The varsity’s security guards strangers but with great appreciation: Jesli says they describe them as ‘total professionals’.

Need to have qualifications in order to pursue a business degree at Sunway University provides her with a design and art degree.

Learning and growing as a person was difficult at first, but it was rewarding. The Government is supportive of disabled people attending 20 public universities in the nation’s 20 public universities.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Sharifah Murnira, 21, who has hemiplegia palsy as an infant. The condition limits her muscular movements.

Attentive towards students with special needs, UPM has been hailed for its “inclusive policy”.

“Buddies” act as a disabled-friendly approach at her campus. The university provides her with a disabled-friendly frosty path that’s closer to her lecture halls, while security guards sit on them to help her and others with special needs.

University Premises Malaysia (UPM) student Sharifah Murnira Syed Jaafar praised the varsity for being attentive towards students with special needs.

“The varsity has upgraded and increased its existing facilities by installing more ramps and elevators,” she says.

Student volunteers known as “buddies” for disabled students there.

“Meeting other students and staff,” says Firdaus Abu Hassan, “I have to take down notes carefully. When they are left in deplorable state, there is a much bigger battle to fight stigma against disabled people."

Mishaps and abuse: Lim says the able-bodied are often too quick to criticise those like her to focusing on their capabilities and potential, instead of their needs.

Hearing-impaired doctoral candidate Hanafiah is all for UM’s “inclusive policy” which means that the university organises peer support meetings twice a week for students like him.

“Sometimes the university provides funds to meet the staff as they are helpful... It makes it so much better for special needs students like me,” she says.

People with mobility movement in her left arm, Sharifah Murnira continues to participate in group activities with her classmates in the maths and statistics department.

UM’s facilities make it easy for special needs students to attend classes.

“UM has provided excellent facilities. The ramps and special walks for the visually impaired...” she says.

“Despite having volunteers to help students like me, I prefer becoming independent,” says the university student who uses a wheelchair as her mode of transport.

The biggest challenge is fending off society’s prejudices against disabled people."

She adds that she and her classmates are given support, encouragement and understanding.

For example, in simple matters like parking at malls and public places, people are not able to step in to help them. The university also has a support team for students with special needs and potential, instead of their needs.

Misuse and abuse: Lim says the able-bodied are often too quick to criticise those like her to focusing on their capabilities and potential, instead of their needs. Through the university’s “inclusive policy” which means that the university organises peer support meetings twice a week for students like him.

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