

# Analysis of the Most Popular Study Programs at Haji University of North Sumatra Using the Decision Tree Algorithm

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Article Info	ABSTRACT					
Keywords:	This study aims to analyze the clustering of the most popular study					
Decision Tree,	programs at Universitas Haji Sumatera Utara using the Decision Tree					
Study Program Clustering,	algorithm. This algorithm successfully grouped the study programs					
Applicants,	based on the applicants' interests, considering gender as the primary					
Gender,	variable. The analysis results show that the most popular study					
Classification.	programs among women are the Bachelor of Midwifery and the Bachelor					
	of Nursing programs, which each have a very high number of female					
	applicants. On the other hand, programs such as the Regular Bachelor					
	of Law and Management show a more balanced interest between					
	women and men, with Management having almost equal gender					
	proportions. This classification model performed very well in detecting					
	female applicants, with a high recall (95.51%) and good precisio					
	(79.84%). However, the model struggles to identify male applicants					
	with low recall (18.40%) and suboptimal precision (54.76%). This					
	indicates that the model is more sensitive to predicting female					
	applicants. Therefore, it is recommended that Universitas Haji Suma					
	Utara enhance more inclusive and balanced marketing strategies, as well					
	as optimize both regular and non-regular registration pathways to					
	attract a more even interest from both genders, in order to achieve					
gender equality across various study programs and impro						
	efficiency of student admissions.					
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# INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of technology has brought significant changes across various sectors, including education, requiring higher education institutions to continuously adapt and enhance the quality of learning and services for students. In this context, one crucial aspect is a deep understanding of students' preferences in choosing academic programs [1]. The selection of a study program by prospective students is a key factor influencing their success throughout the educational process. Preferred study programs typically offer high-quality education with curricula aligned with contemporary demands, supported by modern facilities and competent faculty members. Moreover, these programs promise bright career prospects, making them a strategic choice for students aiming for professional success. Therefore, understanding and meeting students' preferences not only contribute to their academic success but also support the overall development of higher education institutions [2], [3], [4].



Haji Sumatera Utara University is one of the most sought-after higher education institutions in the field of health sciences in North Sumatra. This is due to the university's strong reputation for offering high-quality academic programs and promising career opportunities for its graduates. Consequently, this study focuses on analyzing the clustering of the most preferred academic programs at Haji Sumatera Utara University to understand student preferences and support the future development of better academic programs.

This study aims to analyze and identify the most favored academic programs among students by considering several key indicators. These indicators include the employability rate of graduates in the job market, the interest of prospective students, and recommendations from relevant institutions as a benchmark for program quality. To conduct this analysis, a classification method using the decision tree algorithm is employed, which is known for its effectiveness in categorizing data based on predefined criteria. This algorithm provides well-structured and easily interpretable results, facilitating the decision-making process for developing academic programs that align with students' needs and preferences [5]. Data mining is the process of exploring, analyzing, and extracting valuable patterns or information from large and complex datasets.

This process involves the use of statistical techniques, machine learning algorithms, artificial intelligence, and other methods to uncover hidden relationships, patterns, or trends in data that may not be immediately apparent [6], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11]. The decision tree algorithm is one of the popular and effective machine learning methods for data classification analysis. It offers advantages such as high classification accuracy and a simple model structure, making it a powerful tool for data-driven decision-making [12], [13].

The study conducted by Asmaul Husnah Nasrullah in 2021, titled "Implementation of the Decision Tree Algorithm for Best-Selling Product Classification," stated that the C4.5 decision tree algorithm proved to be accurate in classifying best-selling products, achieving an accuracy of 90% and an AUC of 0.709, indicating good performance on private data [14] A subsequent study by M. Riski Qisthiano et al. in 2023, titled "Application of the Decision Tree Algorithm in Predicting Student Graduation Classification," demonstrated that the decision tree model achieved an accuracy of 87.93% [15].

Other studies conducted by Ifani Hariyanti et al., Laila Qadrini et al., and Nanda Tri Hastuti et al. showed that the decision tree algorithm is more effective than other methods in various application fields. In their research, the algorithm was used to analyze product sales, classify poverty levels, and predict the impact of social media and sleep patterns on students' academic performance. The results indicated that the decision tree outperformed other methods, such as Adaboost and Naïve Bayes, in these tasks [16], [17], [18].

This study aims to analyze and identify the most preferred academic programs among students using the decision tree algorithm while considering gender factors. The findings are expected to assist the management of Haji Sumatera Utara University in formulating recruitment strategies and providing appropriate recommendations for prospective students in selecting study programs that align with their interests and abilities.



