

# GO BEYOND YOURSELF

In the Singapore Police Force, you can be the best version of yourself. Your talents and abilities will be channeled towards doing what truly matters. You will play a leading role in creating the policies and solutions that safeguard our way of life.

**Step up to a career that goes beyond.**  
**Visit [police.gov.sg/career](https://police.gov.sg/career) now.**



**SINGAPORE  
POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

**Shermaine Ang**  
The Singapore Police Force  
Scholarship

**Joshua Ebenezer  
Jesudason**

Commanding Officer,  
Queenstown NPC  
The Singapore Police Force  
Scholarship

**Ang Yu Shen**

Investigation Officer  
Local Merit Scholarship  
(SPF)

ADVERTORIAL

# BREAKING barriers, serving JUSTICE

ASP Cammy Chua is refining policing methods at the Ang Mo Kio Police Division by adopting a more empathetic approach to solving crime

Though only four months into her posting as an investigation officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Cammy Chua seems to have already discovered her strong suit.

The 25-year-old, who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from University College London in Britain, says her academic grounding enables her to extend her role beyond conventional crime investigation. Her psychology skills have equipped her to conduct interviews with victims and offenders in a more empathetic manner, prioritising rehabilitation over punishment.

ASP Chua received her education through the Singapore Merit Scholarship under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Uniformed Scholarships and currently works at the Ang Mo Kio Division of the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

She recalls one case when she found a teenage girl who had been reported missing after running away from her custody home.

While escorting her back, the teen opened up to the officer about being bullied by other girls in the home, as well as feeling helpless about her life circumstances.

"I wanted to help her find meaning in her life and have something to work towards, so I asked what her interests in school were," says ASP Chua. "She told me she enjoyed her design module.

"I reminded her that despite many things not being within her control currently, she still had control over what she does with her life, and encouraged her to pursue her interest in design."

This case encapsulates how a new generation of Police officers – of which ASP Chua is a part – operates.

Equipped not just with traditional law enforcement skills but also a deeper understanding of human behaviour, SPF's fresh faces boast a blend of skills crucial in an increasingly complex societal landscape, where causes of crime can be multifaceted.

## A heart for the youth

Psychological insights have given ASP Chua a nuanced understanding of the factors that can lead to youth breaking the law, such as their socio-economic background and childhood influences.

This awareness enables her to look beyond the surface, considering deeper motivations and circumstances that may have led to their behaviour.

"In many cases, crime is more complex than a mere blatant disregard for the law," says ASP Chua. "I look deeper into why people resort to doing certain things."

For example, she uses her skills in psychology to listen carefully, choose her words sensitively, and conduct interviews with offenders and victims with more empathy.

This approach can be more effective in addressing youth crime as it focuses on understanding root causes instead of simply punishing criminal actions.



▲ ASP Chua (first row, fourth from left) working with her team on a First Responder Training programme.



▲ ASP Chua (first row, first from left) attending the Senior Officer Basic Course graduation ceremony with her SPF squadmates and course manager.

If given an opportunity to change policies in the future, the SPF scholar hopes to delve further into this newfound area of passion.

"With youth, there is still so much you can shape," she says.

## More than a desk job

Through the SPF, ASP Chua has found a meaningful career with deep community impact. But what first drove her to explore a Police role was the great fit it offered for her active lifestyle.

The Raffles Institution alumnus grew up doing martial arts and playing touch rugby. When she began exploring career paths in junior college, the student had her heart set on avoiding desk-bound jobs.

"I like that policing is a very spontaneous kind of job; you never know what to expect," she says.

"There are many opportunities to rotate to different fields in policing, and that adaptivity is something I am interested in."

ASP Chua looks forward to action-packed workdays where she "runs around from place to place" investigating crimes such as theft, harassment, breach of trust and rash acts causing hurt. She collects evidence, takes statements and recommends cases to government

prosecutors to take to court.

The work is satisfying, she says, especially when a case is resolved.

"Knowing that I played a part in solving a case means I am able to make a difference in someone's life," she explains.

Committed to giving her best at work and during training, ASP Chua was awarded the Sword of Merit in 2023.

This hard-earned recognition is given to the second-best trainee within each cohort. To qualify, officers must score consistently in professional knowledge, leadership training and field training, and excel in both peer and supervisory appraisals by demonstrating strong teamwork and expertise.

"My mantra is to stay true to where you see greater meaning and fulfilment in life," says ASP Chua.

"My scholarship experience revealed my untapped potential, showing me I could achieve more than I believed."

## JOINING THE FORCE

The first woman to be awarded the Singapore Merit Scholarship, ASP Cammy Chua completed six months of army training before beginning her Police career. Here's a look at her journey with the SPF:

### JAN - MAR 2018

#### Basic Military Training and Officer Cadet School

ASP Chua joins an all-female platoon of about 50 army regulars. "I didn't feel out of place. We were treated the same as our male peers," she says.

At Officer Cadet School, ASP Chua is one of two women in a company of about 100 people. "We felt very supported by our male counterparts," she adds. "They didn't see us as any less and would give us opportunities to put our best foot forward."

### APR - JUN 2018

#### Awarded scholarship and appointed as a Police officer

"I was determined to shatter gender stereotypes and encourage female representation in the higher SPF scholarship tiers," ASP Chua says. Her appointment marked a milestone in growing female representation in the SPF.

### 2018 - 2022

#### University studies

ASP Chua obtains a Bachelor of Science in Experimental Psychology from University College London, and a Master of Science in Human Resources and Organisations Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

During this time, she clocks in vacation attachments with various SPF units, including the Police Security Command which looks after the safety of Cabinet ministers.

### 2023

#### Official duties commence

She is posted to Ang Mo Kio Police Division as an investigation officer.

**In many cases, crime is more complex than a mere blatant disregard for the law. I look deeper into why people resort to doing certain things.**

**ASP Cammy Chua**  
Recipient of the Singapore Merit Scholarship under the MHA Uniformed Scholarships (SPF)

## ABOUT THE SPF SCHOLARSHIP



The Singapore Police Force Scholarship is one of the most prestigious scholarships offered by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to candidates who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and interest in policing work. Scholars will continue their learning journeys in world-renowned universities which provide intellectually, socially and personally enriching programmes. Upon graduation, scholars will be involved in shaping policies that address issues on public law and order as well as play an integral role in protecting the country and its communities.



Scan for more information on The SPF Scholarship.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY




**SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE**  
SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY

**PART 01**  
**THE STRAITS TIMES**  
**SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024**

# SCIENCE SUPERCHARGE YOUR POTENTIAL

Dive into a world of scholar stories that reveal how the right scholarship can be a catalyst to a brighter future

Find your match >>



BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR PARTNERS

**DSTA**  
Defence Science & Technology Agency

**DSO**  
NATIONAL LABORATORIES

**CSIT**  
Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies

## STAY AHEAD WITH THE DSTA SCHOLARSHIP.

Experience all that the Defence Science & Technology sector has to offer.

**APPLY NOW**



ADVERTORIAL

# WALKING with patients EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Inspired by their resilience on the road to recovery, this Community Care scholar wants to help them regain strength and confidence

Scoping rice may seem like a simple task, but for one of Mr Low Hsien Loong's patients, this posed a formidable challenge.

The patient was undergoing rehabilitation at St Luke's ElderCare where Mr Low was doing a seven-week clinical attachment. A stroke had impaired her ability to perform fine motor movements, making it difficult to execute tasks that involve precision and coordination.

Guiding her through her recovery journey in late 2023, Mr Low was moved by her perseverance in carrying out the exercises, which involved simple activities such as taking a water bottle from a table while seated on a chair and using a damp cloth to wipe a window in up-and-down motions.

Her story – and those of other patients – reinforced his conviction that he has picked the right career path.

Currently in his final year pursuing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Occupational Therapy at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), he was awarded the Community Care Scholarship (Mid-Term).

"A simple task that many take for granted has such a significant value to the patient," says the 25-year-old. "Seeing her make progress day by day was really rewarding and inspires me to help those who are struggling to regain their independence."

After he graduates in September 2024, he will serve his four-year bond at Ren Ci Community Hospital where he will be working with patients with varying medical conditions – including orthopaedic injuries, dementia and stroke – to help them improve physical strength and regain independence in daily living.

#### Customised care and support

After he graduated from polytechnic, he explored a range of jobs in the healthcare sector and came across a quote about occupational therapy – "Living life to its fullest despite difficulties in doing so".

"I felt a connection with that quote – about wanting to bring out the best in people," says Mr Low.

To better understand the role of an occupational therapist, he took up a six-month patient service associate job at the outpatient Occupational Therapy Clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) in 2018.

There, he saw first-hand how occupational therapists support patients through customised care programmes based on each patient's lifestyle and living environment.

“A simple task that many take for granted has such a significant value to the patient... Seeing her make progress day by day was really rewarding and inspires me to help others who are struggling to regain their independence.”

**Mr Low Hsien Loong**  
Recipient of the  
Community Care  
Scholarship (Mid-Term)

## GROWING DEMAND FOR REHABILITATIVE CARE

Singapore's population is ageing rapidly. When the proportion of individuals aged 65 years and older reaches about 21 per cent, a country is considered super-aged – a status Singapore will reach in 2026.

By 2030, one in four residents will be aged 65 years and above.

To support Singapore's vision of enabling our seniors to maintain quality of life and independence in their silver years, a strong network of community care professionals is needed.

Occupational therapists like Mr Low Hsien Loong will play an integral role in providing rehabilitative care and developing customised care plans to help seniors lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

► Mr Low Hsien Loong hopes to help his patients live their lives to the fullest. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

Like physical therapy, occupational therapy is a type of rehabilitative care, although the focus is on helping people perform their everyday routines more easily – despite physical limitations caused by ageing bodies, an injury, a disorder or an illness.

For example, to help those experiencing carpal tunnel syndrome, occupational therapists would prescribe custom splints and recommend workspace adjustments that enable those with desk-bound jobs to continue working at the computer.

A physiotherapist, on the other hand, would recommend exercises or other physical activities to improve one's mobility, strength and function.

#### Broadening his understanding

Mr Low learnt about the Community Care Scholarship and applied for it during his first year at SIT.

The Community Care Scholarship was launched by MOH Holdings, in partnership with the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), to build up the talent pool in community care. It covers four fields of study: occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and medical social work.

Since its inception in 2020, 48 Community Care Scholarships have been awarded.

As Singapore responds to the needs of an ageing population, there will be a growing demand not just for nurses and doctors but also allied health professionals such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists and medical social workers.

Since his first year at university, Mr Low has been through five clinical attachments.

Each clinical rotation has allowed him to apply his knowledge while broadening his understanding of how occupational therapy influences a person's recovery.

During each stint, he would try to identify activities or routines that uplift the spirit of his patients while drawing up tailored therapies to motivate them. It could mean incorporating music, crafts or other hobbies they enjoy into their customised treatment plans.

When working with a stroke patient who was unresponsive to the standard occupational therapy exercises, Mr Low took time to discover the individual's fondness for fishing. He then integrated targeted fishing movements into the patient's exercises to motivate him.

With another stroke patient who did not respond to hand signs and pictures, he explored a different method outside of conventional occupational therapy and made use of an app that was designed to help autistic clients communicate.

His method worked. Through the app, the patient was able to communicate his feelings using an iPad.

These experiences taught Mr Low there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to connecting with and helping patients in their recovery.

"Community care lets us connect with patients, support them along their health journey and facilitate their reintegration into society, regardless of injury or disease," he says.



▲ Mr Low (left, with his classmates) got interested in occupational therapy after a stint at TTSH where he saw how occupational therapists help patients recover through customised care. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOW HSIENT LOONG

### The difference between occupational therapists and physiotherapists

Both play a vital role in helping patients recover and improve their quality of life. However, there are key differences between the two.

Occupational therapist	Physiotherapist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Helps individuals perform daily activities independently</li><li>Uses a variety of interventions such as adaptive equipment, cognitive rehabilitation and therapeutic activities</li><li>Considers one's holistic well-being, including mental health and living environment</li><li>Aims to improve one's independence in everyday routines</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Focuses on improving physical movement and function</li><li>Employs manual therapy techniques and exercises to regain strength, mobility function and range of motion</li><li>Concentrates on physical aspects of healing</li><li>Aims to enhance one's physical mobility and reduce pain</li></ul>



manpower capability to raise the delivery of quality care. AIC is also the appointed agency for the administration of national schemes such as the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) and Merdeka Generation (MG) package.

### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CARE SCHOLARSHIP

► The Community Care Scholarship, offered by MOH Holdings in partnership with the Agency for Integrated Care, covers courses in the following healthcare disciplines: physiotherapy, occupational therapy, medical social work and speech therapy.



Scan for more information on the Community Care Scholarship.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



# BE A FORCE OF EMPOWERMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY CARE SCHOLARSHIP



**Community Care Scholarship**  
For aspiring allied health leaders  
who are motivated to make an  
impact in community care.

**Community Nursing Scholarship**  
For aspiring nursing leaders  
who are passionate to care for  
those in need in the community  
and at home.

[www.healthcarescholarships.sg](http://www.healthcarescholarships.sg)

**Ms Melliana**  
**Community Nursing Scholarship**

**Mr Low Hsien Loong**  
**Community Care Scholarship**  
(Occupational Therapy)



**LEARN MORE.**

# Safeguarding Singapore's assets

Staying abreast of global developments helps this MAS scholar make prudent decisions when investing the nation's reserves

Every day, Mr Huang Yiheng navigates the complexities of the investment landscape to achieve good long-term returns and manage risk in an increasingly volatile and closely connected world.

But the 30-year-old is no ordinary investor. He manages Singapore's foreign reserves as a portfolio manager at the Reserve Management Department of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). Singapore's Official Foreign Reserves include reserve assets such as bonds and equities, foreign currencies and gold held by the country's monetary authority.

Amidst ongoing geoeconomic fragmentation in today's economic climate, Mr Huang likens his job scope to being a captain guiding a ship through shifting currents.

"We must remain composed, steady the ship and navigate the portfolio through unpredictable markets," he says.

He cites as an example the rising tensions between the United States and China. These tensions have not only reduced trade and investment between the two countries, but they have also reshaped global trade patterns and supply chains.

"Part of my job is to position our portfolio to manage the risks and seize opportunities in this uncertain and volatile environment," he says.

**Investing for Singaporeans' future**  
Under the MAS scholarship, Mr Huang majored in mathematics and economics at Cornell University before enrolling in Princeton University for a Master in Finance.

While at Cornell, he took classes in a diverse range of subjects such as computer science, climate science, and Chinese culture and history.

The latter has proven useful in his

current role as portfolio manager. It aids his analysis of how China's domestic policy reforms and geopolitical developments affect its economy as well as the rest of Asia's.

Even though the results of his work may not be immediately evident, he feels immense satisfaction in his role at MAS.

"Our reserves are very important in Singapore and are a key asset in a crisis," he says. "As a portfolio manager, I help to generate a valuable stream of investment income which can be spent or invested for the benefit of Singaporeans."

Mr Huang was 18 when the global economy was slowly recovering from the global financial crisis. At a scholarship fair in junior college, he learnt more about MAS' role as a central bank and financial regulator.

"With the impact of the global financial crisis fresh on my mind, MAS struck me as somewhere I could apply my interests and knowledge," he says.

Shortly after he took up his scholarship, he requested for an internship at MAS and was posted to the Anti-Money Laundering Department, and later, the Economic Policy Group.

After he acquired his master's, he joined MAS in 2018 as a financial regulator in the Prudential Policy Department, developing bank capital and liquidity regulations that aim to increase the resilience of Singapore's banking system.

After three and a half years as a banking regulator, he took up his

current role as portfolio manager with the Reserve Management Department.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many businesses slowed down due to the circuit breaker, affecting their cash flows. In 2020, Mr Huang was roped in to join a cross-department team tasked to work on MAS' response to the crisis.

He worked with other government agencies and the financial industry to implement relief measures, including pausing loan repayments for borrowers and offering rent relief to small and medium-sized enterprises in Singapore.

"It was a rather challenging period when we worked late nights and weekends to roll out the relief measures. But it was also incredibly fulfilling to know that our work had a direct impact in supporting the well-being of Singaporeans," he recalls.

Later this year, Mr Huang will take up a posting in MAS' London office where he will get to deepen his expertise in a foreign market that MAS invests in.

"I have personally benefited from the flexibility of taking on various roles within MAS – I have been an economist, a banking regulator and a portfolio manager. To me, this is one of the appeals of a career with MAS."

I have been an economist, a banking regulator and a portfolio manager.

Mr Huang Yiheng  
Recipient of the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship



Scan for more on the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship.



In 2020, Mr Huang Yiheng was part of a cross-department team tasked to work on MAS' response to the Covid-19 crisis.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Finswimmer fast-tracks underwater goals

This national athlete is embracing life at full speed, both in and out of the water, thanks to his bond-free NUS scholarship

The next time you catch finswimmer Lucas Chew competing, it is best not to blink. The speedy 22-year-old mono-finswimmer can finish a 100m race in just 42.45 seconds – a triumph he achieved when representing Singapore at the 2022 SEA Games.

"The fastest I've gone is 16 seconds in 50m. Before I even think about taking a breath, I've already reached the wall," says the national swimmer.

"I love the speed and the thrill. Some say finswimming is the F1 (Formula One) of swimming."

Finswimming is a turbocharged underwater sport that involves swimming with the use of carbon-fibre fins – single or double – and snorkels. It has been gaining traction over the years and made a return to the SEA Games in 2022, after an 11-year hiatus.

Mr Chew does not just swim like a fish; he is also fascinated with everything under the sea. The aspiring fish farmer is a first-year undergraduate pursuing environmental studies under the National University of Singapore (NUS) Sports Scholarship.

"I study plants and fish, and how they co-exist," he says. "As a fish

farmer, whatever you produce will go to restaurants or people's homes. I like the idea of making such a contribution."

Mr Chew admits he disliked swimming initially. It was something his parents started him on to manage his asthma, but noticing his knack for the sport, his swim coach got him to compete at age four.

He enjoyed the thrill of the speed but found the training tough and gave it up at the end of primary school.

"Funnily enough, when the time came to choose a sport in secondary school, I chose swimming again," he says.

"I didn't have an interest in other sports. This time, it was also different because it was my choice."

In polytechnic, Mr Chew chanced upon finswimming. He entered a sport lifesaving course which had a segment where swimmers don fins while rescuing people in the water or ocean.

One try and he was hooked. "It gave a different dimension to a sport I already enjoyed," he says.

Wanting to take it to the next level, Mr Chew tried out for and was accepted into the Singapore national finswimming team in July 2019.

Soon after, he represented the nation at the 17th Asian Finswimming Championships in December that year.

While pursuing his passion for finswimming, Mr Chew also wanted a tertiary education that would enable him to continue as a Team

Singapore athlete.

Thankfully, the NUS Sports Scholarship affords him both the rigour of education while training locally with the Singapore team.

Although being a student-athlete is demanding, the scholarship helps him balance both. Mr Chew also has a dedicated sports manager who serves as a mentor and assists him with goal-setting.

In addition, the NUS Sports Scholarship is bond-free.

"I was offered other bonded scholarships, but having the freedom to decide what I want to do is my recipe for success," he says.

## The next lap

At NUS, Mr Chew gets the flexibility to schedule classes around his training and receives support from his lecturers to work around examinations and assignment deadlines if they happen to clash with competitions.

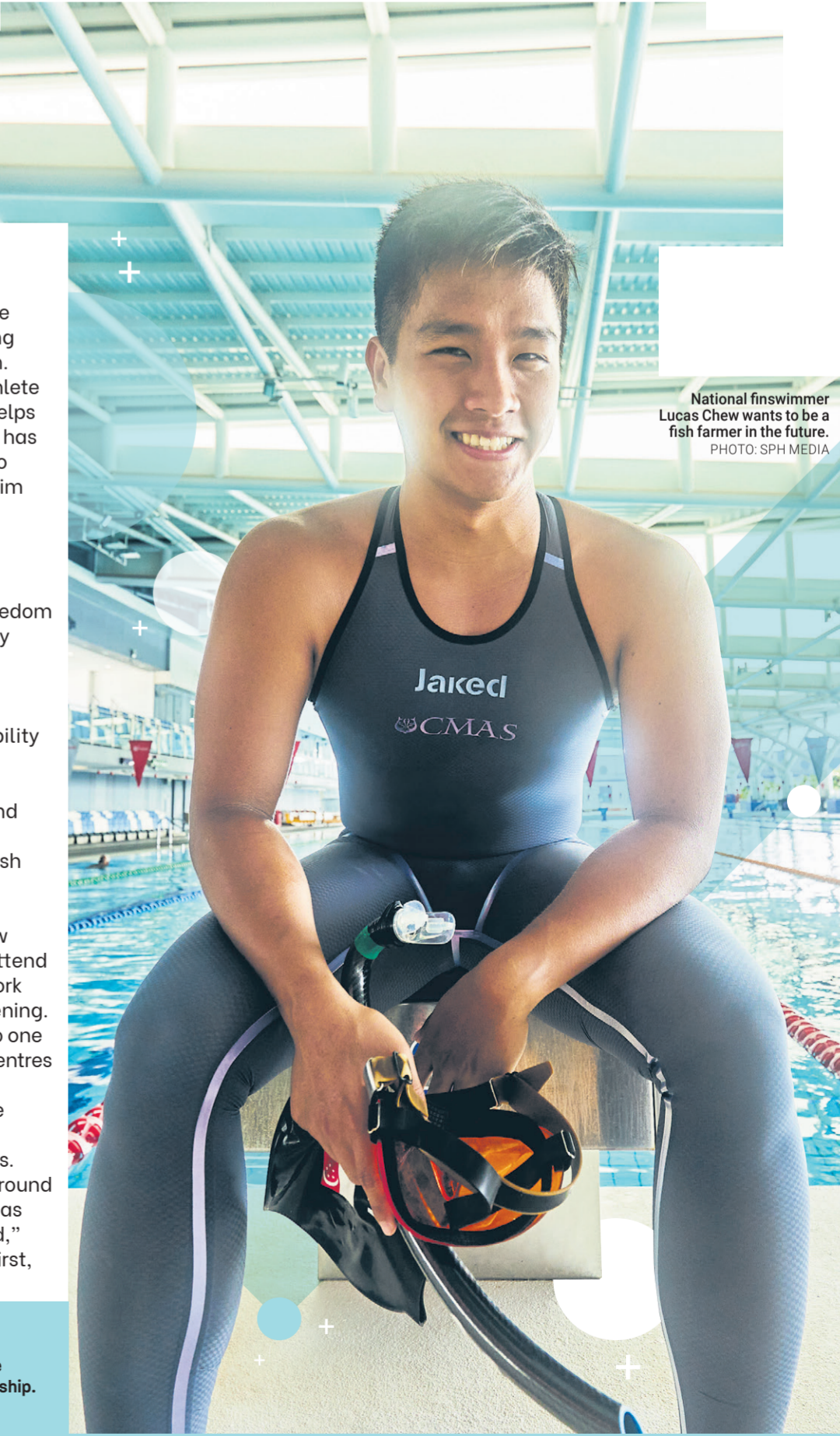
However, nothing is possible without discipline, says Mr Chew who plans his days in order to attend classes, complete his school work and report for training every evening.

This July, he will be heading to one of the world's largest agritech centres in Chicago, Illinois in the United States, for his summer exchange programme. It is a step closer to realising his fish-farming dreams.

"I credit my swimming background for a lot of things I can do as it has helped me to stay more focused," he says. "I hated swimming at first, but now I love it."



Scan for more on the NUS Sports Scholarship.



National finswimmer Lucas Chew wants to be a fish farmer in the future.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



Mr Chew competing at the 18th Asian Finswimming Championships in Phuket, Thailand, in Nov 2023.  
PHOTO: COURTESY OF LUCAS CHEW



# Come make MAGIC with us.

Discover what it's like working at Changi Airport Group, where we make magic happen in every aspect of our business – turning different airport touchpoints into seamless experiences with innovation and technology.

