

UMS to offer post-diploma course in Islamic studies

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KOTA KINBALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is waiting for the Education Ministry's approval to allow it to offer a post-diploma course in Islamic studies.

Its Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin said the modules for the study had been completed and the students' intake for the course's first session would be made when the Ministry had given its approval.

Speaking to reporters after the launch of a book writing workshop under the theme of "Malaysia and Islam in the Global Context: Psychological, Social and Cultural Perspectives", here, Saturday, he said the course would be opened to both Muslim and non-Muslim students regardless of their academic disciplines.

Dr Mohd Noh said the response for the proposed course had been encouraging where 300 students, including the non-Muslims, had expressed their interests to learn the field.

In preparing the post-diploma's modules, the university had sought help from other higher learning institutions including Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Islam Antarabangsa.

To earn the post-diploma, the students must pass all the modules starting from one that covers the basic or foundation of Islamic education right up to the most advanced that touches on dakwah or missionary works.

Dr Mohd Noh said in addition to the university's own lecturers, it would also invite guest lecturers from other universities to teach the course, where its first intake would be for only 50 students.

Meanwhile, UMS is publishing a book entitled "Malaysia and Islam in the Global Context: Psychological, Social and Cultural Perspectives" in July.

The university's head of Psychological and Social Health Research Unit, Prof Madya Dr Rosnah Ismail, who is the editor said the book, containing 12 chapters, would look at the various disciplines, including psychology, social, culture, history, science, education and anthropology from the Islamic perspective.

She said such a book had been published in Iran, Norway and South Korea.

She said the book, written in English and to be translated into Malay, would not only be used as reference for students in institutions of higher learning but also for the public.— Bernama