

Putting light on the career paths of working adults

WAWASAN Open University (WOU) is a key player in open distance learning, having provided study opportunities to working adults from all walks of life since 2006.

In 2013, WOU started offering full-time studies in support of parents who wanted their children to pursue degree courses close to home in Penang, at its strategically located campus in the heart of George Town.

Just a stone's throw away from the picturesque Gurney Drive and offering spectacular views of the sea, the campus in Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah is surrounded by greenery which creates a quiet and conducive environment that aids the learning process of students.

WOU currently offers six industry-relevant programmes that are in demand in the job market. They are the five business degrees in the fields of accounting, management, logistics and supply chain management, banking and finance, as well as sales and marketing.

There is also a technology degree in computer systems and networks. WOU, mindful of further reducing the financial burden of students, constantly introduces various forms of monetary relief.

For the upcoming February 2016 semester, new students from the



Nagamah Gopi (middle), who enrolled in the September intake, attending the recent orientation at the campus.

northern region of Peninsular Malaysia will enjoy savings of up to RM10,400, or about 32% off the total tuition fees.

In addition to the monthly study allowance of RM3,000, WOU also gives students from other states an incentive to pursue their education in Penang by offering an additional sum of up to RM5,250 for accommodation costs.

Hence, those from other parts of Malaysia will enjoy savings of almost RM16,000 or 50% when

they enrol for any of WOU's full-time programmes at a regional centre closest to them.

Teoh Hung Siang was among the first batch of students for the Bachelor of Technology (Hons) in Computer Systems and Networks programme in the recent September intake. He was delighted to get a 20% rebate on total tuition fees and RM100 a month as living expenses throughout the duration of study.

"What attracted me to WOU

were the courses offered for this particular programme. I hope to learn computer skills like coding and programming," revealed the 21-year-old from mainland Penang.

Teoh - referred to WOU by friends and a lecturer who assured him of good learning support from the institution - holds a diploma in Information Technology and Communication (Application Development) and aspires to become a software engineer in multinational corporations like

Intel or Flextronics.

Nagamah Gopi, 21, similarly enrolled in September under a special 50% rebate given on total tuition fees. Her parents have passed away and her eldest sister, a supervisor at a departmental store, is her sole guardian.

She enrolled in the Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Banking and Finance course, aspiring to become a financial officer to earn a good income to support her sister.

"My friend, who is studying at WOU, and my teacher recommended the university to me. The fees here are comparatively cheaper than other colleges."

Enrolment for full-time programmes for the February 2016 intake is in progress. Candidates with two principals in the STPM/A-levels, or with five Bs in the UEC Senior Middle III, are encouraged to apply.

Those with approved or accredited diploma or foundation qualifications are also eligible to enrol.

For details on WOU programmes, log on to wou.edu.my, call the WOU toll-free careline at 1-300-888-968 (WOU) or WhatsApp to 019-4749323. Otherwise, visit the WOU Open Day at its main campus, regional centres or support centres nationwide tomorrow and Sunday.