By CHOO HOOI PENG

VICTORIA University of Technology, or “Victoria University”, “VicUni” or “VUT”, as it is known by its students, enjoys a good reputation in Australia. It claims to be one of most innovative and fastest growing institutions of higher education Down Under.

In a survey of universities by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, VUT was awarded a five-star ranking for the quality of its teaching.

“At VUT, we place great emphasis on quality education and strong relationship with students,” says Lindsay Smyrk, the university’s senior lecturer.

In Sunway College, VUT has found an ideal partner for its Bachelor of Business programme. The college is offering the course as a 3+0 programme to students.

Smyrk, who is also the course coordinator of the business degree programme, explains the reason for choosing the college: “We find the teaching commitment in Sunway College very similar to VUT. Staff here have an equally strong commitment to the care and education of students.

Smyrk says: “Students who enrol for the Bachelor of Business here (in Sunway College) are really lucky because they are actually getting the best of both worlds, the best of what VUT and Sunway College can offer.

Smyrk firmly believes that Sunway students get the best of everything. As proof of his claim, he discloses that Sunway College students often achieve better results than VUT students.

Smyrk also points out that Sunway students have the advantage of continuity in environment as they do not have to complete their degree in Australia.

“VUT staff visit the college almost every fortnight to conduct lectures and workshop sessions for the students.

“Besides visits, they also keep in touch with students and staff regularly, so there is also a continuity in lecturing staff,” he adds.

The business degree programme requires students to take eight core units for the first year, with the flexibility of majoring in either accountancy, banking and finance, international trade or marketing in the second year.

Even though the programme is offered as a full programme at Sunway College, students have the option of spending any length of time from one semester or more at the VUT campus in Australia.

“Of course, the best advantage in the 3+0 programme is that students make considerable savings if they choose to complete their degree here,” says Smyrk.

However, he admits that while the students may gain in monetary terms, they may lose out in other areas.

“There are almost 1,600 international students currently studying at VUT, which makes it a truly international environment. Sunway students may not get the exposure to this environment if they choose to stay here,” says Smyrk.

This is why, reveals Smyrk, there are plans for a two-way flow between VUT and Sunway College, where students from the university campus in Australia will study a semester or two in the college.

Smyrk says, “We still have a lot of things to work out before this can be realised. For one, we have to make this offer attractive to VUT students so that they will want to come to Sunway College.”
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