Flexible, affordable learning via WOU

WALTER Elsacy, a struggling cartoonist and animator who would build and own a successful media empire, was once quoted as saying: "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.

Kausalya Ramani, a clerk from Penang, walked into Wawasan Open University (WOU) with an SPM Arts Certificate from Convent Light Street and a dream to pursue a Bachelor’s degree.

"The reason WOU was my choice is because it allows students like me who don’t possess either STPM or Diploma qualifications to further our studies for a degree," she said, describing the university’s flexible Open Entry System.

"In addition, this would be the perfect foundation for me to pursue my Master of Business Administration," Kausalya said adjusting to WOU’s Open Distance Learning system, where students can engage with other students and academic staff online and only attend classes once a month, was a challenging task.

"I was more of the classroom type of student who listens to teachers and takes notes. But WOU had a different concept where they encouraged us to share our thoughts and understanding based on the subject.

"I started off as a shy person in my first semester to become someone who isn’t afraid of presenting in front of my peers in class.

"I can't thank enough the tutors and academic staff for their help and support throughout my journey here," she said.

She also commented on how WOU’s online study portals, namely Student Portal and Learning Management System (LMS), accessing assignments and course materials could be achieved with a push of a button from her own home. Even renewing library books and enrolling for the following semesters were made easy, she added.

Kausalya joined the latest batch of 400 graduates to receive their scrolls at the 15th Convocation Ceremony held at the university’s main campus last month.

The graduates were from 26 industry-relevant undergraduate programmes, ranging from business management, human resource, computing, electronics, construction management to areas like psychology, liberal studies, primary education and English studies.

Asked about her secret to success in obtaining her Bachelor of Business (Hons) in Management, Kausalya said: "Never ever give up. I had many obstacles along my journey and no one said it would be easy. But I will surely say the outcome is very sweet."

The January 2015 intake is still in progress. Those keen to pursue degree studies may find out more about the WOU Study Grant and Return-To-Study Allowance of up to RM4,000 before the promotion ends.

You can visit the university’s Open Day on Dec 13 and 14 at its main campus, regional centres and support centres nationwide.

For more information, log on to wou.edu.my or call the Toll-free Caroline at 1-300-888-948 (WOU).