@ChangiAirport



HR Excellence  
Awards 2023

Excellence in Recovery and  
Rebound Strategy (Gold)

Randstad Employer  
Brand Awards 2023

Most Attractive Employer  
in Singapore (2nd Runner-up)

Singapore's 100  
Leading Graduate  
Employers 2022-2023  
Industry Sector Winner

World's most  
awarded airport with  
over 660 accolades

[careers.changiairport.com](https://careers.changiairport.com)

#MAGIC #IMCAG



ADVERTORIAL

# Using AUTOMATION and ROBOTICS to protect Singapore's borders

These scholars at HTX help to keep the nation safe by streamlining immigration clearance and quick detection of illegal substances online

From an automated customs clearance system to robotics that help sift out drugs and other controlled or illegal substances, these tools support the security of our nation. Behind such innovations is a team of scientists and engineers at the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) who are hard at work safeguarding the Republic with the latest technology.

## Developing technology that makes customs clearance a breeze

Long queues at immigration checkpoints are the bane of many travellers, but Public Service Commission (PSC) scholar Quah Yan Hsien wants to change that. Since joining the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) in November 2023, Mr Quah has been part of a project to help improve an automated immigration clearance system.

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) started trialling the system – called the Automated Passenger Clearance System (APCS) – at the Woodlands Checkpoint in 2017 and upgraded it in 2022.

After cars enter a kiosk, the driver scans all passengers' passports at a machine by the driver's window. Contactless biometric scanners outside each car window scan the faces and irises of travellers to confirm their identities before the system lets them through.

As an engineer in HTX's Robotics, Automation and Unmanned Systems Centre of Expertise, Mr Quah is working to synergise APCS with the MyICA mobile application so that travellers can use the app for a more seamless and passport-less immigration clearance, even while they are in the queue.

This earnest desire to help others stemmed from Mr Quah's early years

volunteering at Meet-The-People sessions in his neighbourhood.

"The experience showed me how public servants and policies can have a real, sustainable impact on people's lives," he says.

### Learning to make a difference

To gain a wider perspective, Mr Quah acquired a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a second major in computer science from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and a master's degree in engineering for sustainable development from the University of Cambridge.

He applied for and accepted a PSC Scholarship (Engineering) to finance both degrees.

"I wanted to join the public service and do meaningful work that makes a difference," says the 25-year-old.

"One of my priorities is to create inclusive public sector technologies that can be used by people from all walks of life."

In his second role as a manager in HTX's Plans and Strategy division, Mr Quah is part of a team evaluating public trust in new and developing



Mr Quah Yan Hsien is helping to enhance passport-less immigration clearance as an engineer at HTX's Robotics, Automation and Unmanned Systems Centre of Expertise. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

I wanted to join the public service and do meaningful work that makes a difference.

Mr Quah Yan Hsien  
Recipient of the PSC Scholarship (Engineering)

technologies such as autonomous robotics platforms.

"There are a lot of policy considerations when introducing new technologies," he says. "People may not trust the technology or may need help to use it. That is why I want to be involved in both the technical and policy sides," he explains. At HTX, his responsibilities in the Plans and Strategy division include coordinating high-level meetings between HTX and other statutory boards to discuss collaborations.

For Mr Quah, HTX is the perfect place to launch his career. "I can grow by developing my skills and technical foundation," he says. "By learning more about the nuances

and considerations when it comes to designing policies, it will help me to become a better policymaker in the future too."



Scan for more information on available scholarships.

## JOIN THE HTX TEAM

HTX is looking for passionate individuals with scientific, engineering and digital backgrounds to join them in harnessing science and cutting-edge technology to safeguard Singapore from current and future threats. Outstanding students are invited to apply for the HTX Scholarship, a full-ride scholarship for STEM disciplines.

## Tapping on AI to help detect contraband goods online

Like fictional spy James Bond's Q Branch that deals with top-secret technology, the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX)'s Q Team works on similarly high-tech projects that boost the Home Team's capabilities to safeguard the nation – something HTX scholar Cheryl Kwek finds fascinating.

Since her father signed her up for a Lego robotics course when she was a child, Ms Kwek has been drawn to machines and technology.

In secondary school, she was part of the robotics club and learnt programming languages while exploring machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI).

The HTX Scholarship stood out when she was looking into scholarship opportunities after completing her A levels.

"I wanted two things for my future: To work in the civil service and give back to society, and a technology-oriented career," she says.

"I was attracted to how HTX is a force multiplier in the Ministry of Home Affairs, by using technology to deliver outsized outcomes."

**Turning passion into projects**  
Currently studying computer science and design at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), Ms Kwek did a two-month internship in 2022 at HTX's Data Science and AI (xData) team, where she learnt from fellow interns the interesting fact that HTX also has a Q Team. She has since requested a posting back to xData to experience working as a data scientist full time.

During her internship, she evaluated Natural Language Processing (NLP) models to help build a web portal called VerText that helps Home Team officers in various ways. Some of its functions include summarising long text, examining the sentiments of text documents and clustering text by topics.

I was attracted to how HTX is a force multiplier in the Ministry of Home Affairs, by using technology to deliver outsized outcomes.

Ms Cheryl Kwek  
Recipient of the HTX Scholarship

She also contributed to a surveillance tool that harnesses robotic process automation and AI to trawl through listings on local e-commerce platforms and flag contraband goods. What would normally take days or weeks to do manually is now easily processed within hours.

A one-week "scholarship vacation programme" in 2023, where she visited different Home Team departments, was equally eye-opening for Ms Kwek.

"After I saw how various departments made use of advanced technologies, I was very inspired to develop new ones to make Singapore an even safer and more efficient place," she says.

At SUTD, she plans to take courses in machine learning, NLP, data science and computer vision to further develop useful skills for her future career at HTX.

By proving herself in the male-dominated computer science and tech sector, she hopes to encourage more women in Singapore to not only enter the field but also lead it.

While more women are pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees at local universities, only 30 per cent of local researchers and engineers are women.

Ms Kwek urges those with a passion for technology, who believe in the Home Team's mission, to apply for the HTX Scholarship.

"HTX is the place to be if you want to use your technological skills for good," she says.



Scan for more information on the HTX Scholarship.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Drawn to machines as a child, HTX scholar Cheryl Kwek wants to give back to society through a technology-oriented career. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



# MAKE THE LEAP

Forensics for  
post-blast  
investigations

Unmanned  
surface vessel  
for autonomous  
firefighting

## Make your impact on the future of homeland security

# MARKS THE SPOT

Threat detection in  
baggage using AI

**Apply for the  
HTX Scholarship**  
[go.gov.sg/xmarksthespot](https://go.gov.sg/xmarksthespot)

[htxsg](#)



ADVERTORIAL

# ENGINEERING to SAVE time and LIVES

Through technology, innovation and data analysis, this MHA scholar is ensuring every second counts by optimising the emergency response of the Singapore Civil Defence Force

Time management is important for Lieutenant-Colonel (LTC) Wilfred Lim, but not in terms of organising meetings or meeting deadlines. Rather, he is focused on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Singapore Civil Defence Force's (SCDF) emergency response.

Since he took up the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Uniformed Scholarship in 2006, he has sought faster and more effective ways to save time and therefore lives.

For instance, LTC Lim was involved in the team that developed Punggol Fire Station, Singapore's first smart fire station.

This station not only boasts many tech innovations but also serves as a testbed for introducing smart applications to other fire stations in the country.

Smart applications include a high-speed version of the shutter barrier, which retracts into the ceiling in double-quick time, allowing fire engines to swiftly move out from the station. "The moment we receive an incident call for rescue emergencies, the fire crew must reach the incident location within eight minutes. With this technology, the fire engine only needs to inch forward for the sensors to detect its movement and the high-speed shutter will ascend rapidly, saving about 10 seconds off our current response time," he notes.

Those 10 seconds can make a big difference between life and death.

Other time-saving innovations include an automated medical store, reducing the demand for manual stock management and allowing paramedics to focus on operational needs and training.

Today, the 38-year-old is the head of operations at the 3rd Division of the SCDF, where he leads and inspires the men and women under his charge to constantly innovate and remain operationally ready to protect the northern region of Singapore.

Engraved in LTC Lim's memory are the times when he and his team raced against the clock to save lives from fire and rescue incidents, and other hazardous situations.

"Ultimately, it drives home the importance of preparedness, training and constant improvement," he says.

**Preparation is key**

When he was a rota commander at the Tampines Fire Station – his first role – and later as Central Fire Station commander, he led a team of 30 to 150 firefighters and other SCDF staff, who trained constantly with innovative equipment, to deal with tough situations.

"When I was applying for the MHA scholarship, I learnt that SCDF prided itself on research, development and innovation, and relied extensively on specialised equipment, including the iconic Red Rhino," says LTC Lim, who studied electrical engineering at the National University of Singapore.

Red Rhino is the nickname for SCDF's Light Fire Attack Vehicle, which was introduced in 2000 to provide rapid response to fires. The current sixth-generation Red Rhino is designed and engineered to support the transition from four-man to three-man operations. Its new capabilities leverage robotics, Internet of Things sensors and enhanced equipment. The Red Rhino is also equipped with two compressed air foam trolleys, which are three times more effective than water in extinguishing fires.



▲ Lieutenant-Colonel Wilfred Lim spearheads initiatives to advance technologies in the emergency response of the Singapore Civil Defence Force. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

With the declining birth rate in Singapore, there are fewer people to serve on taskforces like SCDF, making the pursuit of innovation necessary.

"We are now facing a manpower challenge, so we have to make up for it with the use of technology," says LTC Lim.

Early in his SCDF career with the operations department, he headed the conceptualisation and implementation of SCDF's dynamic resource optimisation (DRO).

By analysing the data of past responses, he helped to lay the foundation for SCDF's efforts in increasing its efficiency to reach people in need.

Singapore's dense landscape, which features many complex buildings, is another challenge for the SCDF. "We have two firefighting vehicles that can reach up to 90m high and we use fire engineering studies to prescribe fire safety requirements," LTC Lim points out.

Drawing on patterns gleaned from his research, SCDF could deploy its existing fleet of ambulances to areas where higher demand was expected.

LTC Lim is always keen to share the cutting-edge practices of the SCDF, partly to dispel the notion that the agency only springs into action during fires and disasters.

"Figuratively speaking, firefighting means that when something has happened, you throw water – a snap solution – at the fire, which represents the problem," he says, referring to the broader role of SCDF.

"However, in the Singapore context, we cannot just react to incidents. We need to do a lot of forward thinking and be judicious about how we plan our resources."

As Singapore's challenges constantly evolve, SCDF must stay ahead of the game. "SCDF is not a massive organisation and that's an advantage. We can be very nimble

and move fast, and we can implement new technology quickly," he says.

For promulgating the use of technology and digital literacy to conduct operations, he was awarded the Exemplary SkillsFuture @ Public Service Transformation Award in July 2023.

Furthermore, LTC Lim has played a pivotal role in shaping the future capabilities of SCDF.

During his time as a senior staff officer in the operations department, he analysed the existing Singapore landscape to identify challenges and demands. This analysis led him to become the key staffing officer who proposed the establishment of a new fire station in Kallang, which commenced operations in 2019.

As LTC Lim's career with SCDF progresses,

his dedication to service remains intertwined with his personal growth.

It has been 13 years since LTC Lim joined SCDF, and the knowledge acquired from his engineering studies – design, analytical thinking, problem-solving and technical communications – have helped him make a difference for Singaporeans.

He was exposed to a myriad of challenging yet exciting roles, from fire and rescue rota commander

to taking up leadership roles in SCDF and policy development appointments at MHA.

"Being able to use my education to save human lives is a dream come true. I am thankful to SCDF for helping me to realise this dream of mine," he says. Despite his achievements, LTC Lim remains humble and is determined to keep learning and contribute more.

In recognition of his contributions, SCDF recently awarded LTC Lim an in-service postgraduate scholarship, which allows him to further his studies at an overseas institution. But due to family commitments, he has opted for the master's programme in international relations at Nanyang Technological University instead. He will begin his studies in August 2024.



▲ In 2013, LTC Lim (far left) participated in the mission exercise pivotal to the SCDF's INSARAG External Reclassification as a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team, the highest level of recognition by the United Nations. PHOTO: SCDF



▲ LTC Lim leads his team in monitoring incidents and planning missions from SCDF's Forward Command Vehicle (above), which is deployed for emergency response. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

**“In the Singapore context, we cannot just react to incidents. We need to do a lot of forward thinking and be judicious about how we plan our resources.”**

**Lieutenant-Colonel Wilfred Lim**  
Recipient of the MHA Uniformed Scholarship (SCDF)



## ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNIFORMED SCHOLARSHIP

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Uniformed Scholarship is offered to highly motivated individuals who are passionate to safeguard the safety and security of our nation. Depending on your interests and aspirations, this scholarship will allow you to kick-start your leadership journey as a uniformed officer in one of the five Home Team departments: Singapore Police Force (SPF), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Singapore Prison Service (SPS), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) or as a paramedic with SCDF.

