More than academic success

KOREAN teenager Kim Eun Jin is a high achiever at UCSI University’s A-Level Academy with a heart of gold. Having scored 1A* and 4As in the recent GCE A-Level January 2013 Examination, she is keen to help others achieve good grades and tutors underprivileged teens at the Good Shepherd Welfare Centre in Ampang.

Apart from academic excellence, intelligent students like Kim are encouraged to learn important life skills, develop a sense of their own identity and hone their craft, whatever that may be.

One of the academy’s many bright sparks, Kim credits her lecturers for her achievement.

“The lecturers here are really funny and great at teaching,” she says enthusiastically. “They’re always willing to answer our questions whenever we approach them for help in our studies.”

While in praise of her lecturers for their dedication, Kim is also grateful that the academy has equipped her with a solid base of knowledge and life skills.

“I’ve definitely become more resourceful. Whenever I encounter questions to which I cannot get the answer through conventional means, I use Google and YouTube or (look for) other alternatives,” says the UCSI University Trust A-Level Scholarship recipient.

According to Kim, she has gained maturity and independence along the way.

Throughout the course, she has developed critical thinking and analytical skills but above all, she is grateful that she has been able to mingle with local and international students in her class, learn about their culture and even their language.

“There have been many opportunities for me to interact with students, both international and local, through events and activities. It’s a good experience,” says Kim.

Home to over 11,000 students – more than 45% of whom comprise international students from over 70 countries – the university is a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities.

With a track record of high scorers, the academy not only prepares students for university life, but also for the plurality of the global society.

Unique course

Lau Chzee An is another name to add to the academy’s long list of high achievers. With 3A*s and 1A in hand, Lau believes that the secret to scoring is to “study smart”, and credits his achievement to a healthy dose of motivation and his lecturers.

“The lecturers here are fantastic. They always organise additional classes to help us score better in our exams and (I find this) very helpful,” says the spunky teen who has actively participated in various extracurricular activities, including the University’s Go Green Week and the Pre-U Sports Carnival.

Bright students like Lau and Kim are proof that the academy brings out the best in its students.

With 98.1% passes and more than 53% scoring at least an A* or an A in the January exams, it shows the academy’s commitment to excellence.

But more than that, it encourages students to be well-rounded individuals, to be lifelong learners and to be open to new experiences.

“(In a nutshell) the A-Level course has taught me to apply theory to practice – it’s not solely about memorising,” says Lau.

“I’ve also made many friends who have certainly helped make studying more interesting.”

■ To find out more about UCSI University’s A-Level Academy, contact 03-9101 8882 or e-mail www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/onlineenquiry
UCSI University’s A-Level Academy nurtures students like Kim Eun Jin to develop a sense of their own identity and learn essential life skills.