Going private in a public uni
For the first time, a local public university grants autonomy to one of its faculties.

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The PUTRA Business school, has become the first private entity within a public university.

Formerly known as Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Graduate School of Management, it received autonomy following its accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The AACSB is an esteemed United States higher education business accreditation body.

UPM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi said it was only natural for faculties that show excellent academic results and exemplary performance to be awarded such autonomy.

"The government had earlier given autonomy to varsities that were deemed 'fit', so when their faculties are ready for autonomy, they should also receive it," he said.

An AACSB accreditation means that the accredited business school is capable of delivering what it offers to students. In order to determine the business school's competence, a very strict process was put in place by the AACSB to assess the faculty, said Assoc Prof Dr Arfah Salleh, PBS president and CEO.

"The PBS was not the only body within the varsity to gain AACSB recognition. UPM's Faculty of Economics and Management also received accreditation."

"The PBS is the first private entity within a public university in Malaysia." Fewer than five percent of all business programmes worldwide enjoy the AACSB accreditation and it shows Malaysian higher education is on par internationally," said Mohamed Khaled.

The PBS is the first private entity within a public university to gain AACSB recognition, said Dr Arfah adding that it was different from its peers as it was based on the concept of human governance and a curriculum that moved away from traditional Eurocentric western models.

"We challenge existing world views and assumptions on business and management. We believe inner human values are key to steering corporations in the right direction."

"These values and principles are far more effective in regulating organisations than rule-based governance systems. It also ensures that leaders of organisations take responsibility for their actions instead of lumping them on the 'abstract legal entity' that is the corporation," she added.

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