

'Fast-track' degrees: SIT replies

I THANK Ms Sandra Davie for sharing her views on what all good universities should do ("Too fast a track to a degree?"; last Thursday).

We agree with the need to ensure that our students are well prepared for good jobs and able to thrive despite rapid changes in the new economy.

We also recognise the desire of many students to obtain a degree quickly to enter the workforce.

We can do both by building on the high quality of the polytechnic education the students have received to strengthen their core skills and develop their flexibility and adaptability.

The integrated work-study programme we plan to introduce aims to produce graduates who are capable of continual learning while working.

However, we wish to provide some clarifications to the article.

For the Technical University of Munich programme, only polytechnic graduates with relevant diplomas are given advanced standing to complete the programme in 2½ years.

The proposed extension from 2½ years to three years is for polytechnic graduates with non-relevant diplomas, to offer

this popular programme to more students.

For the DigiPen Institute of Technology programme, students complete the programme in two years by studying three semesters per year instead of two semesters per year over three years.

This accelerated programme is also open to students studying in DigiPen in the United States.

We recognise the intensity of this programme, and are examining how to offer a less intense one.

As we become an autonomous university, we will be offering a combination of our own degree programmes, joint degrees and programmes offered by partner universities.

We are using an internal planning parameter of an intake of 3,500 students by 2020.

The final figure will, of course, depend on discussions with all our stakeholders.

We aim to develop high-quality graduates our industries need. This will help them take advantage of new opportunities created by a dynamic economy.

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