

**IMPACT PRACTICAL TRAINING IN PERCEPTION OF FINAL YEAR  
STUDENT TOWARD WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY**

**MD RASYIDI BIN ABDULLAH**

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Universiti Teknologi Malaysia**

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the impact of practical training in perceptions of final year student on tourism as career. It aims to understand the level of perception among polytechnic tourism and hospitality management undergraduate perceive tourism as a career option. The literature suggests that the issue of perceptions of tourism as a career be investigated from the few variables. An analytical framework has been developed in this thesis to illustrate the relationships of three stage; before, during and post practical training on how it influence perceive tourism as a graduate career in Malaysia. The survey was conducted among 221 samples from the final year student majoring in hotel management, catering and tourism management who have completed 22 weeks of practical training in the industry. Quantitative data were analyzed with SPSS to explore the variables related in this study. This thesis finds that students have a generally positive perception of tourism as a career. Also found in this study the effect of practical training to students' significantly positive effect on tourism as a career choice upon graduation. Variables such as level of educational background, a willingness to choose a tourism program, the roles of families and friends working in tourism influence on students' career-related decisions, while the condition of industry, colleague and manager do not have a significant influence.

## ABSTRAK

Tesis ini mengkaji kesan latihan praktikal dalam persepsi mahasiswa tahun akhir terhadap kerjaya dalam industri pelancongan. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk memahami tahap persepsi pelajar politeknik dalam jurusan pengurusan pelancongan dan perhotelan menganggap industri pelancongan sebagai pilihan kerjaya. Daripada rujukan literatur di mana ia menunjukkan bahawa masalah persepsi industri pelancongan sebagai karier dikalangan penuntut diselidiki dari beberapa pembolehubah. Rangka analisis telah dirujuk dan dibangunkan dalam tesis ini untuk menggambarkan hubungan dari tiga tahap, sebelum, semasa dan selepas latihan praktikal, bagaimana ia mempengaruhi pandangan sektor pelancongan sebagai kerjaya bagi lulusan politeknik di Malaysia. Kaji selidik telah dilakukan dikalangan sampel 221 mahasiswa tahun akhir daripada jurusan pengurusan hotel catering dan pengurusan pelancongan yang telah menamatkan 22 minggu latihan praktikal di industri. Data kuantitatif dianalisis dengan SPSS bagi mendapatkan keputusan berkaitan pembolehubah yang berkaitan dalam kajian ini. Tesis ini mendapati bahawa pelajar mempunyai persepsi yang umumnya positif pelancongan sebagai kerjaya. Juga dalam tesis ini mendapati bahawa kesan latihan praktikal kepada mahasiswa secara signifikan positif terhadap pemilihan pelancongan sebagai kerjaya setelah tamat pengajian. Pembolehubah seperti tahap latar belakang pendidikan, kemahuan untuk memilih program pelanconga, peranan keluarga dan teman-teman terdekat yang bekerja di dalam sektor pelancongan mempunyai pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap keputusan pelajar yang berkaitan dengan karier, sementara keadaan industri, rakan sekerja dan pengurus adalah sebaliknya.