Budding doctor from Vietnam

FAMILY is just an IDD phone call away for Vietnamese student Le Van Quynh (pictured). Le hails from Ho Chi Minh City, “a lovely, peaceful place with good food everywhere and clothes that are fairly cheap”.

She is pleased to find that IDD calling cards are so convenient to purchase and use, and the reasonable rates enable foreign students like herself to connect with family members back home.

The 19-year-old who wants to become a doctor has just completed the CIMP (Canadian International Matriculation Programme) at Sunway College in Petaling Jaya, and is anxiously waiting to secure a place to pursue medicine at the International Medical University (IMU).

She said: “I initially decided on Sunway College mainly because I needed to do a Pre-University course (a prerequisite for entrance to IMU). And I chose Malaysia because of the pleasant environment, being neither too busy nor too quiet.

Such an environment is not only conducive for studying, but also helps to make Le less homesick.

Said Le: “Before coming to Malaysia, I had already heard about its lovely beaches and the country’s developed status. These I can vouch for after having lived here for a year.”

She is also thankful that in college, her lecturers and friends have helped her to adjust so that she has been able to do “quite well” in her exams.

“Some Malaysians may be a little reserved but most of the time, they are really, really friendly,” she observes.

Le, who was just awarded the Academic Award with Distinction for the CIMP Programme, also credits her educational stint in Malaysia for having helped improve her command of English as well as skills for independent living.

“After a year with Sunway College’s CIMP, I found myself improving a lot in the area of English language as well as in character. I’ve learnt to be more confident and mature during the time I studied and stayed here all on my own, and this is a valuable lesson to learn for life,” she says.

“I may have come face to face with many difficulties while studying abroad, but the support I received from lecturers and college mates have helped me through.”

Le declares that she has many fond memories of her year here, and many of them are with her many “cool” friends.

“She was also where I had the opportunity to enjoy sushi and Taiwanese sausage for the first time,” she says, adding that Japanese cuisine is costly and not as popular in Vietnam.

Le who counts listening to music, bowling and swimming among her hobbies, also enjoys surfing the net which is easier, cheaper and convenient to use, while bowling is half the price compared to back home.

“I’m having so much opportunity to continue doing what I enjoy most.”

smail@nstp.com.my