

# The Final Sprint: PhD Candidates Conquer PGRES 2026

**Ong Sim Ying, Dept. SE FCSIT, UM**  
**Nur Nadia Arshad, FCSIT UM**

The journey toward a doctorate is a marathon of intellectual rigor, and on **17 April 2026**, several dedicated researchers reached their final sprint. Held at the **Hotel Armada Petaling Jaya**, the **Postgraduate Research Seminar (PGRES) event** served as the official stage for PhD candidates to present their **Thesis Seminars**. This event was specifically designed for those who have successfully crossed the hurdle of their Candidature Defense (CD) and are now polishing their final thesis for submission.

The seminar adopted a **hybrid mode**, seamlessly connecting on-site presenters with a global audience of peers and mentors. This format ensured that geographical barriers did not hinder the exchange of high-level academic discourse.

**"Children learn by exploring new things through play"**

While our PhD candidates explore through rigorous data, the spirit of discovery remains the same.

## Closing the Final Chapter

We congratulate all the participants for their tenacity and look forward to their upcoming contributions to the global body of knowledge.

Beyond the insightful and formal presentations in the seminar, the PGRES 2026 event, emphasized the importance of a supportive and conducive research ecosystem. By bringing together students from various disciplines, the seminar fostered meaningful cross-pollination of ideas often absent in the isolated stages of late-stage thesis writing. It also created a collaborative space for feedback, networking, and intellectual exchange of ideas, strengthening both academic and professional growth. As these candidates transition from "student" to "colleague," the confidence gained from defending their work in such a professional setting is most invaluable and hope they will continue to shape future contributions to academia and industry.



PhD candidates maintaining full focus while awaiting their turn to present.