UniSIM internships must be fought for

Students will have to apply for work attachments and undergo interviews

By SANDRA DAVIE

UniSIM University (UniSIM) will be rolling out an internship office as it rolls out its full-time degree courses over the next few years.

The office will prepare students for a career by providing internship opportunities for them.

But, unlike internship programmes in other universities, it will not match the students with work opportunities.

“The students will have to compete with each other, like they compete for jobs in the real world,” said UniSIM president Cheong Hee Kiat yesterday, as he gave more details of the University’s proposed work-study programme.

“We will put up the list of positions,” he said. “They will have to apply for them and go for interviews.”

In August, it was announced that UniSIM, along with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), will expand programmes to offer more places for degree holders in Singapore.

UniSIM, SIT and SITE will be more practice-oriented and closely linked to industry.

The schools will also offer programmes that combine work and study, called cooperative education programmes in the United States.

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For example, a student taking a logistics degree can also take courses in fields such as organisational psychology. "This will help students to expand and deepen their skill sets and prepare them for a workplace where there is a growing premium for versatility," said Mr Thomson.

UniSIM offers 55 academic programmes and admits about 4,000 students per year, with a total student population of about 12,000.

This year’s convocation will witness the graduation of its seventh cohort of over 1,800 students.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wong Ngian Tong, 40, and air force Military Expert 5 Jimmy Lim, 37, both polytechnic-Applied Diploma holders, are among the first SAF personnel who will receive military diplomas from courses count towards their UniSIM degrees with a minor in military studies.

Under a 2009 scheme, SAF personnel who attend the university’s new undergraduate aerospace systems programme, today, six Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) servicemen will receive Military Diploma, 450 graduands and their families, among six SAF personnel who will receive military diplomas from courses count towards their UniSIM degrees with a minor in military studies.

Yesterday, she graduated top of UniSIM’s first cohort of students in its Master of Counselling programme.

Ms Alice Ho yesterday graduated top of UniSIM’s first cohort of students in its Master of Counselling programme.

She hopes to be a counsellor when she retires.

ST PHOTO: DESMOND LIM