

Prepping up for the workplace

"THE most interesting part of the Victoria University (VU) programme at Sunway College is that it is not only focused on students' academic performance but prepares us for the workplace environment," said Lim Shu Ling, who completed her VU Bachelor of Business in Marketing and International Trade at the end of last year.

That is why she believed the Business Challenge, previously named Professional Development, subjects were introduced.

These subjects are 100% based on coursework and hence, there are no exams. However, students are required to work in teams.

"After taking two of the three Business Challenge subjects (students must complete all three subjects), I learnt that it is impossible to be a 'one-man show' when it comes to group work. One can definitely spot the difference on the team that performs well together and which does not," she said.

For Lim, the VU programme at Sunway College definitely presented an ideal platform for learning.

"The Business Challenge subject provided exposure to the workplace environment, especially for the group project where we had to work with people whom we don't really know as a team," she said.

It is a similar situation when one heads off to work, meets new colleagues and works with them.

Working in a team, Lim learnt to be humble and listened to other people's ideas. To her, teamwork meant achieving more together. The programme though interesting had its challenges. For Lim, it was coping with different subjects.

"In the VU programme, one will most probably have different classmates in different classes as we all have common subjects shared between the different majors.



Sunway College Victoria University Business Club members during a team-building outing.

"When it came to group discussions, we had to make new friends for the different subjects. It was a challenge to meet up for discussions as all of us had different timetables," she said.

Despite that, Lim added that one of the best aspects of the programme was the opportunity to attend block teaching classes.

Also known as Burst Mode, the classes provide a truly Australian experience to students.

Here, academic staff from VU Australia visit and teach students while exchanging ideas on their teaching experience with the academic team in the VU Bachelor of Business programme each semester.

These visits are effective in assuring that the syllabi, assignments, tests and examinations are identical to that of VU Melbourne.

By studying locally, Malaysians enjoy substantial cost savings in acquiring a reputable Australian degree without having to leave home.

Besides studies, Lim was also active in extra-curricular activities.

As the VU Business Club (VUBC) president, she had her hands full in the welfare of club members, fostering relationships between VU students, lecturers and staff.

"As president, I learnt the importance of social skills where it helped with getting assistance from others. My communication skills improved as I had to get sponsorships for the club events," she said.

Lim also had the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant in the Asia Leadership Trek Conference 2016, where she helped with the preparation, packed goody bags and assisted the trekkers in preparing workshop materials.

"From there I learnt that teamwork is really important for any event. Although all teaching assistants were from different programmes, we showed great team spirit.

"Everyone played their role and helped each other whenever we faced difficulties. We communicated before starting a task, which helped in avoiding conflicts and assisted others when we were done with our own tasks. Some of us built strong friendships after spending one week together," said Lim.

Beginning with the Diploma in Events Management and completing the VU



Any task requires teamwork and communication, says Lim.

Bachelor of Business, Lim shared that she had learnt a great deal during her four years at Sunway.

"Meeting friends through various on-campus activities had widened my social circle. Furthermore, my time here helped me identify my goals and learn how to achieve them. I don't regret joining the VU programme at Sunway College as it really helped me become a better person," she said.

Established in 1916, VU is a highly respected, multi-disciplinary university based in Melbourne, Australia. This year, it celebrates its centenary on the founding of VU's predecessor, the Footscray Technical School.

VU Melbourne's partnership with Sunway College is the longest and largest among all its international partnerships.

This undergraduate programme offers a solid platform for academic excellence as well as a launching pad for future employment.

■ For details, e-mail info@sunway.edu.my, call 03-7491 8622 or visit <http://sunway.edu.my/college/vubusiness/programmes>.

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