

## DAILY EXPRESS NEWS

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### UMS admits first batch of 34 medical students

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**Kota Kinabalu:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Sunday admitted 34 pioneer students for its medical degree course.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Abu Hassan Othman said the number of applications received by the university for the medical course was more than the places offered for this year.

"Overall, students admitted to this academic session have the cumulative grade point average of between 3.8 and 4," he told reporters at the university here Sunday.

He said UMS would discuss with several hospitals in Sabah, including the Queen Elizabeth Hospital here, for their assistance in providing clinical training for its undergraduates.

Dr Abu Hassan said the UMS would also appoint external and internal advisers to ensure that its medical school achieves the highest possible international standard.

UMS Medical School Dean is Prof Dr Osman Ali, who is formerly the head of Social Health Department in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) Medical Faculty.

Meanwhile, one of the 34 UMS pioneer medical students, Mohd Firdaus Mohd Hayati, 20, said he chose the course as he wants to change the perception that a religious school student is only fit to become either a religious officer or teacher.

Mohd Firdaus, from Pendang in Kedah, is a former student at Sekolah Agama Maahad Muhammadi in Kelantan and he obtained first grade in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination with two A1s and five A2s.

He completed a matriculation course at the Institut Teknologi Tun Abdul Razak in Langkawi and obtained 3.9 cumulative grade point average which paved the way for his admission to the UMS.

The two-day registration for new students, which began Sunday, will see the UMS admitting 3,965 freshies for the 2003/2004 academic session.