

27/05/2004

UUM to start double major programmes

ALOR STAR, Wed. - Universiti Utara Malaysia will start its double major programmes next year in line with the Government's proposal to ensure that undergraduates specialise in more than one field of expertise.

The programmes are at the faculty stage and will need the approval of the university's academic development department, its senate and the Higher Education Ministry before implementation, UUM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Ahmad Fawzi Mohd Basri said today.

They will be similar to creating new programmes which involve the combination of cross faculty subjects such as information technology (IT) and economics.

However, the duration of an undergraduate degree will not be extended as the minimum number of credit hours needed to complete a degree - 120 credit hours - will remain the same as a single major undergraduate programme.

"We have been discussing with the private sector on what it requires undergraduates to specialise in so that we can tailor our double major programmes to suit its needs. We want to create entrepreneur undergraduates who have a diverse range of skills suited for the job market," he said at a Press conference to announce UUM's new student intake for the 2004 academic year.

This year, the university is expected to have a 6.4 per cent increase in intake for new students compared to last year.

UUM will hold a special convocation ceremony on July 15 to confer an honorary doctorate in development management on former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, will also receive an honorary doctorate in social work management.

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