The right choice

By TINA MELAN

Finding the right choice to pursue is one of the major problems for many fresh school-leavers. Sunway College, Malaysia's premier higher education institution, offers a wide variety of courses.

And for those wishing to cash in on the IT boom, Sunway's National Computing Centre's programme would be the way to go about it. The three-year programme leads to the BSc (Hons) in Computing and Information Systems from the London Guildhall University.

Under this programme, students complete all three years of their studies at Sunway College. The unique advantage of this programme are the valuable diplomas awarded by the NCC upon completion of each year which can be used for employment purposes.

Fresh school leavers who have completed their SPM can enter the first year of the three-year course and upon successful completion will be awarded the NCC International Diploma in Computer Studies. At the end of their second year, students sit for the International Higher Diploma examination. Upon successful completion, they will proceed into the third year for the NCC Graduate Diploma course. The diploma can later be upgraded into a BSc (Hons) Degree in Computing and Information Systems through the London Guildhall University.

The tuition fees for the programme is RM5,000, RM7,000 and RM13,000 for the first, second and third year, respectively.

On a more basic level, Sunway College offers certificates in Information Technology. The three-month courses are PC Training and Information Technology. These requires a pass in SPM or its equivalent to be eligible for enrolment.

As for the six-month course, the college offers certificates of proficiency in Basic Computer Principles, Modelling for Computing with Mathematics, Human Communications and Information Systems and Business Systems Development. Also offered is the Advanced Certificate in Information Technology.

Students can also opt for Certificates in The Network Environment, The Software Environment and Object Oriented Technique, which require a CCDiploma or its equivalent.

And, there is the Certificate in Proficiency in Computer Programming and User Technical Support. These two courses go on for nine months each.

The fees for these range between RM600 and RM2,300.

Sunway College also offers three pre-university programmes, Cambridge Board's GCE A-Level, Ontario Ministry of Education's Canadian Matriculation, and the Secondary Education Authority's Australian Matriculation.

The GCE A-Level is offered as an 18-month or 15-month programme starting in January, March and July annually. This enables students to complete the course by June the following year, thus enabling them to enrol in the next university intake without any undue delay.

The tuition fee for the programme is RM7,000 for three A-Level subjects and the General Paper. University of Cambridge director of curriculum and assessment division J. Michael Sharp said he was impressed with the enthusiasm and useful feedback that Sunway A-Level programme lecturers have on the programme during his recent visit to the campus.

For students who wish to pursue higher education especially in Australia, the Sunway College offers the Australian Matriculation Programme does not limit a student to continuing his/her studies in Australia. With this qualification, students qualify for entry into universities in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.

The programme is the only college in Malaysia to offer the final year (Year 12) secondary school programme with Western Australia. The Tertiary Entrance Examinations is monitored by the Curriculum Council in Perth.

Successful completion of the Australian Matriculation Programme does not limit a student to continuing his/her studies in Australia. With this qualification, students qualify for entry into universities in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.

The tuition fee for this programme is RM6,500 per year. It is structured to make good students excel at the same time boost the ability of the weaker ones.

Sunway College also offers the Canadian Matriculation Programme, a one-year programme that provides courses identical to those offered in Ontario secondary schools.

Sunway College offers a twinning programme with Western Michigan University. This programme also allows transfer to other American universities of the student's choice with guaranteed places at WMU.

In addition, Sunway College also caters for students who wish to further their studies locally both full-time and part-time. For this, the college offers a range of professional and financial courses.

Sunway also offers a wide range of English Language courses.