

China students elated to study at UMS

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By Sandra Sokial

KOTA KINABALU: Guo Yang Nan Xi had fallen in love with Sabah long before she stepped foot on it.

The 20-year-old lass from Sichuan, China did not even have to think twice when asked by her parents as to where she wanted to pursue for her arts course.

"I have heard of Sabah from my mother. She is a reporter and had come here before for a vacation. She told me a lot about the state and I have fallen in love with the place before even setting foot here," she said.

Guo was among 156 international students who registered during the Universiti Malaysia Sabah intake yesterday.

Pursuing her passion in Visual Arts Technology at the university, Guo felt elated being surrounded by friendly and warm people.

"I feel so comfortable here. The nature brings me peace. It suits my feelings since I love art. Plus I love Sabah because it still maintains its traditional cultures in many ways.

"And I love the beach. I was brought to the First Beach (in Tanjung Aru) when I arrived here ... it was



Guo

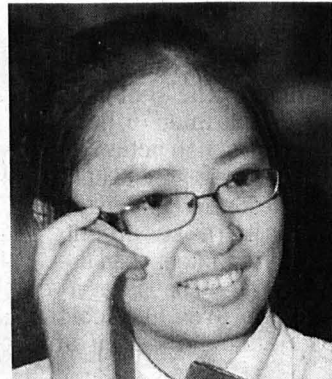
a wonderful feeling," Guo who will be spending the next three years here said.

Her fellow citizen, Hu Qinglin from Xinjiang said she prefers pursuing a degree in International Marketing at UMS than doing a similar course at Universiti Malaya.

"I have done some research and talked to a few friends before settling for UMS. I believe the university will equally be able to provide me with the education I require which will be useful for me in the future," she said.

Hu also said she had made contact with senior students from China currently studying in UMS to get their views.

"I met one of the students



Hu

through chatting and started asking him about UMS and Sabah. I chatted with him again two weeks before coming here," she said.

The 19-year-old who plans to take over her father's transportation company back home in China took the initiative to learn Bahasa Malaysia before coming to the country.

"I can speak some basic greetings and words like selamat pagi (good morning), selamat petang (good evening), apa khabar? (how are you), khabar baik (I am fine) and sudah makan? (have you eaten?) ... this can be useful to me here," said Hu, who will be doing her course at the UMS Labuan International Campus (UMSLIS).