# METHODS

# **Research Stages**

The following are the research stages conducted:



Fifure 1. Research Stages

# 1. Problem Identification

The issue in grouping the most preferred academic programs at Haji Sumatera Utara University based on student enrollment across different admission waves arises due to several factors. First, there is an imbalance in the number of applicants per wave and differences in faculty preferences between waves. Additionally, external factors such as cost, gender, and scholarships influence study program choices. Variations in the selection process across waves, as well as inconsistencies or incomplete enrollment data, further complicate accurate classification. Therefore, an in-depth data analysis is required to identify enrollment patterns and formulate a more effective admission strategy.

2. Literature Review

The researcher will gather theoretical references from various academic sources and relevant journals to support this study, focusing on the decision tree algorithm, classification, and clustering. The selected literature will help the researcher understand the fundamental theories of data analysis, particularly in identifying classification patterns in student data, such as study program and faculty selection trends. By studying these theories, the researcher can strengthen the theoretical foundation of the study, build an appropriate analytical framework, and compare previous research findings to gain deeper insights. This approach is expected to provide effective and



applicable solutions for Haji Sumatera Utara University, such as improving promotional strategies and supporting more data-driven decision-making.

3. Data Collection

Student enrollment data from Wave 1 (February) to Wave 6 (October) 2024 will be collected as the primary sample for analysis. Data collection will be conducted through direct interviews with the new student admission committee and by extracting data from available databases. Subsequently, data preprocessing will be performed, including removing duplicates, handling missing values, and normalization, to ensure the dataset is clean and ready for analysis, ultimately generating valid patterns

4. Data Analysis

The data processing steps for grouping the most preferred faculties using the decision tree method begin with collecting new student data from Wave 1 (February) to Wave 6 (October) 2024, which includes information such as admission wave, faculty, gender, and study program. The data is then cleaned to remove duplicates, address missing values, and ensure consistency. Relevant features, such as admission wave, faculty, gender, and study program, are identified, with faculty serving as the target variable for classification. The dataset is then split into a training set (80%) and a test set (20%) to train and evaluate the model. The decision tree model is trained using the training set, adjusting parameters such as tree depth and splitting criteria, and evaluated using metrics like accuracy and mean squared error (MSE) on the test set. The decision tree results are analyzed to identify patterns in faculty selection, and strategic recommendations, such as marketing approaches or resource planning, are formulated based on the findings. The model is then applied for faculty prediction in future admission waves and is periodically monitored to update the model with new data.

#### **Decision Tree**

A decision tree is a simple yet effective classification algorithm. One of its main advantages is that it provides classification rules that are easily interpretable by humans. However, decision trees also have some drawbacks, one of which is the need to sort all numerical attributes to determine the optimal split point for a node. This can be computationally expensive in terms of processing time and memory usage, especially when training a decision tree on large datasets.

Steps of the C4.5 Algorithm:

1. Select an Attribute as the Root

Choose an attribute as the root of the decision tree by calculating the gain value for each attribute. The attribute with the highest gain value will be selected as the root node.

2. Create Branches for Each Attribute Value

Once the root attribute is determined, create branches for each possible value of that attribute.

- 3. Partition Data into Branches Based on Attribute Values
  - Divide the dataset into branches based on the corresponding attribute values.
- 4. Repeat the Process for Each Branch

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Repeat the previous steps for each branch until all data within a branch belong to the same class.

Steps in Building a Decision Tree Using the C4.5 Algorithm:

- Prepare Training Data Prepare the training dataset derived from historical data. This dataset should already be classified into specific categories.
- 2. Determine the Root Node

Select the attribute that will serve as the root node by calculating the gain value of each attribute. The attribute with the highest gain value will be chosen as the root.

Before calculating the gain, the entropy value must first be computed using the following formula:

$$H(S) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log_2 p_i \tag{1}$$

Information:

- S : is the dataset
- n : is the number of classes
- pi : is the proportion of each class in the dataset
- 3. Calculate the Gain Value

After obtaining the entropy value, calculate the gain for each attribute using the following formula:

$$Gain(S, A) = Entropy(S) - \sum_{v \in Values(A)} \frac{|S_v|}{|S|} \times Entropy(S_v)$$
 (2)

Where:

S	: is the entire dataset
A	: is the attribute being evaluated
Values(A)	: represents all possible values of attribute A
Sv	: is the subset of S where attribute A has value v
Sv	: is the number of instances in subset Sv
S	: is the total number of instances in S
Entropy(Sv)	: is the entropy of subset Sv

4. Repartitioning

Repeat the second step for each branch until all records are perfectly partitioned.

