



# SYASYILA KALAIVANAN

Australia Malaysia Virtual PhD  
Internship Program - 2025

The Influence of Cognitive  
Factors on Narcotics Crime  
Involvement Among Male  
Inmates in Malaysia

## Thesis Outline

Research on Malaysian men involved in narcotics crime investigating cognitive distortions, decision-making, executive functions and cognitive flexibility to uncover mechanisms of offending and shape interventions for rehab and crime prevention.

## Supervisors & Institutions

**Prof. Dr. Mohammad  
Rahim Kamaluddin**  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

**Dr. Ashlee Curtis**  
Deakin University

## Future Goals

My goal is to pursue research collaborations in my field, continuing to build on networks established through AMVPIP, including potential projects with my host supervisor.

## AMVPIP Experience

I had the privilege of being mentored by Dr. Ashlee Curtis, who guided me in my doctoral research and helped me view my work from a different lens with an international perspective. Working with her inspired me to integrate broader perspectives into my research. The workshops led by the Program Manager provided valuable insights and sparked engaging conversations among scholars, broadening my thinking and inspiring new ideas for future research directions.

## Key Takeaways

- 1) International mentorship broadened my research understanding within my area of interest.
- 2) Building academic networks and collaboration is essential for sharpening research framing.
- 3) Open discourse with peers strengthened my research ideas.