

UMS English programme to go virtual for first time

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) in-house English language programme, the Progressive English Programme (PEP) will be conducted online for the first time in light of Covid-19 restrictions.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said a total of 24 students from China have registered for the 21-week programme, being the sixth cohort to participate in the PEP since its inception in August 2018.

Taufiq said the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic which brought on many restrictions did not deter the university from recruiting international students.

He said such recruitment is possible by offering online studies and virtual learning platforms.

"Various adaptations of technology and applications have been made in promoting a more interactive and effective virtual academic learning platforms as the 'new normal'.

"Although Remote Online Teaching and Learning may seem new to us all, UMS believes the younger generation is arguably digital natives, who can easily adapt to such a digital transformation, with minimal hassle," he said, Monday.

He added all lectures, tutorials and final exams of the PEP will be held virtually.

Additionally, he said there are plans to introduce the PEP to other foreign countries in the future and expand beyond its current focus of catering to students from China.

"This programme has gone through many improvements and evolution over the years.

"The first English language programme was named the Intensive English Language Programme (IELP) started in 2004.

"Then it is changed to the International Students' Foundation Programme (ISFP) and has now been substantially improved and named the Progressive English Programme (PEP).

"After completing this programme, students who pass any of the accepted language proficiency certificates will continue their studies at the undergraduate or postgraduate level at UMS," he said.