

## **THE EFFECT OF ENTRY QUALIFICATION ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA STUDENTS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN SIJIL PELAJARAN MALAYSIA OR MALAYSIAN EXAMINATION CERTIFICATE (GCE O LEVEL EQUIVALENCE) AND CERTIFICATE ENTRY QUALIFICATION.**

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### **Abstract**

A comparative study on the effect of entry qualification toward the achievement of academic performance was done for diploma students at University Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Industrial Technology. Data on entry qualification and academic performance was obtained from student records for September 2008 until January 2011. The data was analyzed using SPSS for descriptive statistic and t test analysis was also performed to compare performance to entry qualification. There appear to be a significant difference between the two entry qualifications. It is recommended that the university adopt special mentoring or training to students with certificate entry qualification to equip them with necessary skills and knowledge for better academic performance.

**Keywords:** Entry qualification, academic performance, CGPA, SPM, Diploma programs