

Saiful Nizam Tajuddin, PhD (Industrial Chemistry) candidate

Saiful Nizam Tajuddin, 32 years old, was born in Kuantan. The son of a Navy man, Saiful Nizam himself spent the latter part of his schooling years at the Royal Military College.

While enrolled as an undergraduate and MSc in Industrial Chemistry at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Saiful Nizam developed laboratory skills, penchant for deductive reasoning and innovativeness under the tutelage of Prof Asri Nawi. He then completed a teaching diploma and taught at the Matriculation College in Gambang before joining the University College of Engineering & Technology Malaysia (now UMP).



Saiful Nizam is presently Lecturer in Chemistry at UMP on Ph.D study leave completing a thesis on using novel organic analytical instrumentation and techniques to identify new chemical compounds or revise older structure assignments of constituents of the fragrant fraction of *Aquilaria malaccensis* (gaharu) under the supervision of Prof Mashitah Mohd Yusoff.

"I decided upon a career in chemistry because of the great job prospect and greater still is the opportunity to carry out problem-solving regularly in chemical research," he concluded during our interview.

"I decided upon a career in chemistry because of the great job prospect and greater still is the opportunity to carry out problem-solving regularly in chemical research," he concluded during our interview.

Saiful Nizam juggles his study with raising a young family. Still very much a resident of Kuantan, he is married to Nor Fazidah Awang, an M.D. They have two girls (Ainul Mardhiah and Anis Solehah) and a boy (Amir Huzaifah).