

Helping students feel at home

The Star Malaysia · 5 Aug 2021 · For information on programmes offered, call 012-266 0774 (Radziana Abdul Rahman) or apply online via www.admission.unikl.edu.my

THE Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the world over and the education sector is not spared, as schools and universities close their premises, countries close borders, physical classes shift to online mode and interaction is limited to digital platforms.



Not to mention the disruption that international students face.

Universiti Kuala Lumpur via its IT campus, Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT) is no stranger when it comes to international activities.

Known for their customised EduTourism programme – July would normally be the month where you could see Koreans on campus, mingling with the local students.

“When the pandemic struck last year, physical classes shifted to hybrid mode – giving our international students the option to return to their home countries.

“Nevertheless, the majority of our full time students decided to remain in Kuala Lumpur.

“What surprised us more were students from other countries – especially those from different time zones – enrolling for the exchange programme via virtual mode,” said UniKL MIIT deputy dean Student Development and Campus Lifestyle, Samratul Janin Sidal.

UniKL MIIT is currently hosting a total of 100 full time international students.

Final semester software engineering student Faizah Chaibou Issoufou has her own reasons for staying back.

Faizah’s sibling is also studying in the same campus, and had managed to undergo a few semesters of physical classes earlier.

She only has positive words to say about her Malaysian friends and lecturers.

“My friends, who are mostly locals, have been very helpful and supportive. They made me feel at home almost instantly.

“We managed to conduct events and take part in various activities such as UniKL MIIT Cultural Fest, together.

“Another outstanding factor about UniKL is the utmost respect that students have for their lecturers, which is something that you can’t really see at other places,” she said.

While most international students opt for off-campus residence, Abdul-Wahid Yakubu, a Systems & Networking student from Nigeria, chose the university’s residence upon arrival.

“This way, I get to meet and interact with more people as compared to staying on my own.”

Abdul-Wahid enjoys meeting new friends, both locals and from other countries. Knowing the fear and uncertainties that one would feel being in a new environment, he volunteered himself to become an international buddy.

He also represents the campus in football tournaments and many other programmes. Thus, it was hardly a surprise when Abdul-Wahid was appointed as one of the exco members for UniKL MIIT Student Representative Committee (SRC).

Ghada Messaour, an exchange student from CESI Ecole d'Ingénieurs, France, is unable to be in Malaysia due to the travel restriction. However, Ghada still needs to undergo her classes via digital platform.

The time difference between Malaysia and France does not deter her from attending and participating actively in class activities.

The class that she enjoys most would be Culture and Lifestyle which gives her the opportunity to obtain an overview of the various cultures in Malaysia and worldwide due to its international participants.

Those who are interested are encouraged to apply for the ongoing July and September 2021 intakes that are now open.