Flexibility, work stints draw many to varsity’s first full-time degree courses

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IT MAY be offering full-time degree courses for the first time, but SIM University is proving a popular choice among young people.

The university drew 1,500 applications for the 200 places it has in accountancy, marketing and finance, and shortlisted 900 applicants for the four-step selection process which included interviews and essays.

Close to six in 10 of those who applied were polytechnic diploma holders, while the rest had A levels, said UniSIM.

The median grade point average for the polytechnic graduates offered places was 3.4 out of 4, putting them in the top 20 per cent of the polytechnic cohort.

Students have up till June 2 to accept the offers. So far, close to 150 have already confirmed they will be enrolling.

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

UniSIM officials said that course flexibility and emphasis on work attachments have proven to be the main draws. For instance, it will allow students to reduce a four-year course by a year, if they choose to take more modules and go for evening classes.

Those who land a job while studying, on the other hand, have the option of switching to part-time studies, and can take up to six years to earn their degree.

UniSIM will also partner companies to develop and supervise a 24-week work attachment. Unlike traditional internships, the attachments will be longer and more substantial, requiring students to take on work which other employees actually do.

Final-year students will have to complete a project based on a work-related issue and will have to spend at least 80 hours on community service.

“The response has been heartening and we expect many students to take advantage of the flexibility to mix and match courses,” said UniSIM provost Tsui Kai Chong.

“At the same time, students see the advantages of taking some classes in the evenings with working adults as they can learn from them about working life and the industry they want to go into,” he noted.

“They realise that with so many university graduates, they will need an edge, and the intensive work attachments that we provide will give them that advantage.”

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