

SIT to offer undergrads work attachments

SINGAPORE Institute of Technology (SIT) will become the fifth autonomous university and award its own degrees. It will offer a Cooperative Education Programme, which could see undergraduates taking on work attachments.

This will be different from the usual internship programme as students will be paid wages like regular employees.

SIT's president-designate, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, explained the difference.

"...It's not an internship, (where) you go in, just sit around, observe a few things and then write a report. These people will be expected to work on real projects," he said.

He said SIT would work with industry players.

"...We have to work with the industry so that they actually get real wages as well, because they're doing real jobs."

Education Minister Heng Swee Keat noted that SIT, like SIM University, had strong links with industry and was "well-positioned" to pioneer the applied degree pathway through its partnership with overseas universities.

SIT, which takes in A-level and polytechnic students, offers a number of programmes with a strong applied element in partnership with overseas universities, such as in digital animation, engineering, allied health, early childhood education and culinary arts.

Last year, there were 34 industry partners sponsoring scholarships for 12 per cent of its students in various disciplines.

SIT hopes to get autonomous status within two years.