KUCHING: UCSI University, through its national Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) project known as Entry Point Programme (EPP) 10, has been conscientiously making sure that its graduates are equipped with cross-cultural and global-thinking skills.

Since the introduction of the work-based learning mode of study in the hospitality programmes in 2011, many students have found themselves bumping into new opportunities overseas.

A press release from the university yesterday tells of a student by the name Gavin Naoki Danna who went for an industry placement at Traders Hotel Johor Bahru. He returned to say that the experience had made him a much better person.

Head of Culinary Arts Department Joseph Martin Pudun revealed: “Gavin was one of the most stubborn students I met over my lecturing years. He always had to have his own way in doing things and seemed not to be interested in whatever his lecturers taught in class. I had to put in extra effort to focus on him”.

“I was so worried about him before sending him off for the industry placement that I spent extra effort in coaching him. However, he changed a lot after coming back. His attitude changed and he became very good in time management.”

Gavin admitted he was initially not good in grooming and was really poor in time management.

Gavin recalled that his apprenticeship at Shangri-La Hotel Singapore was really tough in first few months because it was his first time being away from his hometown that long.

But he managed to adjust to the new situation after two months and coped well with his daily routine.

He said: “My direct supervisor was strict in coaching me. His personal attention motivated me to want to become a very good chef.

“The industry placement had also taught me time management, self-discipline, punctuality, and being respectful to my supervisors and peers, which I believe, are very useful traits for my future career.”

UCSI University would usually expose its learners to both local and foreign experiences through industry placements or co-operative placements at companies around the world.

In a recent tracer study, UCSI University is rated as one of the top five universities in graduate employability; 81.40 per cent of its students were offered jobs before they even graduate.

Its students have done their internships in countries like Japan, New Zealand, Macau, and Singapore, to name a few.

The university would continue to expand its network of both national and international industry partners.

To know more about UCSI University, call 082-455255 or email askswk@ucsiuniversity.edu.my and logon the UCSI Sarawak Campus facebook, www.facebook.com/ucsisarawak for more details.