The finance degree option

students who receive grades of 70% and above for subjects in economics, corporate finance and applied statistics will receive credit for these professional papers.

The second stage involves five preliminary exams that candidates must pass before proceeding to the penultimate stage, namely, the Fundamentals of Actuarial Practices course and the Association of Societies of Actuaries (ASA).

This will qualify them as an Associate of the Society of Actuaries (ASA).

The final hurdle is to qualify as a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA).

A recipient of the UCSI Trust Scholarships, he was one of the few local students who passed two of the five preliminary exams required when he was only in the first semester of his second year.

"A student must have an interest in actuarial science, otherwise he or she will really suffer," he says, detailing the factors contributing to his excellent academic performance.

"One must also be disciplined. I set myself targets of how much studying I needed to complete daily and I made sure I met those targets.

He notes, however, that the guidance a student receives from a lecturer is another integral factor which can make or break a student's chance at coping with the requirements of the course.

"I'm lucky, at UCSI, the batch of actuarial science students is small. It is easier to concentrate in class and lecturers can give more personal attention in helping us.

He also credits the quality study material detailing the factors contributing to the advancement of professional studies in the actuarial field.

"The insight that finance and actuarial science would complement each other came from our unique arrangement of having the actuarial science, finance and business departments housed within the Faculty of Business and Information Science," says Dr Toh.

His sentiments are elaborated by Actuarial Science and Applied Statistics Department head Dr Ngerng Miang Hong.

"As a mathematician, I know that it will not do to focus too narrowly on pure mathematics.

Through feedback from my business and finance colleagues, we have designed a course which better meets industry needs while maintaining our high academic standards," Dr Ngerng says.

Dr Toh sums it up: "The global financial crisis is changing the field of finance has never been more important and our new offerings also offer to provide students with a professional and personal transformation to help them excel."

To find out more about UCSI University's finance-related degrees, visit the Faculty of Business and Information Science from Monday to Saturday (Sun - 5pm) for course counselling.

You may also contact the counsellors at 03-9101 6880 or e-mail www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/onlineenquiry

Alternatively, visit the faculty's website at http://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/fobis/