Before you join as a Guardian of our Home, you will receive the opportunity to pursue your undergraduate studies at a prestigious local or overseas university.

Upon your return, you can look forward to learning and development opportunities to equip you as a future leader in the Home Team.



Scan for more information on the MHA Uniformed Scholarship

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**SCDF**  
The Life Saving Force  
...for a safer Singapore

# MHA UNIFORMED SCHOLARSHIP (SCDF) BE A LIFESAVER MAKE AN IMPACT

Kickstart your leadership journey with SCDF and go through structured postings where you will acquire specialised capabilities as well as staff and command competencies. You will be given developmental opportunities such as overseas study visits, training programmes and action-based projects to expand your horizons and acquire a wide range of skills. Eligible scholarship recipients will also be emplaced on the Public Service Leadership Programme where you will be given opportunities beyond SCDF, to acquire even broader knowledge and capabilities for taking on the most senior leadership positions in SCDF.

SCDF is transforming the Force to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Be a part of this change and join our noble mission as a scholar.

Find out more at [www.scdf.gov.sg/home/join-us/scholarships](http://www.scdf.gov.sg/home/join-us/scholarships)



**SCDF**  
The Life Saving Force  
... for a safer Singapore

# He is a teacher, counsellor and friend to his students

A caring teacher award winner, this MOE scholar is someone students turn to for a listening ear

Adolescence can be a trying phase marked by insecurity and self-doubt as teenagers face life changes, sometimes heartbreak and strained relationships.

In those trying times, youngsters may yearn for someone to confide in, without being judged.

For students at Changkat Changi Secondary School, that person is science teacher Khalid Othman.

The 31-year-old recalls a student who came to him in distress after a bad break-up.

"He was crying, and we ended up talking for a long time. He was very appreciative that I was there for him," he says.

Another student had fallen out with his mother. Playing the role of a mediator, Mr Khalid made sure to hear him out first before inviting the student's mother to school for a chat.

Thanks to his help, the mother-son relationship mended over time.

Mr Khalid's ability to connect with his students stems from a genuine interest in understanding them. His focus on being a caring teacher for his students is evident in the three caring teacher awards he proudly possesses, two of which were awarded by Changkat Changi Secondary School and one awarded by the National Institute of Education.

He sees his role as going beyond just merely imparting knowledge. Recognising that teenagers may face struggles that go unnoticed, Mr Khalid extends his support to all students at his school, some of whom come from low-income and broken families.

"Teachers are like second parents

as we spend so much time with students," he says. "We are their role models and mentors, and we provide support way beyond just academics."

As a self-professed introvert, Mr Khalid admits he began his teaching journey as a nervous novice, fresh after graduating with a joint degree in life sciences from the National University of Singapore and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the United States.

The recipient of the Ministry of Education (MOE) Teaching Scholarship recalls: "I would prepare for classes days in advance and look through the material repeatedly. Every time I finished a lesson, I would be covered in perspiration."

With encouragement from his family, friends and colleagues, the pressure eased up over time.

Mr Khalid's commitment to creating an open and trusting space for students is reflected in his involvement beyond the classroom. He not only volunteers in an after-school group for at-risk students, but also coaches badminton as well as runs a science talent programme, further solidifying the bonds he forms with students.

Recognising the importance of addressing students' emotional needs

alongside academic challenges, his journey has also led him to pursue formal training in counselling.

His personal ethos of striving for excellence without pursuing perfection also allows him to embrace self-care, ensuring his own well-being and, consequently, his ability to care for his students.

As he rotates to a new role at MOE Headquarters as a senior manager (data and analytics) in the Higher Education Planning Office this year,

Mr Khalid reflects that being a teacher has been more than a profession: It has been a transformative journey all around.

"Sometimes, developing better relationships means going beyond what you need to do, or doing something that does not necessarily have a direct impact on key performance indicators (KPIs)," he notes.

"The younger generation is our future and teachers have the task, alongside parents, of imparting values to them. When you see your students improving in character, that's when you see real impact."

“Teachers are like second parents... We are the students' role models and mentors, and we provide support way beyond just academics.”

Mr Khalid Othman  
Recipient of the MOE Teaching Scholarship



Scan for more on the MOE Teaching Scholarship.



Mr Khalid Othman forms bonds with his students beyond the classroom through badminton and a science talent programme. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

## MAKE A **RAIL** IMPACT

### SGRAIL INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP

offers an opportunity to take the first step in your journey in fulfilling the needs of the rail industry. Shape the future of our rail industry by pushing the frontiers of engineering and technology. Gaining experience in both the public and private sectors, our scholars will be a part of the industry's continuing growth, impacting journeys and lives every single day. Apply for the scholarship now.



Scan the QR code or visit <https://go.gov.sg/sgrail-scholarship> for more information.

Land Transport Authority  
We Keep Your World Moving

SBS Transit

SMRT  
TRAINS



**SINGAPORE  
PRISON SERVICE**

**CAPTAINS OF LIVES**  
REHAB • RENEW • RESTART



A CAREER THAT CALLS FOR  
**NERVES OF STEEL**  
**AND A LOT OF HEART.**

Embark on a highly meaningful career in corrections. We enforce safe and secure custody of offenders. We rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders for a safe and inclusive Singapore. We are firm and fair, yet nurturing at heart. Join us to make an impact in transforming lives. Theirs and ours.



BE A CAPTAIN OF LIVES  
[sps.gov.sg/join-us/scholarships](https://sps.gov.sg/join-us/scholarships)

Follow us @SingaporePrisonService



SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Turning curiosity into impactful climate research

The NTU-CN Yang Scholars Programme allows him to explore wide-ranging interests in earth science, sustainability and data

One morning in June 2012, 12-year-old Chester Ling witnessed one of the rarest celestial sights visible from Earth – Venus crossing in front of the sun for the last time in the 21st century.

Through a telescope that was set up in an open field at the National University of Singapore, he saw a small, black dot moving across the fiery face of our nearest star.

That once-in-a-lifetime experience sparked his interest in astronomy, earth science and environmental research.

Between 16 to 19 years old, he volunteered at the Science Centre every Friday.

“I just wanted to use a telescope, and the Science Centre probably has the biggest one in Singapore,” he says with a laugh.

Today, the 24-year-old is a scholar under the CN Yang Scholars Programme (CNYSP) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Earth Systems Science.

## Gaining new skills

During his coursework, he has conducted research across various topics – from earthquake vulnerability of various urban neighbourhoods in Metro Manila to data interoperability and transparency across databases and platforms that track climate action.

Most recently, the final-year student started another research project to uncover the relationships between land use, land cover change and green spaces in Singapore.

One hallmark of the CNYSP is the many opportunities to conduct research – through undergraduate

research experiences and an overseas final year project (OFYP). Scholars also get priority for overseas exchange programmes.

The programme has taken Mr Ling on several short trips to research institutions abroad, including a five-month exchange programme at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario in Canada.

There, he took different modules such as corporate sustainability, urban geography and ecological economics.

“These modules broadened my exposure towards alternative ways of how sustainability manifests in other fields,” says Mr Ling.

The OFYP is either partially or fully funded by the CNYSP, inclusive of airfares and living allowance. Scholars can also choose their research topics and which institution they want to work with.

Unlike other research scholarships, CNYSP gives him the flexibility to explore research interests without a bond or being tied to a particular speciality.

To him, researchers gain useful and transferable skills.

“That is the beauty of research; you gain many technical skills like report writing, data cleaning and collection which can be applied to other jobs as well,” he says.

Through common first-year modules, scholars pick up skills in research methodology, scientific writing and critical thinking. There

are also research attachment modules where students conduct part-time research under a professor’s tutelage.

“There is natural progression over time, so you will be equipped to tackle your final-year project overseas,” notes Mr Ling, whose own project focused on the climate change mitigation targets set by cities. His

project was done in collaboration with the Data-Driven EnviroLab at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

With the insights and experiences he has gained abroad, Mr Ling hopes to contribute to efforts that can strengthen Singapore’s resilience against climate change.

To gain a better understanding of the tropical environments in Singapore and across South-east Asia, Mr Ling has been on field trips to places like Pulau Ubin and St John’s Island. After graduation, he hopes to join either the public or private sector to implement climate solutions and catalyse impact.

“Research is very interesting and there is a lot of knowledge for stakeholders to use,” he says. “I want to get myself into a space where I can face the practical challenges on the ground and bridge the gap between knowledge and solutions.”

“That is the beauty of research; you gain many technical skills... which can be applied to other jobs as well.”

Mr Chester Ling  
Scholar in the NTU-CN Yang  
Scholars Programme



Scan for more on the NTU-CN Yang Scholars Programme.



Mr Chester Ling hopes to join a climate start-up or find a policy-making job to make good use of his research knowledge in climate science.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Building community bonds from the ground up

Passionate about creating a more empathetic society, this PA scholar enjoys uniting people through inclusive grassroots activities

The heartwarming sight of over 2,000 Taman Jurong residents decked out in the colours of the Singapore flag and reciting the pledge in unison at a National Day celebratory event last year is an enduring memory for Mr Jovi Kuah.

Thanks to meticulous planning and collaboration with various groups, the event was a vivid illustration of community spirit and unity.

“The event took over three months to organise and involved many different grassroots organisations and partners like schools within the constituency,” he says.

“All the hard work was worth it when people of different races, religions and ages were united as one nation.”

For Mr Kuah, a 27-year-old scholar with the People’s Association (PA), the event was not just a celebration but also a profound reminder of why he committed himself to PA.

“The mission of PA is to build and to bridge communities in achieving ‘One People, One Singapore’, and that is something that resonates strongly with me,” he says.

From a young age, Mr Kuah has had a heart for people. As a teenager, he immersed himself in community service, interning as a teaching assistant at the Eden School, a special education institution.

His commitment continued into his university years when he volunteered as a mentor at youth drop-in centres and engaged in outreach programmes for underprivileged families.

These experiences provided him with valuable insights into the needs of disadvantaged groups and the importance of inclusive community support.

However, it was a poignant incident that galvanised his desire to drive social change.

“While taking the bus home after work one day, I saw a child with special needs experiencing a meltdown,” he recounts.

“The child’s caretaker was frantically trying to calm him down, a challenging task in itself. Despite this, the other commuters were unsympathetic, rudely gesturing for the caretaker to quieten the child.”

This moving experience highlighted the critical need for a robust community spirit.

“A strong community spirit means that everyone is part of the family and no one is left behind, despite their differences,” he says.

The realisation of his calling coincided with a friend’s casual mention of PA, sparking his interest in the organisation’s extensive grassroots network. Mr Kuah saw an opportunity in PA to effect change from within the community.

“If our society were to embark on a cultural shift in the way people perceive differently-abled individuals,

the best way to do it would be to ride on the grassroots movement to lead that shift and change social norms from the ground up,” he explains.

## Serving the people

Now a constituency manager at Taman Jurong Community Club, Mr Kuah is at the forefront of implementing community events, programmes and services. He also utilises technology to execute these initiatives efficiently.

A notable project under his leadership is the digitalisation of the application procedure for education bursaries, which simplifies the process while speeding up payouts for needy students.

He was also instrumental in teaching seniors and low-income families how to download digital vouchers. The vouchers, despite initial resistance, has been welcomed for its convenience and support of local businesses.

Since joining the organisation in 2021, Mr Kuah has noted an uptick in community spirit within his constituency. Residents are increasingly participating in and volunteering for community initiatives, such as the bi-weekly grocery pack distribution programme.

This growing engagement and willingness to contribute to society is a source of immense pride and motivation for him.



Scan for more on the PA Scholarship.



