



# NUR AFIQAH BINTI ISMAIL

Australia Malaysia Virtual PhD  
Internship Program - 2025

Framework for Projection  
Models Factors of Service  
Sectors for Commercial and  
Tourism on Impact of Sarawak  
Pan Borneo Highway

## Thesis Outline

The study develops a service sector projection model framework for Sarawak Pan Borneo Highway (Telok Melano–Sri Aman) using Fuzzy Delphi with 25 experts, aiming to guide urban planning and assess future highway impacts on commercial and tourism growth.

## Supervisors & Institutions

**Prof. TPr Dr. Hairul Nizam bin Ismail**  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

**Dr. Emerson M. Sanchez**  
Australian National University (ANU)

## Future Goals

The internship has made me rethink my post-PhD plans. I'm now more open to exploring alternative career options where I can apply my research in meaningful and practical ways. I have dreams to work internationally.

## AMVPIP Experience

I initially expected the internship to be more task-focused with structured guidance, but in reality it required a lot of self-directed work and independent problem-solving. This experience pushed me to take initiative and to be more proactive. Beyond gaining technical knowledge and personal development, the true highlight was meeting so many inspiring people, alumni and friends.

## Key Takeaways

- 1) Enhanced communication and presentation skills
- 2) Broader academic and industry exposure
- 3) Enhanced research and collaboration skills