What attracted you to studying at Royal Holloway?
Royal Holloway was my first choice because I wanted to be supervised by Professor Fred Piper and his team of renowned lecturers.

I chose the ISG course in anticipation of an explosion in digital technology and the Internet. Also, the course was related to the work I was doing. At the time I was working with the Ministry of Defence in Malaysia.

I found my studies to be challenging yet exciting and inspiring. My Royal Holloway experience was wonderful and memorable to me and my family.

What is your fondest memory of Royal Holloway?
It was great to have graduated with distinction. But my fondest memories of Royal Holloway also include the warm hospitality of the lecturers, staff, colleagues and communities in Egham.

What is the most important thing that Royal Holloway taught you?
That I need to take control of my own destiny since others can only help me to achieve that. Be open-minded and analytical at the same time.

What has been your career path since graduating?
Since graduation, my career path has been exciting and honourable. On many occasions, opportunities have come along at the right time and place. More importantly, the trust placed in me by many of my associates has been at an all time high since I graduated from Royal Holloway.

What do you do now in your everyday job?
I am the CEO of CyberSecurity Malaysia, an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. My organization provides technical services to the government, private sectors and Internet users indiscriminately, in the areas of information security, privacy and public safety.

What exciting projects have you been working on?
The most exciting project I have worked on was the establishment of CyberSecurity Malaysia from scratch. We then created a public helpline service called ‘Cyber999’, which provides assistance to victims of Internet abuse.

Other big projects include:
- Qualifying Malaysia as the Producing Member country under the International Mutual Recognition Agreement of the Common Criteria, enabling Malaysia to evaluate and certify security functionalities of ICT systems.
- The creation of digital forensics services for the law enforcement agencies of Malaysia, arising from steep increases in cybercrime.
- National projects, such as the National Trustmark.
What challenges have you come across in your role?
There have been many challenges and learning experiences such as building and maintaining the trust of stakeholders and customers, and also at the same time keeping morale and standards high on the part of my officers. Convincing customers of the need to manage cyber security and safety in accordance with best practices has not been easy.

Have you had any international experience?
Yes. I have been appointed as an advisory and board member at the national, regional and international levels. I have also received various awards, namely:

- at the international level, I have been honoured with the Harold F. Tipton Lifetime Achievement Award 2010 from (ISC)², USA;
- at the regional level, I received the ASEAN Chief Security Officer (CSO) 2010 Award, and the (ISC)² Asia Pacific Information Security Leadership Achievement (ISLA) 2009 Award.
- and at the National level, I was conferred the ICT Leadership 2010 Award by the National Association of Computer Industry, Malaysia.

What are your aspirations?
To make cyberspace a safe and civilised place for everyone around the world, and a tool of peace and prosperity.

Why do you enjoy working for CyberSecurity?
I have the opportunity to serve my people, country and Internet users around the world. Also, the job satisfaction and salary is enough for me and my family members to enjoy a beautiful life.

What advice would you give students to help them with their career?
Be positive and learn from the best. Don’t be shy to ask stupid questions. And learn fast.