- 5. Stopping Criteria
  - a. The partitioning process stops if one of the following conditions is met:
  - b. All records in a node belong to the same class.
  - c. There are no more attributes available for partitioning.
  - d. No records remain in the branch.



Ν	Pariod	Namo	Gende	Registrati	Choson Study Program	Faculty	
0	Fenou	Name	r	on Path	Chosen Study Program	Faculty	
1	Gelomb	l ia Simahara	Perem	Poqulor	llmu Keperawatan	Fakultas Ilmu	
Ŧ	ang 1		puan Reguler Program S		Program Sarjana	Kesehatan	
2	Gelomb	Lutfiah bunga	Perem	Regular	Manajemen	Fakultas	
Z	ang 1	sakila br lubis	puan	rteguler	Manajemen	Soshumdik	
З	Gelomb	ahmad	Laki-	Regular	llmu Keperawatan	Fakultas Ilmu	
5	ang 1	annaa	laki	Reguler	Program Diploma Tiga	Kesehatan	
Λ	Gelomb	Lukmanl Hakim	Laki-	Regular	Kebidanan Program	Fakultas Ilmu	
-	ang 1	Luxingin Haxim	laki	Reguler	Diploma Tiga	Kesehatan	
5	Gelomb	Atik cibro	Perem	Reguler	Kebidanan Program	Fakultas Ilmu	
5	ang 1		puan	Reguler	Diploma Tiga	Kesehatan	
6	Gelomb	Mulia iavanti	Perem	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan	Fakultas Ilmu	
U	ang 1	inana jayanti	puan	Reguler	Program Sarjana	Kesehatan	
7	Gelomb	Anisah hasanah	Perem	Reguler	S1 Farmasi	Fakultas Ilmu	
	ang 1		puan	rtegaler		Kesehatan	
8	Gelomb	Marlina ariga	Perem	Reguler	S1 Farmasi	Fakultas Ilmu	
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ang 1			puan	5	Program Sarjana	Kesehatan	
11	Gelomb	Lili	Perem	Requler	S1 Hukum	Fakultas	
	ang 1		puan	5		Soshumdik	
12	Gelomb	DAHMAN	Laki-	Non	llmu Kesehatan	Fakultas Ilmu	
	ang 1	SIREGAR	laki	Reguler	Masyarakat	Kesehatan	
13	Gelomb	Nadila adzhani	Perem	Requler	Ilmu Keperawatan	Fakultas Ilmu	
	ang 1		puan	U	Program Sarjana	Kesehatan	
14	Gelomb	Della Sulistiani	Perem	Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas limu	
	ang 1		puan	-	-	Kesehatan	
15	Gelomb	Inka saamita	Perem	Reguler	S1 Farmasi	Fakultas limu	
	ang I	nasution	puan			Kesenatan	
16	Gelomb	Suci aurella	Perem	Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas limu	
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17	Gelomb	Anggi mutia	Perem	Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas limu	
	ang I		puan		llmu Kanarawatan	Kesenatan	
18		Tri Priono	Laki-	Reguler	Innu Keperawatan		
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19		Fikra adelia	Perem	Reguler	S1 Farmasi		
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20		Raisa Restyapani	rerem	Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas IIMU Kocoboton	
		oppios malari	Puali		Kabidanan Dragram		
21		annisa meiani ramba	Perem	Reguler		Fakultas IIMU	
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### Table 1. Preprocessed New Student Data for 2024



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N o	Period	Name	Gende r	Registrati on Path	Chosen Study Program	Faculty
22	Gelomb ang 1	dimas sanjaya pasaribu	Laki- laki	Reguler	S1 Hukum	Fakultas Soshumdik
23	Gelomb ang 1	Rudzi ramdani	Laki- laki	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
24	Gelomb ang 1	Naila fazira nasution	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
25	Gelomb ang 1	Nadia sapira ritonga	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
26	Gelomb ang 1	Adis aulia nainggolan	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
27	Gelomb ang 1	Kholila Indah sari harapah	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
28	Gelomb ang 1	Abdah Haswani Panggabean	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
29	Gelomb ang 1	Andini Permata Sari	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
539	 Gelomb ang 6	 Nikmah Pasaribu	 Perem puan	 Non Reguler	 Ilmu Keperawatan Program Sariana	 Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
540	Gelomb ang 6	Annisa Rahman Hasibuan	Perem puan	Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
541	Gelomb ang 6	Nora Pradana Sukma	Perem puan	Non Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
542	Gelomb ang 6	Nur halimah Hasibuan	Perem puan	Non Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
543	Gelomb ang 6	Dian Puspita Sari	Perem puan	Reguler	S1 PGSD	Fakultas Soshumdik
544	Gelomb ang 6	Risma Ramadani	Perem puan	Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
545	Gelomb ang 6	Rafly al farezy hasibuan	Laki- laki	Reguler	Manajemen	Fakultas Soshumdik
546	Gelomb ang 6	Bowo Satrio	Laki- Iaki	Reguler	S1 Hukum	Fakultas Soshumdik
547	Gelomb ang 6	Rubiat	Perem puan	Non Reguler	Sarjana Kebidanan	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan
548	Gelomb ang 6	Hendra Junaidi	Laki- Iaki	Non Reguler	llmu Keperawatan Program Sarjana	Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan

