

On the fast track to a degree

STUDENTS who are fresh out of secondary school now have the option of pursuing the Foundation Studies for Agricultural Science (Express).

The programme, offered by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) since January 2012, makes it possible for students with an SPM qualification to put themselves on a faster pathway to their degree studies.

Other pre-university programmes usually take around two years to complete but the express programme only takes eight months.

After the programme, students can continue with

their degree at UPM's Serdang campus. Though the programme is called Foundation Studies for Agricultural Science, it prepares students for a wide range of courses related to agriculture, agro-biology and science.

Below are some of the degree options a student can pursue at UPM's Serdang campus with the programme:

- Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- Bachelor of Forestry Science
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Doctor of Medicine
- Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)

- Bachelor of Food Science and Technology
- Bachelor of Environmental Science and Technology

The programme lasts for two semesters with students taking eight subjects in each semester. Students are required to pass all subjects as re-sits are not allowed.

To successfully enrol in the programme, students must achieve at least five A- and two B+ in the SPM examination in the subjects listed:

- biology
- chemistry
- physics
- additional mathematics
- mathematics

• English language
• Bahasa Malaysia
If you still have not made up your mind about the programme, here are some points for you to consider:

Pros

- You start your degree at the age of 18.
- Affordable tuition fees. Approximately RM2,500 for two semesters
- Guaranteed place to continue a degree programme at UPM's Serdang campus
- A variety of degree courses to choose from.

Cons

- Tough entry requirements.

• You must pass all the subjects in the programme.

• There is a lot of hard work involved as there are eight subjects each semester and very short breaks.

• You can only continue your degree at UPM.

Alternatively, students may choose to undergo the regular Foundation Studies for Agricultural Science programme that takes 18 months.

This programme is sponsored by the Ministry of Education and the entry requirements are not as tough. The programme consists of three semesters with six subjects per semester.