

IIUM freshies to undergo orientation

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — About 1,400 students will undergo a one-week orientation or **Ta'aruf programme** for the April semester intake at the International Islamic University Malaysia in Gombak from Sunday.

IIUM's student affairs and development division Dean, Dr Rahmattullah Khan, said today the programme would cover several activities including dialogues with the deans of the various faculties.

There will also be a forum entitled "Social Life in the University: Myth and Reality". The speakers will be the university's endowment fund general manager Zulfikli Mohamed and the Dean of Matriculation, Abbas Hassan.

"The forum is important for the new students, who include foreigners, as here the social life of the students revolve around the activities held at the mosque," he added.

"That is why university's academic buildings surround the mosque which is strategically located within the whole campus grounds."

The new campus in Gombak, which was set up in 1996, was built at a cost of RM680 million. It spans 270 hectares and encompasses interlinked buildings of Middle Eastern architecture.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open the campus on April 17.

Rahmattullah said the orientation was also a platform for the newcomers to get to know one another as they come from different States and backgrounds, and some from foreign countries.

He added that the university has

three intakes a year, and this April intake, the first for the year, was mainly for students who finished the university's matriculation courses at the branch campuses in Petaling Jaya and Kuantan.

Of the 1,465 new students, 1,143 were from the matriculation courses. Twenty-four of the them would be pursuing courses in the architecture faculty, Bachelor of Arabic (137), Bachelor of English (42), Economics (185), Engineering (116), Human Sciences (177), Islamic Revealed Knowledge (297), and Laws (165).

The direct intakes are those who had completed their STPM and also foreign students. "This intake we have few foreign students as many come during the July intake," he added.