



(From left) Zhao, Shen, Liu and Huang posing for the camera.

# Bright prospects for Chinese nationals studying at UMS

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## Stephanie Lee

KOTA KINABALU: Chinese nationals studying at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) have more students studying here every year," she said during the 19th International Student Foundation Programme intake and registration in UMS on Thursday.

UMS Chief Representative in China, Helen Liu said for the past years, students graduating from UMS have been quite successful in getting well paying jobs upon returning to China, while some of them even furthered their studies overseas.

"UMS is the first of seven public higher learning institutions in Malaysia recognised by the China government, this is why we have more students studying here every year," she said during the 19th International Student Foundation Programme intake and registration in UMS on Thursday.

She said students choose to study in this university not because of lower fees compared to the others in the country, but more because of the fact that Sabah and the university itself is beautiful.

She said most of the students take up business-related courses, as well as English language.

In this respect, 18-year old Kim Jin Dian, said the university and everything about it is more beautiful than she expected.

She would be taking up an education course - TESL - and hopes to graduate and become a translator for her country in future.

"I have heard about so much positive things about UMS, and I am sure the university will be able to provide me with the knowledge and education relevant with today's global needs," she said.

She also said the English education in China is not as good as other places, thus she hopes to master the language and contribute back to her country and fellow citizens.

Meanwhile, students Zhao Zong Yang, 18, Shen Bin, 17, Liu Zhi Jiang, 18, and Huang Can, 18, who are here for the first time said

they decided to come over here due to the affordable fees as well as the beauty the university and State has to offer.

Zhao who is taking up International Financial Economics said he is happy to be here and to be part of UMS, and hopes to further his studies in western countries if he passes with good grades four years from now.

Shen, who is taking up Financial Economics while Liu, and Huang who will be in the same course as Zhao, would like to see more of the university and State in future.

All chose UMS for the same reason, apart from the fact that they were all mesmerised by what they have been told by UMS agents in China while promoting the courses offered in the university.

Altogether 46 China students and one from Korea registered for this term's study session. Other intakes will be held in September.

The International Student Foundation Programme (ISFP) is a preparatory course to equip students for the Certificate of English Language Competency and Foundation Studies Examination that will enable them to continue their undergraduate or postgraduate studies at Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

The course consist of 10 core modules which the students are required to pass consisting of Grammar, Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Research Writing in English, Public Speaking in English, Language (Level I & II), Malaysian Studies: Culture and History, and Malaysian Studies: Civilisation.

The programme will be conducted intensively for a total of six months encompassing 800 credit hours.

The ISFP highlights English language skills at both introductory and intermediate levels.

It focuses on each skill suitable for learners of English as a second or foreign language and would also engage students in making sense of the whole course by organising language and other foundation studies thematically.