. I had the privilege to represent Malaysia for five weeks in the US, exploring environmental issues there.

"I learnt about climate change, food security, sustainable development and water and natural resource management.

"At a forum to share our own country's environmental issues, I touched on topics such as the haze, frequent floods and deforestation. We learn from the best practices of Asean countries and the US."

Fatin Areena spent three weeks at the University of Montana, five days in New Orleans and four days in Washington DC.

Visiting displaced Hurricane Katrina survivors in New Orleans was the highlight of her trip. "It made an impact as we realised the importance of the role of the local and federal governments after the disaster."

Her other international achievements include representing Malaysia in the Youth Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Power of Entrepreneurship Workshop in Vietnam, Study of the US Institutes/YSEALI Alumni Environmental Workshop International Student Energy Summit in Cambodia and International Summit Energy Summit in Bali. She was also part of the Fifth Council of International Council of Malaysian Scholars and Associates.

The entrepreneurship workshop in Ho Chi Minh taught participants to start their own business using a model and pitch ideas to judges.

"My idea was to create an app to keep track of the real time of the Malaysian transportation system. I did not win the pitch but I learnt the skillsets of an entrepreneur."

On the academic front, Fatin Areena wrote a research paper for publication after her gradua-

tion. With the help of her mentor Safarina Abdul Ghani, she successfully presented the paper, *The Effect of Tax Incentive and Political Stability on Marginal Oil Field Investment Climate*, at the International Postgraduate Conference on Business, Engineering and Technology 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The research paper was published in the *Australian Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences*.

Currently, Fatin Areena is working at Shell Business Operations in Cyberjaya in a Lubricants Customer Operations Specialist-Deal Management role.

"My role is to support stakeholders in contract management, pricing and account set-up for customers. Basically, it requires meeting end-to-end delivery for customers."

Prior to her current employment, Fatin Areena had no working experience besides internships at Newfield Exploration International (four months) and Petronas Lubricants International (three

months) in her final year.

Author and motivational speaker Jullien Gordon's TEDxMidwest Talk in 2012 titled *How to Graduate College with a Job You Love and Less Debt* inspired her education journey.

"He has changed my views on how to gain the ultimate return on investment in my education. School-leavers and graduates will do well to spend 12 minutes to watch this talk."

She advises undergraduates to create their own routes of success, do not follow the mainstream and invest in themselves because "a degree is just a degree".

"The important thing is YOU — you can make a difference. Education is an investment in your dream, not a guarantee of a job."

And for those entering the workforce, she advised: "Resilience is key, be open to learn and persevere till the end."

FATIN AREENA AZLAN

AGE
24

EDUCATION

Oil and Management
Degree from UCSI
University

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Represented Malaysia at former US President Barack Obama's Youth Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative in Montana, the United States.
- One of 10 Asean young leaders selected to discuss energy initiatives at the YSEALI Generation Workshop in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.



Fatin Areena Azlan making friends with schoolchildren while attending the YSEALI programme on environmental issues.



Fatin Areena Azlan on her graduation day at UCSI University.