PA scholar Jovi Kuah is an advocate for inclusive community support.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS CIVILIAN SCHOLARSHIP

BE A GUARDIAN OF OUR HOME  
YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY BEGINS HERE

*Pursue your passion to keep Singapore safe and secure*

## CAREER TRACKS

Generalist  
Intelligence

Commercial Affairs  
Internal Security

Psychology

```
inputLayer = Input(shape=(vocab_size,))  
embedLayer = Embedding(input_dim=vocab_size, output_dim=embedding_dim, input_length=input_shape[1])  
  
# Dropout (0.2) EmbedLayer  
D = GlobalMaxPooling1D()(D)  
# Dropout (0.2) D  
Dense1 = Dense(128, activation='relu')(D)  
# Dropout (0.2) Dense1  
Dense2 = Dense(128, activation='relu')(Dense1)  
# Dropout (0.2) Dense2  
Dense3 = Dense(128, activation='relu')(Dense2)  
  
outputLayer = Dense(1, activation='sigmoid')(Dense3)  
model = Model(inputLayer, outputLayer)  
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='binary_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])  
model.fit_generator(generator=train_generator, validation_data=validation_data, epochs=100, callbacks=[callback])  
model.save('model.h5')  
model.load_model('model.h5')  
model.evaluate(generator=test_generator, verbose=1)
```

**KAI RU**  
INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER



**DENYSE**  
CIVILIAN  
GENERALIST

**YONG YANG**  
COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS  
OFFICER

**QUENTIN**  
PSYCHOLOGIST

**ALICE**  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
OFFICER

**FIND OUT MORE**

CONNECT WITH US @MHASINGAPORE



# Steering towards success

SgIS scholar found his calling, thanks to the diverse opportunities offered by the scholarship programme

Like many young people, Mr Chester Chng was unsure of the exact path he wanted in life and work. "I was studying business at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and I felt it was somewhat of a general degree," says the 32-year-old manager at PSA International.

"I was afraid of getting boring jobs and ending up job-hopping," he says. "I wanted to find a career that gave me options and the ability to try different things."

He was, however, clear on one thing: Finding a job that would let him give back to his country.

While doing his national service, Mr Chng discovered the Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS), an undergraduate scholarship for young Singaporeans who are keen to contribute to the nation's key sectors.

"I only had to apply through one portal to many different organisations, and all these companies were part of Singapore's strategic sectors," he says.

"The scholarship helped to broaden my perspective by allowing me to explore industries that I had not previously considered."

SgIS is the only multi-industry scholarship in partnership with the Government, offering Singapore citizens scholarships at different stages of their university education, either locally or overseas.

The organisations participating in SgIS hail from a wide spectrum of industries such as the arts, aviation and aerospace, biomedical and

pharmaceuticals, engineering, energy and natural resources, and maritime.

Through the SgIS programme, scholars are exposed to various development opportunities such as induction programmes, internships, mentorships, dialogue sessions, leaders' forums as well as the scholars' network.

Among the companies Mr Chng applied to, PSA resonated with him the most.

He first began as an operations executive at Pasir Panjang Terminal before joining the stowage planning team. His third role was with the finance team doing financial planning and analysis. He was then rotated to the South-east Asia Chief Executive Officer's office and is currently a manager at the Group CEO's office.

From the get-go, Mr Chng was exposed to challenging situations and witnessed how strong leaders dealt with them – from crisis control to coordinating with different divisions while ensuring everyone's safety.

Under the guidance of his mentors, Mr Chng learnt to solve problems by approaching them from multiple angles. With this strategy, Mr Chng has been able to adapt to new job responsibilities as he rotated among different departments.

These diverse jobs offered valuable insights into the breadth and complexity of work within the maritime industry, and helped him understand what it takes to

keep Singapore ports at the top of their game.

He also experienced first-hand how Singapore ports continued operating during the Covid-19 pandemic when ports in other countries had gone into lockdown.

"Witnessing the coordinated efforts across the organisation to facilitate cargo flow during this challenging period was a reaffirmation of the purpose and value that PSA delivers, and the difference that I get to make at work every day," he says.

## Sustainability efforts

The future promises to be even more exciting as the Singapore maritime industry transitions to green technologies.

Mr Chng is eager to play his part in saving the planet.

"Sustainability is something that we are really cognisant of," he says.

"We are working on reducing direct emissions, the electrification of our equipment and using renewable energy sources."

As he looks to the future, Mr Chng is grateful for the dynamic path that SgIS has set him upon.

"The scholarship allowed me to get involved in different aspects of the business," he says.

"It also provided opportunities for me to network with other scholars and gain valuable insights from senior leaders."

"The best thing about being an SgIS scholar with PSA is having diverse opportunities to broaden my horizons and hone my business acumen."

The best thing about being an SgIS scholar with PSA is having diverse opportunities to

broaden my horizons

and hone my

business acumen.

Mr Chester Chng  
Recipient of the Singapore-Industry Scholarship



Scan for more on the Singapore-Industry Scholarship.



Through his various roles within PSA, manager Chester Chng has gleaned a breadth of insights into the complexities of the maritime industry. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



## JOIN US TO CHART SINGAPORE'S MARITIME FUTURE

Apply for MPA Scholarship Today!

At MPA, we play a key role in building a sustainable and innovative maritime industry. Our scholars will be at the forefront of maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation, in various roles in planning, policy making, technology and operations, with further opportunities for international exposure.

Scan the QR code or visit <https://go.gov.sg/mpa-scholarships> for more information.



ADVERTORIAL



# First raid opens his eyes to other side of drug abuse

Seeing the crying mother on her knees, this MHA Uniformed Scholarship holder realises the extent of disruption that illegal narcotics can create in the lives of offenders and their loved ones

As a child, Deputy Superintendent (DSP) Stephen Lim always thought that a law enforcement operation would include battering down barricaded doors and cuffing criminals. But what he saw on his first Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) raid turned his perspective upside down. The then-undergraduate and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Uniformed Scholarship recipient was with the CNB on an internship stint during his term break. Contrary to what he was expecting, there were no battering rams, flashing lights and teams of officers in full assault gear. Instead, the team of narcotics officers wore plain clothes.

But what stood out the most to him, however, was the noise – or lack thereof.

The air was quiet, not filled with the sounds of flashbangs and yelling orders to “get down”, but rather, the sobbing from the mother whose son was being arrested for suspected drug consumption and of her other children calling out for their brother as he was led away.

As the sound of footsteps faded away down the corridor, it was replaced with comforting words conveyed by the CNB team to the mother. He heard officers reassure the offender’s mother that this was the start of her son’s recovery and that she could support him by keeping in contact with him during his rehabilitation process.

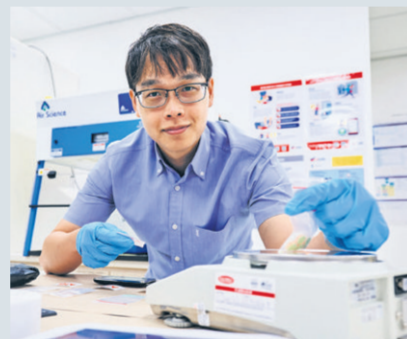


▲ DSP Lim (in blue), who also serves as the Special Assistant to the Director of CNB (far right), helped plan the agency’s 2023 workplan seminar attended by Senior Minister Teo Chee Hean (far left). PHOTO: CNB

“That really changed my view on law enforcement,” recalls DSP Lim, now 30 years old and six years into his CNB career. “To a teenager, you only think about kicking down doors and looking cool. But the role as a Narcotics Officer has a myriad of dimensions which holds profound significance.”

Throughout his childhood, DSP Lim found the action-packed stories of his aunt and uncle – both officers with the Singapore Police Force – riveting.

With his interest ignited, DSP Lim heeded the call and applied for the MHA Uniformed Scholarship which covers a recipient’s studies at universities locally or overseas and a career with the Home Team.



▲ DSP Lim has served in different job roles including an investigator. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

DSP Lim received the MHA Uniformed Scholarship in 2012 and went on to read Business Administration at the National University of Singapore after completing his national service.

During the scholarship interview and job preview session at CNB, he was drawn to a career as a Narcotics Officer. He says: “It was a bit of an enigma to me at the time, what the CNB did and how it operated.”

CNB officers operated more “behind-the-scenes” and often

in plain clothes – this aroused his curiosity and interest to find out more. He was also impressed that a compact outfit like CNB was responsible for keeping the entire nation safe from illicit narcotics.

“That realisation really drove home the point that the CNB and its officers really punch above its weight,” says DSP Lim. “We may be small, but we have such a large impact on both the national drug landscape, as well as beyond Singapore’s borders.”

## A career with diverse roles

Besides enforcement operations and drug raids, CNB officers like DSP Lim are also involved in the review of policies and processes to

“When someone turns away from drugs, it’s always a good day.”

DSP Stephen Lim

Recipient of the MHA Uniformed Scholarship (CNB)

transform the organisation and ultimately, better the effectiveness of the agency.

One of DSP Lim’s key accomplishments has been the creation of the Narcotics Response Unit (NRU) at the bureau. With the NRU, the management of drug cases has been streamlined. This means officers need not be on stand-by at the various land divisions round the clock to receive cases. This change not only improved work efficiency but also the worklife of this group of officers.

Contrary to belief that a uniformed career is specialised and officers cannot take on other roles, DSP Lim shared about the various “opportunities to explore work areas outside your area of specialisation”.

▲ Taking up roles ranging from enforcement operations to policy planning, DSP Stephen Lim (with tactical vest) hopes to keep Singapore drug-free. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



▲ During his training at the Home Team Academy, DSP Lim (far left) had opportunities to hone his leadership skills. PHOTO: CNB



▲ DSP Lim graduated from his Narcotics Officer course at the Home Team Academy with the Sword of Merit. PHOTO: CNB

DSP Lim is also a Career Ambassador, a role that requires him to visit schools, institutes of higher learning and major job fairs to create awareness of the varied career opportunities at CNB to students and potential scholarship applicants.

In 2023, DSP Lim was also in the organising committee of the CNB workplan seminar. Together with his committee members, he put together the event where the agency’s direction for the year is mapped out and communicated to all the officers.

At CNB, the developmental opportunities for officers extend beyond the agency too.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, DSP Lim applied for and secured a secondment to the Ministry of Health (MOH) in response to a call for public officers to assist with the national efforts.

With support from the CNB management, he joined the MOH Crisis Strategy Operations Group, and played a key role in rolling out vaccinations for Singaporeans.

He also helped coordinate cross-ministry efforts involving the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

His current posting as a staff officer in CNB’s Policy, Planning & Research Division has also made him acutely aware of the legislative arena that the bureau operates in.

“Taking on this role as a staff officer allows me to be part of the policy discussions, legislative efforts and plans to operationalise drug policies well.”

Besides action and legislation, research also plays a key role in supporting the CNB’s mission.

Currently, DSP Lim leads the research team in identifying critical areas that can strengthen Singapore’s anti-drug narrative.

One study the team completed recently was a collaboration with KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, looking into the impact of drug abuse on the mothers and their unborn children.

“Strong research is an integral part of CNB’s overall strategy to counter the plethora of disinformation online and to educate the public and our loved ones about the harms of drugs,” he says.

And every policy or research that they commit to paper is ultimately driven by a concern for the betterment of Singapore. After so many years, DSP Lim has never forgotten his first raid, and the sight of that mother crying on the floor of her house.

“If I could go back, I would reassure her that it would be better that her son gets the help he needs to kick the drug habit so that he can come back stronger,” he says.

“When someone turns away from drugs, it’s always a good day.”

ABOUT THE  
MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS  
UNIFORMED  
SCHOLARSHIP

→ If you are passionate about contributing to our cause of a Singapore without drugs where everyone can work, live and play safely, we invite you to be part of the CNB family. Apply for the MHA Uniformed Scholarship and select CNB as your choice of Home Team Department to serve in, so that you too can enforce, educate and engage others for a drug-free Singapore. Upon your return from studies, you can look forward to learning and developmental opportunities through a roadmap comprising of operational and staff appointments. You will also have opportunities to be considered for Home Team and public service-wide leadership programmes.



Scan for more information on the MHA Uniformed Scholarship

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



# Healing through the power of listening

SIT scholar believes that patient care first starts with compassion and understanding, not just theoretical knowledge

Physiotherapist Darren Lim often faces doubts about his healing abilities from new patients, especially those who are fearful or resistant to therapy.

“One patient who had a stroke would start crying and shaking whenever I approached her with my physiotherapy equipment, and her blood pressure would shoot up due to her anxiety towards medical staff,” he recounts.

In such tense situations, Mr Lim would pause to give his patients more time to express their concerns before gradually acclimatising them to the treatment.

