Higher Education Focus

Learning useful skills in Sunway’s Aussie programme

By Jasbir Singh

SKILLS and the ability to put theory into practice. These are just two of the many things that students of the Western Australian Matriculation programme at Sunway College learn.

The programme, which is one of several pre-university programmes offered at the college, is very different from others, said lecturer Ruma Lopes.

She said the main difference was the emphasis on practical work.

"Of course there are classes on the subjects that the students need to take up for their degree courses but there is much emphasis on developing the other skills that they need such as social skills and working skills," she said.

Lopes said many of the skills that the students learn would be developed during their assignments.

The use of the continuous assessment approach means that all these assignments contribute to the students’ overall standing and thus have to be taken seriously.

Although there is some pressure on the students from having to complete the assignments and other tasks, many of them enjoy that.

One such student is Wong Voon Siong.

"I like the challenge of the course ... being kept on your toes throughout the year," he said.

Wong said the programme taught him in several ways.

"The assignments taught me how to work in a team where work was delegated and everyone needed to learn how to play his or her part.

"We learnt researching skills while sourcing information for the assignments and developed our presentation skills," he said.

Students who take up the Western Australian Matriculation programme can use the qualification not only for entry into universities in Australia but also in other countries.

The programme takes less than a year to complete and covers all the foundation subjects that students need to enrol for a degree course.

For more information, call 03-7358622 or visit the college’s website at www.sunwayk.edu.my.

LIKE HOME ... Australian universities ensure overseas students have all the facilities they need.