Table 1 presents the data of new student applicants at Haji Sumatera Utara University from February to October 2024, with a total of 548 applicants after data cleaning. This dataset has undergone preprocessing and includes attributes such as registration wave, name, gender, registration path, chosen study program, and faculty. The registration process was conducted in six waves. This data will be analyzed using the decision tree algorithm to determine the most popular faculty in the 2024 new student admissions at Haji Sumatera Utara University.

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# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This study utilizes new student registration data from Wave 1 to Wave 6, conducted from February to October 2024, with a total of 548 new student records in .xlsx (Excel) format. The dataset includes information such as the applicant's full name, registration number, ID card number, phone number, gender, place and date of birth, religion, nationality, registered address, and current address. Additionally, applicants are required to select a primary and optional study program along with the relevant faculty. Additional data includes the applicant's school of origin, student identification number (NISN), registration path, registration administration status, and parental information such as name, occupation, education, and income. Supporting documents required in the registration process include a birth certificate, photograph, ID card, family card, diploma, academic transcript, and other necessary documents. In this study, the attributes used include the registration period, name, gender, registration path, chosen study program, and faculty. The preprocessing stage is carried out to refine raw data by eliminating problematic or erroneous records, ensuring highguality data ready for further processing. From the total 548 collected records, a thorough check was conducted to ensure there were no errors or inconsistencies in the data.

### Decision Tree Modeling Using RapidMiner

RapidMiner is an open-source software used for data analysis, including classification with various descriptive and predictive techniques, to generate information and knowledge that assist in accurate decision-making. In RapidMiner version 2024 1.0, the C4.5 algorithm can be easily implemented to build a classification model based on a decision tree, allowing users to efficiently process data and generate reliable predictions. The C4.5 algorithm is one of the methods used for classification or predictive segmentation by constructing a decision tree, which is a powerful and easy-to-understand classification and prediction method because it can transform complex data into simple rules. According to Kusrini, the process of building a decision tree using the C4.5 algorithm generally involves several stages: selecting an attribute as the root, creating branches for each attribute value, splitting the data into these branches, and repeating this process for each branch until all data in a branch belong to the same class.

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		8	7.000	Gelombang 1	Anisah hasan	Perempuan	Reguler	S1 Farmasi	Fakultas limu				
performance X		9	8.000	Gelombang 1	Martina ariga	Perempuan	Reguler	S1 Farmasi	Fakultas limu				
Sliding Window Valic		10	9.000	Gelombang 1	KAYLA NAZW	Perempuan	Reguler	Sarjana Kebid	Fakultas limu				
Validation (20)		11	10.000	Gelombang 1	kaidah nurul ri	Perempuan	Reguler	limu Keperaw	Fakultas limu				
Performance (18)		12	11.000	Gelombang 1	Lili	Perempuan	Reguler	S1 Hukum	Fakultas Sos				
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Figure 2. Data Transformation.



In Figure 2, the data transformation and data reduction process is explained, aiming to improve efficiency and accuracy in data processing. During the transformation stage, each attribute is initialized with an appropriate data type for use by the C4.5 algorithm, where the polynomial data type is used, and the gender attribute is labeled as a classification determinant according to the needs of the data mining process. Next, data reduction is performed by removing irrelevant attributes, such as the number attribute, ensuring that only the necessary attributes are included, namely the period, name, gender, enrollment path, chosen study program, and faculty. This process aims to simplify the data by eliminating unimportant variables without reducing the quality of the obtained information. After data reduction, the modeling stage is carried out to select the appropriate data mining technique and algorithm. In this study, the C4.5 algorithm is used, with model implementation performed using RapidMiner software.



Figure 3. Model Cross Validation

Figure 3 illustrates the Cross-validation model, an evaluation technique that divides the dataset into multiple folds to ensure that each data point is alternately used as part of the training and testing data. This technique helps reduce bias in model performance evaluation and provides a more objective estimation of the model's performance on previously unseen data.

