

More than just basic skills

AMONGST Malaysian students, it is well-known that one of the quickest ways to obtain Chartered Accountancy status is through the University of Waikato twinning degree programme at Sunway College.

Many institutions are criticised for producing academics and theorists without providing them with the right skills necessary for the working world.

Chief Executive of Ernst and Young, John Judge, whose New Zealand firm employs an average of 60 graduates a year, said that accountancy firms are finding it harder to employ graduates with the right skills because of shortcomings in their university curriculum.

However, he has praised Waikato University for training its accountancy graduates to communicate as well as crunch numbers.

"Waikato graduates can communicate with business and talk about what they had learned," said Judge.

This is because Waikato's accountancy programme integrates business and liberal studies to widen student's understanding of the profession beyond technical skills.

The 4-year honours degree programme, which can be condensed to three and a quarter years by taking two summer schools, meets all academic requirements for admission to the New Zealand Society of Accountants for CA membership.

Through the twinning arrangement, the first one and half years is done at Sunway College.

Waikato twinning degree student Tan Yew Teng cites twinning through Sunway College as the best route as attention is given to the smaller group of students.

"As there is no need to adapt to a new country, culture, weather and environment, twinning students can concentrate fully on their first year subjects of study which serve as a solid foundation for subsequent years," says Tan.

Tan recently received the Dato' Dr Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award, worth RM4,000, for his outstanding achievement in the Sunway-Waikato twinning programme.

He obtained 7A Grades and 1B Grade for his first year Waikato subjects at Sunway



Waikato's twinning programme students showing off their awards. At centre is Datin Susan Cheah.

Six other students who also scored excellent academic grades for their first year on the Waikato Twinning Degree at Sunway were awarded special Certificates of Excellent Academic Achievement.

Professor Bruce Dixon, the Director of the International School of Management Studies at Waikato said, "We are absolutely delighted with the standard of the Sunway students, who generally perform much better on average than our own domestic students in New Zealand."

"They are really motivated to work hard and that's what makes the difference," said Prof Dixon. The Sunway College-Waikato University twinning

degree programme intakes are in February and July.

The Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) twinning programme allows students to also major in Finance, Management Systems, Management Communication, Economics, Marketing and International Management, Strategic Management and Leadership besides Accounting.

Students who successfully complete their 'A' level, Canadian Matriculation Programme, Western Australian Matriculation, Senior Middle Three Chinese Unified Examination or other equivalent qualifications can apply.



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