

Private universities watchful over their foreign students

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PETALING JAYA: Private universities have their own ways of monitoring foreign students who appear to be off track.

Sunway Education Group and Sunway University senior executive director Elizabeth Lee said action would be taken to track down any foreign student who went missing midway through a course.

"They must achieve at least 80% attendance and must pass all subjects taken in the past year," she said.

Lee said if a student was found to

have missed three classes consecutively without approval, their academic managers would be informed.

Attempts to track them down include going to their residences and checking their social media accounts.

"If all avenues have been exhausted, then we will make a police report and cancel the student's visa," said Lee, adding that Sunway University regularly sent reports on their foreign students, which include attendance records,

to the authorities.

She also said that their visa applications were vetted according to procedures set by the Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) and Immigration Department.

EMGS serves as a one-stop centre for international student services, which includes application and renewal of student passes and visas.

UCSI University registrar Abu Bakar Jalaluddin said the university used the academic results of applicants to determine their eligibility for enrolment.

Before a student arrives in Malaysia, he said they must undergo various processes.

"These measures have ensured that UCSI University only admits students who are focused on excelling academically," he said.

Abu Bakar said the attendance of all students was keenly observed, and just like Sunway, records must show they meet at least 80% attendance to fulfil course requirements.

According to the EMGS website, it acts as a one-stop centre for stu-

dent visas but security screenings come under the Immigration Department.

Before applying for a visa, the student must already have an offer of study from an approved public or private institution, as well as demonstrate that he has the means to pay the tuition fees and other expenses while living in Malaysia.

The website added that they must also be of "good character", though it did not say how it evaluates the character of the applicant.