

Start of university life

Over 40,000 new undergrads register at 20 varsities

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 40,000 new undergraduates started registering at 20 public universities nationwide for the new academic session.

In the Klang Valley, despite the slight drizzle in the morning, family members of freshmen turned up in droves to see them off at their universities.

Some, especially the mothers, were teary-eyed as they bade farewell to the freshmen.

Among those who registered for the session at Kolej Kediaman Za'ba in Universiti Malaya yesterday was visually-impaired student Loh Wei Siong, 20, from Kuching.



»The seniors should never think that they have power over the freshies«

PROF TAN SRI DR SHARIFAH HAPSAH SYED HASAN SHAHABUDIN

His godmother Cecilia Lau, who accompanied him to register for his law course, said he had worked very hard in school in order to achieve good results. "I am very proud of him," said Lau.

At Universiti Putra Malaysia, new undergraduates were required to be screened for the Influenza A(H1N1) virus before registering.

Its deputy vice-chancellor, Prof Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan, said this was done to prevent the transmission of the disease among the large number of freshmen enrolling in the university.

In Universiti Kebangsaan Malay-

New student: Loh (second from right) arriving with his godmother for the registration at Universiti Malaya in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

sia, there were fewer students enrolled this year for the undergraduate courses compared with the last intake.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin said the reduction was

to make way for the university's policy of having a 50:50 ratio of undergraduate and post-graduate students by 2015.

Prof Sharifah Hapsah also warned seniors not to subject freshies to any ragging activity which could humili-

ate them during the orientation week.

"The seniors should never think that they have power over the freshies. It is important for them to realise that respect has to be earned," she said.