



The foreign students at UMS.

96 foreign students studying English Foundation at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday received 96 foreign students into its six-month English Foundation programme.

Ninety-five of them are from China and one from Iraq.

According to UMS Link Holdings Sdn Bhd acting chief operating officer Wan Mohd Azeelan Adnan, the International Students Foundation Programme or ISFP was introduced in 2003 to assist international students who do not have the entry requirement to pursue their studies in a bachelor's degree programme at UMS.

The ISFP is a preparatory course to equip the students for the certificate of English Language Competency and Foundation Studies Examination.

The programme focuses on each skill suitable for learners

of English as second or foreign language. The ISFP will also engage students in making meaning of the whole course by organising language and other foundation studies thematically.

Students will explore different aspects of similar yet contemporary themes for each skill. This programme will expose students to a variety of topics from general and scholarly knowledge to current issues.

Students must successfully complete a total 800 credit hours to fulfil the ISFP requirements.

He said that the alumni students would become the international ambassadors for UMS and show the success of the ISFP in creating and nurturing creative and capable students.

One of the students, Cai Wen Yu of China said that it was his first time in Sabah and he was elated to study English at UMS.

"English will empower me. Additionally, it will also help me make new friends," he said.

Lee Xiang Stephen, 18, of Luo Yang, China, found Sabah a very interesting place.

"I like the sea, the coconuts. Everything is so fresh here. It is so different from my hometown," he said.

He added that his brother, also a student at UMS, introduced him to the university.

Lee also said that he would be joining the Islamic Banking programme upon completing his English foundation course.

"It is very interesting," he said of the programme.

The lone foreign student from Iraq, Zaid Kamil, said with the help of translator Dr Jaafar Makki, he planned to go for the Master's programme in Biotechnology upon completing the foundation programme.