

## Hertfordshire has many links, not partners

MY colleagues and I at the University of Hertfordshire read with interest the article which appeared in *Sunday Star Education* on March 22 entitled *A British 'first' for Hertfordshire* and I would like to clarify, for the record, several points which are ambiguous.

The article states that the University of Hertfordshire has consented to validate INTI's "one-year Graduate Diploma (GD) as

being equal to its own Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons)."

This description of the Graduate Diploma - and by extension the university's BA in Business Administration (Hons) - is misleading. In fact, the GD may be obtained only after completing three years of study, which places it on a considerably more level footing with the BA (Hons) than the article suggests.

The proposal to validate INTI's GD is still at the stage of a Memorandum of Understanding which stipulates that the plan will not be implemented unless the Education Ministry grants approval.

Lastly, with regard to our partnerships with Malaysian institutions, the article states that the university has 30 local *partners* - a factual inaccuracy which gives a misleading impression of our organisation.

The university's partners in Malaysia are actually limited to a small number of institutions.

We work very closely with these institutions in offering twinning programmes and direct entry into our final-year degree programmes in the UK.

In addition, as with many other universities in the UK and elsewhere, we have academic links with a number of colleges in Malaysia which allow students

with advanced standing to enter the second and third year of a number of our degree programmes in the UK.

The links are informal in nature and it is incorrect to describe these colleges as "partners."

**PROF NEIL K. BUXTON,**  
Vice-Chancellor and  
Chief Executive,  
University of Hertfordshire,  
Britain