“With this particular patient, I hid my equipment before I approached her,” he says. “Only after she had gotten more comfortable with my presence did I then bring out the walking frame for her to use.”

When Mr Lim prioritises their comfort and trust, he has always found success in designing and customising solutions for his patients at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. He credits his empathetic, people-centric skills to his education at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), where he graduated from as a scholar in the physiotherapy degree programme in May last year.

**Finding a support network**

Post-graduation, Mr Lim continues to maintain contact with his fellow physiotherapists through an “SOS” WhatsApp group, sharing experiences and advice.

“I applied for the bond-free SIT Scholarship with the intention of expanding my network and was

also drawn to the prospect of joining a community of like-minded individuals,” says the 25-year-old Nanyang Junior College alumnus.

“Additionally, it gave me various opportunities to network with peers, attend workshops and take on leadership roles.

These experiences broadened my horizons and helped me grow as a person,” he adds.

He was also inspired by the scholars’ exuberant energy and diverse passions, which showed him that success and leadership can take on various forms.

“I learnt to listen to how they did it, and that helped to make me more open-minded,” he reflects.

Through the clinical practice education he received at SIT, which is part of the university’s curriculum, Mr Lim gained experience in a variety of healthcare settings. Within a year, he was deployed to five different healthcare institutions for his clinical placements: Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Ng Teng Fong Hospital, Bukit Batok Polyclinic and an NTUC Health nursing home.

He also discovered the multiplying power of working together.

“The strongest team is one that has people who can bring different things to the table,” he notes.

“The more diverse the skills we

have, the more powerful the team can be.”

During his university days, especially at the height of the pandemic, Mr Lim was part of a group of SIT’s physiotherapy students who provided academic and emotional support to one another over online sessions.

He also realised that while scholars should try to embody positive values as ambassadors of the university, they need not conform to the stereotype of being the most prominent person in the room, as everyone possesses their own qualities.

“I learnt that you don’t have to lead from the front; you can also lead from the back,” he says.

Becoming an empathetic listener became his priority. This approach has transformed his patient care skills, where he prioritises understanding over imposition.

“A leader does not have to be all-assertive, but one who works with you on your specific needs,” says Mr Lim.

“When people feel heard, they will open up so I can help to heal them.”

“It gave me various opportunities to network with peers, attend workshops and take on leadership roles.”

Mr Darren Lim  
Recipient of the SIT Scholarship

Scan for more on the SIT Scholarship.



In his role as a physiotherapist, SIT scholar Darren Lim prioritises patients’ comfort and trust. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

For more information on the MAS Undergraduate Scholarships, scan the QR code or log on to [www.mas.gov.sg](http://www.mas.gov.sg)



## Seeking an exciting and purposeful career?

The MAS Undergraduate Scholarship offers outstanding individuals a fulfilling career that serves the Singapore economy, supports regional development, and connects global markets.

As the central bank, financial regulator, and developer of the financial sector, MAS plays a critical role in shaping the future of finance, promoting financial stability and innovation, while greening the financial ecosystem.

As an MAS scholar, you'll have the opportunity to be part of this important work.

Apply for the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship now!



For more information on the MAS Undergraduate Scholarships, scan the QR code or log on to [www.mas.gov.sg](http://www.mas.gov.sg)

ADVERTORIAL

# “I treated my SCHOLARSHIP like a CAREER application”

By seeking answers to what he wants out of his first job, this trained chemist landed himself a mid-term scholarship and a front-line role in border security

**W**henever Mr Weng Qi Hua is faced with a problem, he deals with it by asking questions.

“At university, one of my sources of stress came from having an unclear direction of which career to pursue after graduation,” he says.

The 25-year-old chose to major in chemistry because he liked the subject. Deciding on a career path, however, was less straightforward.

“I kept wondering whether I should find a job that is related to my field of study or if I should try out other options,” he says.

Though he lacked a post-graduation plan at the time, his vision for a fulfilling career was clear: He wanted a job that extended beyond the confines of a desk or the typical nine-to-five routine.

As an analytical thinker, Mr Weng tackled his dilemma with an open mind and in a methodical manner. To get a better idea of what suited him, he tested the waters through internships and job attachments.

While at university, he took up internships in sectors such as teaching and research. However, it was only at the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) that he realised he fit right in.

## A dynamic and exciting career

As a former National Police Cadet Corps member, Mr Weng has always had an interest in law enforcement, so he signed up for career talks by various Home Team departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Out of all the talks he attended during his undergraduate days, the ICA session caught his attention as he discovered more about the roles that its front-line officers perform.

“It completely changed my impression of ICA, and I began to view it in a new light – as a law enforcement agency, not just an agency dealing with passports,” he says. “I learnt that the work of ICA officers detecting and responding to security threats at our borders has a big impact on our society, and that is meaningful to me.”

Still, Mr Weng was unsure if a uniformed career would be a good fit. To find his answers, Mr Weng signed up for an internship at ICA’s Air Cargo Command, where he gained first-hand insights into how the agency leverages technology for its operations.

He also had the opportunity to work with scientists and engineers from HTX’s (Home Team Science and Technology Agency) CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) Centre of Expertise to develop an image analytics software.

The software uses artificial intelligence (AI) to help detect weapons and controlled items



▲ Mr Weng Qi Hua, 25, is currently going through training to become a Guardian of our Borders. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

◀ Tactical movements are part of the First Response Team training that ICA officers undergo. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

“I learnt that the work of ICA officers detecting and responding to security threats at our borders has a big impact on our society, and that is meaningful to me.”

Mr Weng Qi Hua

Recipient of the MHA Uniformed Scholarship (ICA)

passing through X-ray scanners at ICA’s checkpoints.

“I never thought I would ever do something related to AI since it is not my field of study,” says Mr Weng.

This internship was pivotal, revealing the multifaceted nature of a career at ICA, where he could make a difference as a front-line officer while continually picking up new skills in cutting-edge fields like AI and data analytics.

With just one academic year left, Mr Weng applied mid-term for the MHA Uniformed Scholarship (ICA).

“I treated the scholarship like a career application. Even though there is a four-year bond, four years would be enough time for me to get to know more about ICA and its different job scopes,” he says, adding that the mid-term scholarship back-pays previous years of his tuition fees.

## From classroom to checkpoint

After graduating in 2023, the scholar is now going through the 26-week ICA Basic Course (Inspector) training, which further solidifies his commitment to serve as a Guardian of our Borders.

“I became even more sure of my decision during my training at the Home Team Academy,” he explains.

“It emphasised the importance of ICA officers assessing profiles and intents of travellers, thereby enforcing our laws on immigration.”



## Diverse roles of ICA officers

At the Woodlands and Tuas land checkpoints, ICA officers are responsible for detecting and thwarting the entry of illicit goods and activities. They are also trained to handle firearms and be the first responders for security incidents, having taken over these duties from the Singapore Police Force since January 2023.

Beyond the land, air and sea checkpoints, ICA contributes to the safety and security of Singapore in other ways.

At the agency’s Enforcement and Intelligence Divisions, ICA officers investigate and prosecute cases involving offences such as overstaying and forged Singapore passports or identity cards.

They keep Singapore safe through conducting inland



enforcement operations, including arresting immigration offenders and conducting the full range of court proceedings at the State Courts, such as pre-trial conferences, criminal case disclosures, and ancillary hearings and trials.

ICA officers also participate in enforcement operations with other agencies such as the Singapore Police Force and Central Narcotics Bureau.

improve ourselves so that we do not make the same mistake in the future.”

Looking back – from Mr Weng’s first internship at the Air Cargo Command to his training with ICA’s dedicated personnel – his journey has cultivated a robust sense of belonging and purpose, reaffirming his decision to join the agency.

“I am glad to have found a job after graduation, but even more so, with ICA, I have a clear direction of the career path I am taking,” he says.



▲ Learning how to detect illicit goods is a fundamental skill for ICA officers. PHOTO: ICA

◀ ICA officers train in unarmed combat tactics used to physically restrain subjects. PHOTO: ICA

## Vital statistics in border security



47.1 MILLION

parcels, containers, consignments and low-value goods entered Singapore in 2023 through air, land and sea checkpoints



192.8 MILLION

travellers passed through all checkpoints last year



23% INCREASE

in contraband smuggling attempts foiled by ICA at the checkpoints in 2023, compared with 2022

## ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNIFORMED SCHOLARSHIP

➔ Depending on your interests and aspirations, this scholarship will allow you to kick-start your leadership journey as a uniformed officer in one of these five Home Team departments, namely Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, Singapore Prison Service and Central Narcotics Bureau, or as a paramedic with the Singapore Civil Defence Force.



Scan for more information on the MHA Uniformed Scholarship.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



ADVERTORIAL

# Strategic minds, STEADFAST SOLDIERS

Three officers share stories of pursuing their academic interests with Singapore Armed Forces scholarships and how they are now dedicating their careers to the defence of the nation

Much of Singapore's peace and security rest on the vigilant shoulders of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), where officers lead their charges with expertise and resolve. To attract the brightest and most capable, SAF scholarships are awarded to deserving individuals, empowering them to deepen their knowledge in fields they are passionate about.

Upon their graduation, they join their respective services and are put through a series of command, instructional and staff appointments to hone

their skills in different capacities. Colonel (COL) Sebastian Chai from the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF); Lieutenant-Colonel (LTC) David Kan from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN); and Captain (CPT) Tay Min Yi from the Singapore Army exemplify this pursuit of excellence.

In their respective roles, these scholarship recipients serve in the SAF with pride and honour, defending the country and protecting their loved ones as well as the millions of Singaporeans on this island they call home.



◀ Captain Tay Min Yi trains extensively with her unit in their Mopp 4 PPE attires to keep themselves in tip-top shape. PHOTO: PIONEER

“I wanted to be part of something that was greater than myself.”

Captain Tay Min Yi  
The SAF Scholarship recipient

In her Mission Oriented Protective Posture (Mopp) 4 attire, CPT Tay Min Yi looks like a character right out of a science-fiction movie.

The suit's massive faceplate is devoid of features. Its square-headed silhouette is bulky.

She would look more at home, perhaps, on the surface of an alien planet, hundreds of thousands of kilometres from earth. But the threats that necessitate the use of this suit are much closer to home.

Sarin gas, ricin, anthrax and cyanide – exposure to any of these would result in excruciating pain and possibly even death, but the 26-year-old strides resolutely towards the source as others flee.

CPT Tay is an Army officer formerly with the 39th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers (39 SCE) – the Army's specialists

in Chemical, Biological and Radiological Defence (CBRD), in charge of responding to, containing, decontaminating and disposing of such threats.

CPT Tay's duties at 39 SCE extended to conducting security screenings at events like the National Day Parade and being on standby if an incident that requires CBRD expertise should take place, like an industrial chemical spill.

“It's a very niche department within the SAF, which is why I chose it,” says CPT Tay, who adds that the Army does, however, offer many diverse roles for people with varied interests and passions.

She is currently working on human resources policy at the Joint Manpower Department of the SAF and will return to prepare for her Officer Commanding appointment in the 30th Battalion, Singapore Combat Engineers.

**Inspired since school days**  
Her days in the National Cadet Corps during secondary school inspired her to join the military, specifically the CBRD branch

of the Singapore Combat Engineers, where she could marry her passion for chemistry with her desire to be part of an organisation surrounded by camaraderie and solidarity.

The culture of mentoring and leadership in the Army really spoke to her. It was her desire to be part of this that sealed her conviction to take up The SAF Scholarship. She earned a Master of Science in Chemistry from the University of Oxford.

“I couldn't see myself spending the rest of my career in a lab,” she says. “I wanted to be part of something that was greater than myself.”

Expectedly, the specialised nature of CPT Tay's work at 39 SCE requires equally specialised equipment, the most protective of which is the Mopp 4 suit.

Nothing harmful can penetrate the suit – but no air does either. The heat within it rises quickly in minutes. That is why even after a comparatively lax training session with the PPE, you can turn your suit inside out and literally see the moisture dripping out, she laughs.

So why would anyone do this? To CPT Tay, the reason is simple: To protect fellow Singaporeans.

“CBR agents can cause massive harm and disruption to our way of life. During national events, our unit partners other home-front agencies in security operations to ensure a safe environment for all,” she says.



▶ Colonel Sebastian Chai enjoys the camaraderie he shares with his fellow fighter pilots. PHOTO: MINDEF

“I saw in the RSAF something that was purposeful, not profit-driven.”

