Lee ... Exactly same programme

Savings in Sunway College’s 3+0 programme

By Noraini Shariff

Students taking Australia’s Victoria University of Technology’s business programme offered at Sunway College can now complete their studies at less cost than their seniors. This is because the programme can now be totally done here compared to previously when students had to do their final year in Australia after completing two years here.

This is now possible after the college was given approval by the Education Ministry last December to conduct the programme in totality here.

This means savings of at least RM80,000 per student compared to the cost of RM150,000 previously. It would be RM24,000 more for students from the Klang Valley who do not have to pay accommodation and living expenses to study at the college’s campus in Bandar Sunway, Petaling Jaya. Instead, they only have to pay fees of RM46,000 for the whole duration of studies.

There are now more than 120 students doing the 2+1 programme in Sunway College. The first batch to do their third year locally will be in the year 2000.

However, those students who want the overseas experience can still opt to go to Australia at any point in their studies as the programme that is conducted here is exactly the same as that in Victoria University’s campuses there,” said Sunway College principal Elizabeth Lee.

She added that the local programme will be supplemented by about 15 teaching staff from Victoria University, although local lecturers will make up the core staff here.

These Victoria University staff will not be based here but will come as and when their services are required.

For instance, first-year students have to complete eight modules, and each module will have its own lecturer or co-ordinator coming here,” she said.

The Australian staff are also expected to teach 30 per cent of course content of the third-year students.

The examination papers will be set and marked by them.

Lee said that according to Australia’s 1998 Good Universities Guide, in a survey of universities by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, Victoria University was awarded the highest ranking for the quality of its teaching.

The university has more than 50,000 students and a teaching staff of 3,000, making it one of the largest and most prestigious universities in Australia.

Since Sunway College’s Bachelor of Business twinning-degree programme was started in 1994, it has steadily progressed from a H-2 (one year locally and two overseas) to a 2+1, and now a full degree (3+0).

Graduates of the programme can pursue careers in accountancy, banking and finance, international trade and marketing.

The programme incorporates common core subjects such as accounting, business statistics, business law, management and organisation behaviour and computer applications.