

# Disabled UMS graduate praises conducive learning environment

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KOTA KINABALU: The conducive learning environment at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has spurred a disabled student to pursue his studies at masters level.

Teoh Jia Long, 23, who obtained a first class honours degree in children and family psychology, said the university had never neglected its students, be they normal or disabled.

"I admit it was difficult for me to adjust myself at first.

I was scared and kept crying during the first week.

"But I'm grateful that UMS has always ensure its students whether they are normal or disabled like me, can adapt to the environment here. I'm very happy," he told reporters on the second day of the 18<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony here.

Teoh, who was born with visual impairment due to glaucoma, said UMS was not his first choice when he applied to pursue his studies as he chose to enrol into other universities with good reputation among the disabled students.

The youngest of four siblings from Tanjung Tokong, Penang delivered his speech at the convocation ceremony, making him the first disabled student given the honour to represent other graduates since UMS opened its door.

"I'm just like most students. Frankly speaking, I used to skip classes. In fact, I used to fall asleep in the lecture hall and study at the eleventh hour.

"But I always reminded myself to stay focus on my life goal, namely to help the society to raise good families," said Teoh who spoke fluent Sabah Malay dialect.