Colonel Sebastian Chai  
SAF Merit Scholarship recipient

As a fighter pilot with the RSAF, there are a few things that COL Sebastian Chai would like to clear up about the 1986 movie Top Gun.

One of the most famous scenes, where actor Tom Cruise's character, Lieutenant Pete “Maverick” Mitchell, “buzzes” the control tower, is grounds for disciplinary action.

A low fly-by pass at such high speed close to the control tower would likely even cost a pilot his wings, emphasises the 38-year-old.

However, Top Gun did paint an accurate picture of the camaraderie enjoyed by fighter pilots.

“You can see in the movie the rapport that the team has, going through thick and thin and working hard together.”

It does come as quite a surprise that COL Chai – the very model of a fighter pilot – nearly became a doctor.

“I was quite serious about becoming a doctor at first,” says the Head of the Air Intelligence Department in the RSAF.

But he found the call of the sky irresistible, especially after attending several Ministry of Defence engagement events.

He made up his mind to apply for – and eventually receive – the SAF Merit Scholarship in 2004.

He read mechanical engineering at Imperial College London, earning his master's degree there.

“I saw in the RSAF something

that was purposeful, not profit-driven; a career in which I could be part of something larger than myself.”

**A reason to keep pushing**  
In his two-decade career in the RSAF, COL Chai has been the commanding officer of 145 Squadron and represented the RSAF at the United States Air Force's prestigious Air Command and Staff College.

He has also worked in Mindef's Defence Policy Office. Currently, he leads his department in strengthening defence relations with key partner air forces all across the world.

When asked about the proudest moment of his career, COL Chai does not hesitate for a second. It was his parents pinning his wings on his uniform when he completed his pilot training in 2012.

He is reminded of it every time he takes off from the airbase in his F-16 Fighting Falcon, watching the Singapore landscape race by.

Along with these familiar sights, he thinks of his parents, his wife and two daughters, and the millions of Singaporeans he has sworn to defend with his life.

“Flying reminds me of why I do my job – to protect my loved ones and Singapore's way of life,” says COL Chai.

Sometimes two groups of children want to play in the same area and end up in conflict. But what if children are replaced with 3,000-tonne warships, bristling with high-tech weaponry, and the stakes become orders of magnitude higher.

The correct way to handle such a situation, explains LTC David Kan, 35, is to take a principled stance: Calmly but firmly state that you have the rights and it is in accordance with international law.

“The truth is, nobody actually wants to escalate the situation too far,” says the Head of the Naval Intelligence Department.

Being a naval officer is not just about tending to the day-to-day running of a ship, says LTC Kan.

It is just as much about being able to think quickly and keep a cool head in tense situations, and making the right calls under immense pressure.

Because so much is at stake – not just the lives of the men aboard one's ship but also the peace and stability of the nation.

**‘Interesting and meaningful’**  
As the Head of the Naval Intelligence Department, LTC Kan's department is in charge of providing intelligence support

“I wanted a career that enabled me to make a difference in people's lives.”

Lieutenant-Colonel David Kan  
The SAF Scholarship recipient

for RSN strategic planning and operations, as well as leading the RSN in forging defence relations with partner navies and agencies to safeguard Singapore's maritime interests.

Filling such a geopolitically important role means a lot to LTC Kan, who was awarded The SAF Scholarship in 2007.

He completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Engineering, followed by a master's degree in the same major at the University of Cambridge in Britain.

Upon his return to the RSN, LTC Kan served as the Navigation Officer aboard the RSS Valiant and the Commanding Officer of RSS Justice, before taking on his current position.

Yet joining the military was not on his mind as an 18-year-old. He admits: “I was not sure if I could cope in a regimented and hierarchical environment.”

Thankfully, his fears were

unfounded. “The SAF today encourages different leadership styles. Each individual can adapt the approach that best fits his or her personality,” he says.

Grateful for the opportunities he has been given in his career, LTC Kan says: “The scholarship and the career in the RSN have helped me to grow in multiple aspects, as well as allowed me to be involved in projects and roles that exposed me to the wider strategic importance of the RSN and Singapore. It's an interesting and meaningful job.”

Wanting to actively make a difference at work, he says: “I wanted a career that enabled me to make a difference in people's lives. This was why medicine was the initial choice.

“But finding out more about what the RSN does and how important it is to Singapore made me realise that it was something that I wanted to do.”



▶ Lieutenant-Colonel David Kan, Head of the Naval Intelligence Department at the Republic of Singapore Navy, believes a cool head and quick thinking are necessary traits of a naval officer. PHOTO: MINDEF

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Scan for more information on The SAF Scholarship.



# PROTECTING S'PORE in the DIGITAL DOMAIN

Excited by how fast technology is evolving, this SAF Merit Scholarship holder joined the Digital and Intelligence Service to work on innovations for future battlefields

As a member of the Singapore Youth Flying Club, young Florian Ableitner was captivated by the stories of his instructors and seniors, many of whom previously served in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

He would listen with rapt attention to the veterans sharing experience from their years in the service.

Reading about Singapore's history also made the 24-year-old realise how military defence played an important role in the country's success in nation-building.

"The defence sector forms part of the foundation of what Singapore is built on," says the Singapore Polytechnic graduate, who holds a diploma in aeronautical engineering. His German father is a permanent resident, while his mother is an Indian Singaporean.

"So I thought it would be more meaningful to join the defence sector, especially in the digital and information space. There is much room for growth and I want to be a part of this development."

That is why he signed on as a military intelligence expert in the Digital and Intelligence Service (DIS). The DIS serves to defend and dominate in the digital domain.

Military Expert 4 Apprentice (ME4A) Ableitner was awarded the SAF Merit Scholarship in 2022.

He is currently pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering at Nanyang Technological University.

When he graduates from university, ME4A Ableitner will wear the pixelated grey No. 4 fatigues of

a DIS personnel.

"When I was looking at the DIS, I realised that as a new service, there was just so much potential there," he says.

"It's a much bigger playing field. The digital domain is constantly evolving, and I really wanted to be part of that process."

## A learning culture

While ME4A Ableitner has much to learn from his senior commanders, he has just as much to learn from the men under him, many of whom are full-time national servicemen (NSFs).

"The commanders may have the leadership and management experience, but the NSFs could be the ones with the superior technical knowledge," he says.

This point was driven home when he was posted to the SAF Computer Vision Unit, a unit tasked to enhance the effectiveness of the SAF's operations and training through exploiting emerging technologies.

He owes what he currently knows about computer vision to the NSFs in his team, who helped him every step of the way.

His superiors also sent him on a number of courses and workshops to broaden his coding knowledge.

His posting also reaffirmed his belief that the SAF values and invests in its personnel.

"The SAF not only gives its people the opportunity to learn new skills but it also provides servicemen the resources to develop their knowledge," he says.

The SAF not only gives its people the opportunity to learn new skills but it also provides servicemen the resources to develop their knowledge

Military Expert 4 Apprentice  
Florian Ableitner  
SAF Merit Scholarship recipient

The positive experience has only fed into his enthusiasm to help others grow within his own area of expertise. His background in aerospace engineering, particularly his academic research topic in mini satellites allows him to help the DIS push limits in the applications of sensor technology.

This would enhance the SAF's overall multi-domain smart warfighting capability – not just in the conventional air, sea and land combat but also cyberspace.

"To me, wars can be won and lost on intelligence," says ME4A Ableitner. "This is why we have to ensure that our people are competent and capable in whatever they do."



Scan for more information on the SAF Merit Scholarship.

ADVERTORIAL

## ABOUT MINDEF/SAF SCHOLARSHIPS

The mission of MINDEF and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) is to enhance Singapore's peace and security through deterrence and diplomacy, and should these fail, to secure a swift and decisive victory over the aggressor. MINDEF/SAF continually seeks talent who are willing to take up the challenge of defending our nation. Taking up a MINDEF/SAF scholarship is a lifelong mission to contribute to the peace and security of Singapore. Answer the higher calling. Defend what matters.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



# TRANSCEND LIMITS TRANSFORM DEFENCE

Our evolving defence landscape needs leaders who tackle challenges and enable transformation. Leaders who serve and defend a higher purpose to safeguard the peace and security of Singapore.

Scan here to find out more.



SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Becoming an unseen guardian of national security

The MHA Civilian Scholarship allows this Crimewatch fan to play a part in upholding law and order

When she was a child, Ms Gerianne Bu was fascinated by the television series Crimewatch. A popular crime re-enactment series showcasing the work of police officers, it later became the inspiration for her future career. “Crimewatch was family-bonding time. I have always appreciated the work of policing and found investigative work interesting,” says the 19-year-old, who still watches the programme with her grandparents.

Instead of joining the uniformed officers in one of the front-line agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), she will be keeping Singapore safe in another capacity.

A recipient of the MHA Civilian Scholarship (Generalist), Ms Bu will start her career at MHA Headquarters (HQ). There, she will help set policies, coordinate joint operations and engage the community on safety and security issues.

“I have always wanted a job that involves something greater than myself, not just chasing profits,” she reflects.

“It is important to know that I will be doing work that is part of a cause that I care about.”

Ms Bu has just started the second semester of her first year at the National University of Singapore, reading data science and economics.

Both domains will help her in crafting security policies when she joins the ministry after she graduates.

Ms Bu was drawn to the flexibility and diversity offered by the Civilian Generalist track, where officers can explore roles across a broad range of divisions within MHA HQ. They include policy planning, human resources and finance.

However, before applying for the scholarship, Ms Bu wanted to make sure she had a good idea of what her future career entailed.

Hence, she did a four-month internship with the Criminal Justice and Immigration Research Directorate (CJIRD) in the Research and Statistics Division of MHA HQ in 2023, an experience which cemented her decision to apply for the scholarship. At CJIRD, Ms Bu met MHA officers from various public service backgrounds, including the Central Narcotics Bureau.

She notes: “There is diverse exposure to so many types of work.

That breadth of experience will help me become a more holistic officer.”

The scholar says she will prioritise gaining experience from the different divisions at MHA HQ.

MHA Civilian Generalists also get to rotate among 12 domain areas across 11 Home Team agencies, which gives them exposure and opportunities to develop a wide range of competencies.

“Peace, security and cohesion do

not come by easily – they are the outcome of the many discussions and hard work of officers behind the scenes,” she says.

During her stint at the CJIRD, Ms Bu was surprised to find a warm, people-first culture.

“Before the internship, my impression of MHA was that of a security organisation, regimental and ‘law-by-law’,” she says.

The reality was quite different. At MHA HQ, she found welcoming supervisors, a caring senior leadership and a fun-loving environment.

“During celebrations for Hari Raya Haji, senior management was striking up conversations with staff on the ground and serving food to different members of the organisation,” recalls Ms Bu.

“There was also a town hall session based on a Mario Kart theme, with costumes, decorations and balloons. There was a lot of effort put into making the event enjoyable.”

Although Ms Bu will join MHA only a few years later, she is looking forward to the vacation attachment programmes. She hopes to join a policy-oriented division.

“I have always been interested in the notion that what is written and considered in a policy paper can determine the fates of so many people,” she says.

“But with that power comes responsibility – we are answerable to the rest of the country.”

“I have always wanted a job that involves something greater than myself, not just chasing profits.”

Ms Gerianne Bu  
Recipient of the MHA Civilian Scholarship (Generalist)



Scan for more on the MHA Civilian Scholarship.



Upon graduation, Ms Gerianne Bu will join the MHA Headquarters where she will help set government policies. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

## Be Transformational

Further your potential. Create an impact.



INLAND REVENUE  
AUTHORITY  
OF SINGAPORE

### Map opportunities for yourself in a variety of roles

More than functioning as the custodian for the nation's taxes, you can look forward to a career with dynamic and varied exposure, development opportunities and a constant pursuit of innovation.

We offer diverse career experiences in:

- Tax - service, assessments, audit & compliance and policy
- Design, digitalisation and data analytics
- Infocomm technology
- Valuation and property-related tax policy
- Enterprise disbursements - service, audit & compliance and policy
- Corporate development and others!

Scan here to find out about our scholarship or apply now!



Join us to shape the future of tax.

