

Unit ensures no overlaps

IT started as Unit Pusat Universiti in the 1970s. The centralised university intake system processes all the applications from STPM and SPM school leavers for entrance into public universities.

Under the system, all the applicants need to do is fill in a form for a placing in any of the public universities to pursue a course of their choice.

Back then, there were only three public universities — Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia. These universities were offering only degree programmes.

Now, UPU is known as Bahagian Pengurusan Kemasukan Pelajar or BPKP. It is one of the divisions under the Department of Higher Education Management of the Higher Education Ministry.

BPKP co-ordinates students' intake and applications from STPM, Matriculation and SPM holders to prevent overlapping offers from the various public universities.

BPKP also offers outreach and counselling programmes for prospective univer-

sity students.

The selection process starts in February, where all public education institutions will submit the number of places available to the Higher Education Ministry.

After the deadline of submission (usually two weeks after the exam results are announced), the applications will go through a pre-selection process. Students are ranked based on merit and placed at universities of their choice.

Meetings will be held with public universities to discuss technicalities such as academic requirement of courses and programmes available.

"The meetings will also discuss additional intake of students should there be extra seats offered," said Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah.

By the first week of May, SPM holders will get their offer letters while STPM holders will get theirs by the last week of June.

All new students have to register in the first week of July.

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