Keen interest in UniSIM’s flexible full-time courses

Students can cut four-year course to three or switch to part-time if they work

BY SANDRA DAVE
SENIOR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

The flexibility being offered by SIM University (UniSIM), where students can cut a four-year course into three or switch from full-time to part-time study, is proving to be very attractive.

The university opened applications for its new full-time degree courses in accountancy, finance and marketing just over two weeks ago and already it has received 137 applications. It is offering 120 places in accountancy and 40 places each in the marketing and finance courses.

Of the 55 applications processed so far, 31 applicants have been picked for the next stage of selection, which will be based on grades as well as non-academic aspects such as social consciousness and commitment, and creativity. Seven students went through the four-step selection process, which included individual and group interviews. They were also asked to write an essay on a question based on a video they were told to view before turning up at UniSIM.

The three new courses are the first full-time undergraduate courses being offered by UniSIM, which runs over 50 part-time degree courses for working adults.

UniSIM provost Tsui Kai Chong said the new courses are open to both polytechnic and A-level holders, though the majority of applicants so far have been polytechnic graduates.

Students can reduce a four-year course to a three-year one by taking more modules and going for evening classes. Conversely, students who land a job during a course have the option of switching to part-time studies and taking up to six years to earn their degree.

UniSIM also plans to get students career-ready by requiring them to do longer and more substantial work attachments.

One applicant, Singapore Polytechnic graduate Tan Sheng Yao said she believed the university’s popular accountancy programme, which until now was run part-time for working adults, was regarded highly by employers. She also liked the option of being able to switch from full-time to part-time. “Let’s say, I go for an internship and find it interesting and of value. It’s good to have the option of being able to switch to part-time if I wanted to extend it.”

Another poly applicant, Ms Leow Xin Yi, also welcomed the choice, as the 20-year-old comes from a single-parent family and has to pay her own way through university.

Meanwhile, A-level holder Sherman Low, 20, is looking forward to the self-directed learning approach. “It allows for more in-depth learning and makes lessons more interesting.”

sandra@sph.com.sg