By A. Ram

Students pursuing an Australian degree programme at Sunway College can look forward to complete the entire course locally without going abroad.

Under its 3-0 degree programme with Victoria University of Technology, students can thus save up to RM100,000 over three years in tuition fees and cost of living expenses by studying here. The tuition fees are RM6,500, RM7,500 and RM9,000 per semester for the first, second and third year respectively.

The next intake is on July 14. The courses offered include Accountancy, Banking and Finance, International Trade and Marketing.

Recognised as one of Australia's most innovative institutions of higher education, Victoria University provides students the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills and experience necessary for Malaysia's further growth in financial, trade, tourism and information technology sectors.

The college and the university have agreed to concentrate on giving students enough hands-on experience with in-depth academic knowledge of the corporate world.

Students are required to undergo several practical coursework assignments that are likened to real-life business situations so that they will have a competitive edge over others when they enter the job market.

The university's Business faculty is one of the largest in Australia and it offers specialisations in Accounting, Applied Economics, Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Catering and Hotel Management, Commercial Law, Computing, Hospitality and Tourism Management, International Trade, Management, Marketing and Retail Management.

Another important development at the university is its recent merger with the Sydney Melbourne Institute of TAFE and this means students, industries and the wider community can have access to 14 campuses that are strategically located across Melbourne's central and western regions.

The high standards set by Sunway have ensured its students consistently achieve remarkably high pass rates in examinations.

In the recent first year examinations, 11 per cent of them scored distinctions in all eight subjects, 12 per cent had seven distinctions and another nine per cent had six with 42 per cent obtaining four distinctions.

Top among them was Terence Chai Shau Min who did exceptionally well by scoring eight high distinctions in all the subjects. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Business course.

Another factor for the students' success is the frequent visits by professors and lecturers from the Australian partner university.

During these visits, students get a chance to interact with the professors and lecturers who provide teaching and academic counselling besides discussing problems related to the subjects, courses and the university itself.

The university believes in quality education and the recent award of a five-star ranking by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia bears testimony to the quality of its teaching staff.

Sunway offers many facilities and these include 120 classrooms, 15 lecture halls, 19 comprehensive first class science laboratories, computer laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and language laboratories with a computerised learning centre.

Its spacious and modern Tun Hussein Onn library is Y2K compliant, making it possible for it to be linked worldwide with easy access to international databases.

Other programmes offered by Sunway College include pre-university courses like A-levels, Canadian Matriculation and Australian Matriculation. The next intakes for these are in July.

Sunway also offers professional programmes such as ABE, DES, LCCI, CIM, ACCA, CAT and IT-related courses leading to a degree in the respective fields.

For more information, call 03-7358622 or fax 03-7356633 or visit Sunway's homepage at www.sunway.edu.my.

High-Achievers ... Terence (centre) with fellow Sunway College students.

IT AGE ... Sunway's multimedia resource centre.