

Campus

Uni, hotel sign pact on internship

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UCSI University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hard Rock Hotel Penang to provide hands-on learning opportunities for its Hospitality and Tourism Management students.

The MoU was signed by UCSI University vice-chancellor and president Senior Prof Datuk Dr Khalid Yusoff and Hard Rock Hotel Penang general manager John Primer.

Hard Rock Hotel Penang human resources director Thomas Ch'ng highlighted that interns will get an unforgettable experience in a unique work environment.

"We allow our staff to be themselves as it is our culture to be comfortable in our own skin. Many hotels have strict dress codes and rules on appearance but here, we do not discriminate against employees with tattoos or

funky and interesting hair-dos.

"We just love how different each of them are and their different strong points," he said, pointing out that this has attracted interns to return as full-time employees.

He said the internship opportunity at the hotel serves as a platform for students to experience the "real battlefield".

"Interns will be exposed to what they're going to face in the industry when they step into the working world in the near future," he said.

Ch'ng also assured interns that they will be well taken care of during their internships.

"Accommodation, meals and medical coverage will be provided for them.

"They will each receive an accommodation allowance of RM150 on top of their RM400 base allowance.

"However, students must take up the internship for at least three months and possess basic



Prof Khalid and Primer (second and third from left) exchange documents while Ch'ng (left) and Prof Kashif look on.

knowledge of culinary, food and beverage service, and house keeping service.

"Between 12 to 20 students per semester will be selected based on a phone interview," he said.

He added that internships at the hotel typically range from four to six months based on Diploma and Degree

Programmes.

UCSI University Hospitality and Tourism Management Faculty dean Prof Dr Kashif Hussain said the collaboration with Hard Rock Hotel Penang was a good decision for his students.

"This partnership will give them the sort of interesting experience they look for in an intern-

ship," he said.

Primer shared Prof Kashif's sentiments and thanked UCSI for making the partnership a reality.

"I believe the partnership will be a fruitful and mutually beneficial one, particularly for the students as they can expect a high energy and vibrant environment," he said.