

# ENHANCING STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY

**W**ITH the downturn in the global economy, unemployment is definitely one of the main fears of a fresh graduate. A normal pre-requisite for a graduate to be employed is to have work experience related to the field. This creates a dilemma for both employers and fresh graduates.

When "work experience" is required for entry-level jobs, it is very difficult for a fresh graduate to gain employment. The solution lies in getting that experience before one graduates through industry placement, or an internship.

UCSI University recorded the highest number of employers engaging its undergraduates as interns at their establishments via their Co-Operative Placement Programme (Co-Op), which was established in 2003. The number has grown to more than 600 employers at the end of 2008.

According to Lim Boon Wah, head of local marketing at UCSI University, the Co-Op programme which is approved by the Malaysian Qualification Agency, is aimed at providing UCSI University students with access to real-world work experience related to their respective fields of study.

As at the end of 2008, more than 2,500 students have completed the Co-Op programme, which provides students with at least six months of work experience. Students have had the opportunity to be engaged by well-known companies such as Genting Berhad, Sunrise Berhad, Citibank Berhad, Malaysia Airlines System, F&N, Panasonic, IBM, ASTRO, and DHL Express.

UCSI University is committed to pro-



*Deputy Minister of Higher Education Datuk Idris Haron with UCSI University students during the recent Awards Day.*

mote higher education in Malaysia and to extend educational opportunities for deserving and high calibre students as part of its corporate social responsibility.

In 2007, the Tan Sri Ahmad Razali Merit Scholarship Awards was launched. This scholarship amounting to RM2mil is offered to deserving students. UCSI University also contributes to major education funds set up by reputable organisations, including the Star Education Fund.

"At UCSI University, we believe in providing our students with the best university experience and in that same spirit, reward our students with scholarships to encourage them to continue excelling in the academic and extra-curricular activities. UCSI University awards more than

RM5mil worth of scholarship and awards to its students. This year during the UCSI University Awards Day, more than RM2.5mil was awarded to students from various programmes for outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements," said Lim.

Students enrolling in UCSI University's A-levels programme are also eligible for the A-levels scholarship which caters solely for this category of students. This scholarship is only available to students who have achieved high distinctions in their SPM examinations.

Now with UCSI University having three different campuses in Malaysia, namely in Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu and Sarawak, students from various parts of Malaysia need not travel too far to enroll

in UCSI University.

The KL campus is one of the pioneer wireless campuses in the country, which allows students to access the Internet using wireless technology from any location within the campus compound. Existing campuses (and future campuses under the UCSI University flagship) will feature the same state-of-the-art facilities as UCSI University believes in giving its students only the best.

Information on the Co-Op programme, scholarships, facilities and the UCSI University experience will be shared with the public during the Open Days held on Jan 17 and 18 (10am to 5pm).

UCSI University counsellors can also be contacted at 03-9101 8880 or just log on [www.ucsi.edu.my/onlineenquiry/](http://www.ucsi.edu.my/onlineenquiry/).