

Headline	Autonomy a catalyst to achieve 30pc foreign students by 2015 — IIUM		
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Autonomy a catalyst to achieve 30% foreign students by 2015 — IIUM

KUALA LUMPUR: The autonomy granted to the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) last Tuesday will be a catalyst for it to achieve the target of 30 per cent foreign student population by 2015.

IIUM rector Prof Datuk Seri Dr Zaleha Kamaruddin said currently 25 per cent of its 28,000 students were foreigners and a plan has been put in place to ensure flexibility in governance, finance and income generation, human resource and academic matters.

“The autonomy has given us freedom in determining student intake and we plan to take many foreign students without jeopardising quality as well as opportunity for local student to study here.

“Our maximum capacity is 30,000 students in five campuses,” she said at a press conference yesterday after the Bai’ah (oath) ceremony for 2,107 new students, including 286 foreigners at the IIUM main campus in Gombak, near here.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin announced on Tuesday that IIUM and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) were

the latest public universities to be awarded autonomy.

Zaleha said the autonomy status would boost IIUM branding globally and help attract foreign experts to become lecturers as well as to conduct research in IIUM.

“We currently have 2,000 lecturers of whom 23 per cent are foreigners. By 2015, we hope to have 30 per cent foreign lecturers and we truly believe IIUM can achieve that,” she said.

Meanwhile, IIUM Student Affairs Deputy Rector Datuk Dr Mizan Hitam said the university has no qualms in allowing its students to take part in politics and believes they have the maturity to do so without hurting themselves or others.

“The university has an open-door policy for its students to take part in any activity as long as it is healthy for mental development, personality and is also legal.

“Like the amendment to the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA), we allow students to join politics off campus but they cannot bring it on campus. They are mature enough to obey this act and we believe it will continue until the coming general election,” he added. - Bernama