

# Don't disregard an American programme

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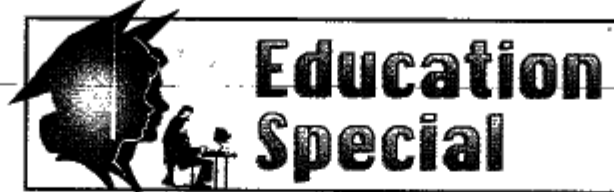
PARENTS and students should not dismiss the US as a choice for further education.

The economic crisis has to an extent affected many parents' plans to pursue higher education in the US; this should not make them totally disregard the idea," says Margaret Ong of INTI College.

Ong is the college's associate vice president (students' affairs) and director of its Centre of American University Programme.

She offers seven reasons why students should still consider a US education:

A flexible programme that offers a well-rounded education - Ong says the American education system takes



a holistic approach to education which allows students to take subjects not related to the field that they major in.

● Guaranteed credit transfers to 20 universities

● Affordable fees - Tuition fees in the US are affordable and within the means of the average-income family.

"Depending on the locality and course, fees range from



**WHERE TO STUDY?** INTI students going through some prospectus on American universities at the University Placement Department Library

US\$4,000 to US\$23,000 (about RM15,000 to RM88,000) academic year, while the cost of living ranges from US\$4,000 to US\$5,000," says Ong.

● Less stringent entry requirements - Students with more than 500 points for their tertiary education are still given an opportunity provided they take up intensive English courses.

"It's not that the universities are being less stringent. They emphasise on other areas as well. Such as participation, extra curricular activities, class participation and project papers and not just examinations."

● Part-time work - Students in the US are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week (40 hours during summer holidays) for between US\$5 and US\$8 per hour.

● US Scholarships - More than 30 universities including the Michigan Technological University and California State University Fresno award scholarships to INTI students every year.

In 1997 and 1998, 165 Inti students received scholarships worth a total of RM674,353 to further their studies. Applications for these scholarships open in January and forms are available from Inti's scholarship department.

● The 3+1 programme - The college offers this programme for business and computer science students. They will only need to study in the US for one year. Universities participating in the programme include Oklahoma State University, Wichita State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Central Oklahoma, Mississippi State University and Bemidji State University.

Ong says INTI students have done well in their studies. They have been receiving awards from their universities and other bodies.

Recently, Raymond Thavarajah received a mechanical engineering award from Shell Services of Houston while fellow student Wong Wai Tat got the computer engineering award from Exxon of Baton Rouge.

They were the only two Asians to receive the College of Engineering's Outstanding Senior Award for their academic and leadership activities.

"If students choose the right major, have proper financial planning, are prepared and confident, they will not have problems studying in the US," she concludes.

The next intake for the engineering programmes is December 24.

For more information call 03-7329552 or 06-798201