Process		Parameters ×	
Process ► Cross Validation	90% 🔑 🔎 🕒 🐚 🐂 🐼	Decision Tree	
Training	Testing	criterion	information gain 💌
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ta mod	Apply Model pro	✓ apply pruning	d
we l	til - nod	confidence	0.1
		apply prepruning	d
		minimal gain	0.01
		minimal leaf size	2
		minimal size for split	4
		number of prepruning alternatives	3
Leverage the Wisdom of Crowds to get operator recommendation	ions based on your process design!		
Activate	Wisdom of Crowds	Change compatibility (10.5.000)	





Figure 4 illustrates the operator design in the data processing workflow for new student admissions at Haji Sumatera Utara University in 2024 using RapidMiner. Each operator in the design is interconnected, forming an integrated workflow. The process begins with reading an .xlsx (Excel) data file using the Retrieve operator. This operator is connected to Cross Validation, which functions to split the dataset into multiple folds, ensuring that each data portion is alternately used as training data and testing data. In Cross Validation, the dataset is divided into two parts: 80% for training data and 20% for testing data. In this study, the training data is used to build a predictive model using a machine learning algorithm, while the testing data is used to validate the model, assess its accuracy, and evaluate its performance. Next, the Decision Tree algorithm operator is included as required for data classification. The Apply Model operator is then connected to the Performance operator, which evaluates the model's performance based on metrics such as accuracy, precision, and recall. Once all operators are configured, the model can be executed by clicking the Run button.



### Figure 5. Decision Tree Result



#### Figure 6. Decision Tree Description Result

From the decision tree data, it is evident that applicants for study programs are predominantly female, especially in health-related fields such as the Bachelor's in Midwifery, Diploma Three in Midwifery, and Nursing Science. The Bachelor's in Midwifery recorded the

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highest number of female applicants, with 63 individuals, while the Bachelor's in Nursing Science had a significant number of applicants in the second admission wave, totaling 60 (47 females and 13 males). On the other hand, programs such as Management and Law (Bachelor's) show a more balanced gender distribution, with the Bachelor's in Law (Regular) recording 19 male applicants, the highest among all programs. Male applicants tend to show greater interest in non-health programs like Law and Management. Additionally, the regular admission pathway is more preferred than the non-regular one, as seen in programs like Pharmacy (Bachelor's) and Law (Bachelor's). Overall, the programs with the highest number of applicants are the Bachelor's in Midwifery and the Bachelor's in Nursing Science, indicating a strong appeal for health-related fields. This data illustrates gender preference trends and the popularity of certain study programs, which can serve as a reference for academic planning and student admission strategies in the future.

accuracy: 77.91% +/- 3.92% (micro average: 77.92%)

	true Perempuan	true Laki-laki	class precision
pred. Perempuan	404	102	79.84%
pred. Laki-laki	19	23	54.76%
class recall	95.51%	18.40%	

Figure 7. Accuracy Results of the Decision Tree Method.

The accuracy results of the Decision Tree method using the C4.5 algorithm show that the Precision for the Female category is 79.84%, meaning that approximately 79.84% of all predictions classified as female are indeed correct. Meanwhile, the Precision for the Male category is 54.76%, indicating that only about 54.76% of male predictions are actually correct. For Recall, the model achieved 95.51% for the Female category, demonstrating that the model successfully identified 95.51% of all actual females in the data. However, for the Male category, the Recall is only 18.40%, meaning the model was able to identify only 18.40% of the actual males in the dataset.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the Decision Tree algorithm successfully categorized study programs based on applicant interest, considering gender as the main variable. The study programs most favored by female applicants are the Bachelor's in Midwifery and the Bachelor's in Nursing Science, both of which have a significantly high number of female applicants. On the other hand, programs such as the Bachelor's in Law (Regular) and Management show a more balanced interest between males and females, with Management being the program with the most nearly equal gender proportion. This classification model performs exceptionally well in detecting female applicants, with a very high recall (95.51%) and a reasonably good precision (79.84%). However, the model struggles with identifying male applicants, as indicated by a very low recall (18.40%) and suboptimal precision (54.76%). This suggests that the model is more sensitive to predicting females and tends to have difficulty accurately classifying males. Overall, although the model effectively identifies female applicants, improvements are still needed to enhance its performance in classifying male applicants. Therefore, it is recommended that Haji Sumatera



Utara University consider implementing more inclusive and balanced marketing and promotional strategies, as well as optimizing the management of both regular and non-regular admission pathways to attract interest from both genders more evenly. With these improvements, the university is expected to enhance the efficiency of student admissions and achieve gender balance across various study programs.

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