Industry-relevant skills offered at WOU

> Admission system takes work experience into consideration

WAWASAN Open University (WOU) offers psychology and liberal studies programmes to meet industry demand for more soft skills and critical thinking abilities.

Thong Mei Ying, 29, a service ambassador at CIMB Bank, Ipoh for more than four years, is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Psychology (BAPS) studies at the university to upgrade herself personally and professionally.

The programme is designed to help learners better understand human behaviour in today’s diverse culture and fast-changing society.

Having completed a diploma in hotel and tourism management from a private college, Thong selected BAPS with the intention to “become more observant, empathetic, be able to develop a deeper understanding of people and improve my communication skills at the same time”.

She says, “By being more empathetic, I am able to understand my co-workers and customers better. For instance, I can figure out the customers’ mood when I talk to them or just by observing their demeanour. This helps me to improve my delivery of services.”

Thong urges others to take up higher education while they work. “Discipline is important in open distance learning. Do not just work, work, and work. Spend a little effort to upgrade yourself.”

The BAPS programme increases the learner’s understanding of people and problems through courses like Understanding Personality Types, and Interpersonal Skills.

Meanwhile Pierre Loh Bing Xing, 22, is in the second semester of his Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Liberal Studies programme at WOU. He holds a Diploma in Hospitality Business Management and works as a Human Resources Officer in a manufacturing plant in Prai.

He says, “I get to learn things like human civilisations and the unique creativity in every person. This helps me when dealing with people in my job as I need to be creative and knowledgeable.”

Interested candidates may apply through Regular Entry or via WOU’s unique Open Entry Admission System that takes the individual’s work experience into consideration.

Enrolment for the July 2013 intake is now open.

New students will enjoy attractive rebates on their tuition fees if they register before June 9 or apply for the free WOU Study Grant before June 16. Potential students can also visit the university’s Open Day on May 18 and 19.

For more details, log on to wou.edu.my