

## POSTGRADUATE OPTIONS

# AeU helps the passionate student

**A**SIA e University (AeU) graduate Dr Jayamalar Jaganathan, who received her PhD in business administration, had to put her passion of pursuing a doctorate on hold after graduating with a Masters from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2001.

In July 2008, the former senior executive officer at the Tourism Ministry was promoted to become an assistant director of community development at the Selangor Welfare Department, where she had to work with 52 non-governmental organisations (NGO).

But even though she has a busy work schedule and family commitments, life-long learning has always been her passion. So, she decided to enrol in a PhD programme at AeU in 2011.

Thanks to the university's flexible learning mode, she had the opportunity to attend many workshops and colloquiums organised on weekends to enhance her competency

in research analysis.

In addition, the round-the-clock access to online learning materials and discussions with virtual coursemates, through AeU's integration of technology and innovation, had made her eLearning experience more enriching.

AeU also considers its students' needs in detail.

Free meals are provided for those attending weekend workshops and colloquiums. The campus is also strategically located in Kuala Lumpur.

"To boost my morale, AeU's School of Graduate Studies dean Professor Dr Siow Heng Loke and academic facilitator Dr Oo Yu Hock were always available to provide encouragement. Other dedicated employees, like Swa Lee Lee and Siti Habsah, were equally helpful."

Jayamalar said the greatest source of strength came from her family members, particularly her husband Ganesan Somasundram, who inspired her to

persevere in chasing her dreams.

The high expectations of the NGOs that she worked with had influenced her to select a relevant research topic titled: "Recipient welfare empowerment and sustainable productive welfare in the state of Selangor".

Her research gauged the effectiveness of empowerment programmes in eradicating poverty among welfare recipients.

Initially, she encountered many difficulties, but she sought the wisdom of her lecturers. She expressed gratitude to her supervisor, Associate Professor Dr Asnarul Khadi Abu Samah, for his support.

He had advised Jayamalar to improve her academic writing and critical analysis skills.

So, she attended additional workshops on multivariate analysis to enhance her knowledge.

"Reflecting on my trials and tribu-



*Asia e University PhD graduate Dr Jayamalar Jaganathan says she has become a self-regulated learner through effective time management and consistent planning.*

lations, I realised I was professionally engaged in the conception of new knowledge, processes, methods and system in the management of social work," she said.

"I have become a self-regulated learner through effective time management and consistency in planning my dissertation.

"I also published an article in an international journal last year and participated in AeU's first postgraduate conference the same year."

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