

Undergrads may get extra for co-curriculum

PENANG: The Higher Education Ministry is considering introducing a grading system for undergraduates who are active in co-curriculum activities, Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said.

He said the system, proposed to be enforced in the next semester, is aimed at recognising the students' involvement in activities and programmes at national or international level to boost their universities' image.

He said the proposal was at the final stage of negotiations with public universities to coordinate the award of a standard grading system.

"This is important to active undergraduates when they are in the university and to facilitate employers to make their choice when they attend interviews," he told reporters after opening the Indian cultural night at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Mustapa said the grading system would also spur university students to participate in activities and programmes to acquire skills in various disciplines.

"Initially, the system will be implemented in public universities and later extended to private tertiary learning institutions," he said.

Mustapa said the grading points for co-curricular activities would be awarded separately from the academic marks.

"The co-curriculum grades, from one to 10, is also aimed at assessing the personality of an individual, an important aspect in career development when he or she enters the job market," he said.

The minister said the grading system was an extension of the eligibility criteria for a student from school to university entry.

"A student is required to be active in co-curricular activities to be eligible to enter a public university, this is an extension of that criteria to prepare the student for the job market," he added.