

Skills to manage automotive trade

WITH the introduction of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), 500 workshops are targeted to be modernised by 2020 while more than 50 workshops were transformed in 2012.

As vehicle registration continues to increase year-on-year in tandem with the population, workforce and urban growth, demand for automotive service and repair sector will also increase.

According to statistics from the Road Transport Department, there are almost 16 million active vehicles on the road, of which more than 60% are passenger and commercial vehicles.

As such, the need to address the large variations in the quality and service level provided in this sector is significant to take advantage of the estimated RM10bil spent annually on vehicle maintenance.

As demand grows, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Campus Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI) has introduced a new bachelor programme in Business Technology (Honours) in Automotive Management.

This is a good chance for graduates to become successful entrepreneurs embedded with the latest technology skills. This is the first management programme which combines a passion for business with an interest in automotive technology.

There are three main aspects that students can gain from this Business Technology programme – business, management and technology.



UniKL MSI's new Business Technology (Honours) in Automotive Management gives graduates the chance to become entrepreneurs.

Technopreneurship, Principles of Management, Principles of Marketing and Business Law are skills that they can learn from the business aspect. From a technology perspective, they will be studying Automotive Parts and Service Management, Management Information Systems, Automotive Shop Management, and Supervision and Automotive Business and Sales Management.

The Bachelor in Business Technology (Hons) in Automotive Management aims to produce graduates who have the management knowledge and skills, together with a suitable range of transferable and technical skills, required to work in a modern business and

management environment immediately upon graduation.

Hands-on learning

Students are provided with hands-on learning in business and automotive management with the help of facilities at industry standards.

In addition, UniKL MSI also stressed on developing skills through business activities and programmes organised by the university while creating amore interactive learning environment.

The four-year bachelor programme equips students with skills in automotive entrepreneurial management as well as technical

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knowledge and is in high in demand with all sectors of the industry. Upon completion of the bachelor programme, graduates enter the field of Automotive Retail Chain, Automotive Parts & Service, District Parts/Service Centre, and Customer Relations/Support Management and for Aftermarket Service

Employment opportunities include positions at the corporate level in finance, marketing and customer service, as well as managerial positions in dealerships and in aftermarket businesses of the industry.

■ For more details, contact 04-4035200 or www.unikl.edu.my

Mulling over distance learning

PICKING up a new skill or qualification when you are working can be a pain, especially if you have to travel to attend classes.

One alternative often touted is online learning. Ideally, you receive your textbooks in the post, or an ebook via e-mail, meet with tutors and fellow tutors online for live chats, there is a web site that has videotaped lectures, and there are forums with threaded discussions.

Such courses are available but they are rare. Many courses offer some of these interactive elements but not many offer all of them.

Some schools have an online forum where you can talk to other students. The advantage is that you can study at your own pace, in your own time and in your own way.

The disadvantage is that you are pretty much on your own. Forums can be useful for sharing tips and resources but not as much if the subject is complex.

To be good at distance learning, you need to be disciplined, good at thinking things through, and you must have good research skills when the book does not do it for you.

Finally, if you sign up for a course and need a certificate, look for ones certified by the Malaysia Qualifications Assurance that ensures it meets local standards.