Find out more about IRAS via:

[www.iras.gov.sg](http://www.iras.gov.sg)

[twitter.com/IRAS\\_SG](https://twitter.com/IRAS_SG)

[facebook.com/irassg](https://facebook.com/irassg)



# Join the **LAND** of Opportunities

## Apply for an SLA Scholarship

Are you passionate about driving positive change for Singapore? The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) is actively seeking passionate young talents with a shared enthusiasm for land management. We are eager to nurture you into our future leaders.

If you're a tertiary student pursuing undergraduate studies, SLA invites you to apply for our scholarships. Embark on a rewarding journey towards a fulfilling career by exploring three distinctive pathways: the SLA Undergraduate Scholarship, Singapore GeoSpatial Scholarship, or Singapore Geomatics Scholarship.

Your path to making a meaningful impact starts in SLA! Apply now for our scholarships.

**SLA  
Undergraduate  
Scholarship**



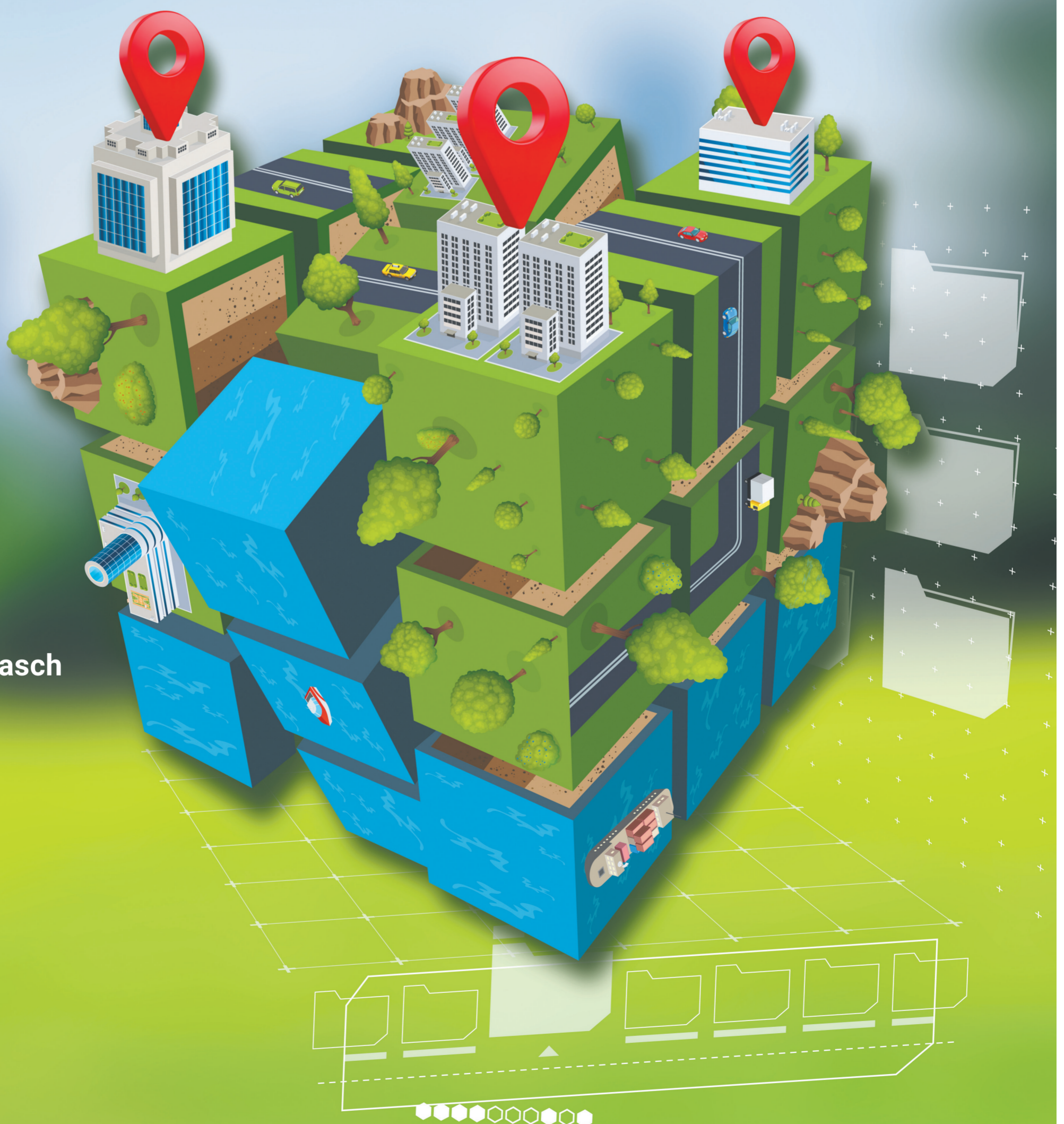
**Singapore  
GeoSpatial  
Scholarship**



**Singapore  
Geomatics  
Scholarship**



[go.gov.sg/slasch](https://go.gov.sg/slasch)



# Bringing new trains to our oldest MRT lines

Over the past decade, this LTA scholar has helmed high-level projects to improve our daily commute

Commuters are enjoying new trains along the North-South and East-West Lines (NSEWL), thanks to senior manager Wan Fang and her team at the Land Transport Authority's (LTA) Rolling Stock Projects department.

"The division takes care of all our trains in Singapore from cradle to grave," explains the 33-year-old. She has been involved in many of LTA's large railway projects, including the ongoing renewal of trains that run on these two Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) lines.

"We are replacing the first three generations of trains that have run on the NSEWL for the last 30 years," she explains. "This involves overseeing the manufacturing and testing of the new trains."

Ms Wan has also taken on other responsibilities, including overseeing the design of the upcoming Singapore Rail Test Centre and supporting LTA's digitalisation efforts.

In 2019, she also had a big hand in developing the \$100 million Rail Manpower Development Package to fast-track efforts in upskilling the rail workforce and attracting engineering talent.

"It is my career's objective and goal to grow the public transport network in Singapore towards a more sustainable future," says the scholar, whose studies were funded by the LTA Undergraduate Scholarship.

"Singapore's public transport system played a very big role in my life when I was growing up, so I am glad to be given an opportunity to give back."

As a child, Ms Wan took public buses and trains by herself while her parents worked long hours. Those journeys were filled with homework, music and the kindness of strangers.

"Sometimes, when I forgot to bring enough cash for the tickets, kind uncles or aunties would offer to top up the fare for me. That's something that I will never forget," she recalls.

While choosing a scholarship for university, she was drawn to the one offered by LTA, seeing it as a perfect fit for her blend of technical skills and desire to work with people.

LTA helped her further these skills by supporting her electrical engineering degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and her master's from Stanford University in management science and engineering. She now applies what she learned on a daily basis as part of her job.

"I still apply a lot of the fundamentals that I learnt in school, about circuit diagrams, forces and torque, antenna theory and more, in my day-to-day work, especially during technical design reviews and when I troubleshoot issues during testing," she notes.

Ms Wan also appreciates LTA's emphasis on teamwork, a value she has held since her university days.

"In school, the cold winter days were always made better with other students in the computer labs working to build different modules of code or troubleshooting software bugs together," she says.

Today, Ms Wan continues to take public transport daily as it helps her avoid peak-hour traffic while giving her some me-time.

## Driving transformation

At LTA, she works with a motivated team, ensuring trains are well-tested before service. Some team members are even stationed off-site at factories for months.

"Compared with before, our trains and railway systems continue to be upgraded with the newest technologies, taking into account commuter feedback over the years," she says.

"Some might notice that after the upgrade to the new signalling system, train headways are now shorter, which means the wait time between trains is shorter."

Even though her bond ended in 2018, she has chosen to stay with LTA.

"There is a sense of satisfaction when you know you have played a part in building a public transport network that touches people's lives every day, or when you hear a passing remark from friends and family about how nice the new trains are," says Ms Wan.

"These are things that make what I do feel meaningful."

There is a

sense of satisfaction

when you know you have played a part in building a public transport network that touches people's lives every day.

Ms Wan Fang  
Recipient of the LTA Undergraduate Scholarship



Scan for more on the LTA Undergraduate Scholarship.

LTA scholar Wan Fang in one of the new NSEWL trains manufactured in Changchun, China. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



# Dream big, dare to excel, and do it at SUSS

Embark on a journey of transformation and emerge as an industry-ready practitioner, just as Bryan did.

JUL'24 INTAKE



Apply Now

Apply and learn more about our scholarships and sponsorships:

Undergraduate Scholarships

Full-Time – [suss.to/FT\\_Scholarships](https://suss.to/FT_Scholarships)

Part-Time – [suss.to/PT\\_Scholarships](https://suss.to/PT_Scholarships)

Undergraduate Sponsorships

Part-Time – [suss.to/PT\\_Sponsorships](https://suss.to/PT_Sponsorships)



Bryan Lim  
School of Business

DREAM,  
DARE,  
DO.



PART 02

THE STRAITS TIMES

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

ELEVATE  
YOUR  
FUTURE

Whether your passion lies in science, education or technology, there's a scholarship to kick-start your dreams. Flip the page to discover more

Find your match >>>

CHOICE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR PARTNERS

 NLB

National Library Board  
Singapore

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT

ON THE COMMUNITY, OUR ORGANISATION AND YOURSELF.



INNOVATE  
& PUSH  
BOUNDARIES

We value ideas, curiosity and a passion for innovation to transform our libraries and archives.



CARE FOR  
YOUR  
GROWTH &  
WELL-BEING

We invest in staff's development and well-being with a supportive and collaborative environment.



IMPACT THE  
COMMUNITY

We bridge gaps and empower everyone with opportunities for learning and discovery.



Readers for Life.  
Learning Communities.  
Knowledgeable Nation.

The NLB Scholarship offers promising talents the opportunity to pursue full-time undergraduate studies in diverse fields to advance library and archives development and to grow domain expertise in various knowledge fields.

If you are passionate about our cause and want to be part of NLB's transformation to reimagine the libraries and archives, we welcome you to apply to the NLB Undergraduate/ Mid-Term Scholarship!

Scan the QR code for more information on our scholarship:



Knowledge • Imagination • Possibilities

# Helping inmates stay connected with the outside world

A chance encounter with an ex-offender helped this MHA Uniformed Scholarship (SPS) holder discover his calling

Living at the intersection of technology and rehabilitation is an electronic tablet that helps inmates stay connected with their families, keeping them informed about the well-being of their loved ones.

The deployment of secured tablets at all prisons was one of Superintendent of Prisons (SUPT) Neo Ming Feng's ground-breaking projects since he first joined the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) as a prison officer in 2011.

Inmates can use the tablets to access digital resources, such as e-letters and e-books, to support their rehabilitation and self-directed learning. Through these applications, inmates can foster bonds with their family members and learn at their own pace, allowing them to take greater ownership of their rehabilitation.

The 37-year-old knew he had chosen the right career when he witnessed first-hand how this initiative helps inmates better reintegrate into society after their release from prison.

"Inmates who were about to be released shared that they were initially apprehensive of reuniting with their family," he explains.

"With the e-letters, inmates and their loved ones are encouraged to stay connected throughout their incarceration, helping them keep familial bonds strong."

**Transforming the system**

SUPT Neo always knew he wanted a career that could make a direct impact on the lives of others.

It was through a chance encounter with an ex-offender at his uncle's provision shop in 2004 that led him

to apply for a scholarship with SPS. The ex-offender, who was a former gang member, shared how a prison officer's support and encouragement throughout his incarceration inspired him to turn over a new leaf.

The brief conversation made SUPT Neo realise that the role of a prison officer goes beyond just maintaining order and discipline.

He then decided to sign up for and was awarded the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Uniformed Scholarship (SPS) to pursue the Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Engineering at Nanyang Technological University.

Upon graduation in 2011, he underwent his foundational posting as a housing unit officer (now known as senior correctional unit officer) at SPS, where he instilled hope and inspired change in inmates through regular interactions, while keeping them safe and secure in custody.

In 2014, as part of SPS's structured career development framework, SUPT Neo was posted to the Transformational Projects Office, which gave him the opportunity to work on initiatives to use technology to enhance operations and rehabilitation processes in prisons.

One of the initiatives involved working with architects and engineers to design the security systems of the Selarang Park Complex.

It was operationalised in 2020 and comprises several facilities, including a Drug Rehabilitation Centre and Work

Release Centre, to help inmates with their reintegration into society.

For SUPT Neo, such projects were aligned with his desire to help ex-offenders break the cycle of reoffending.

"There is now more community support given to rehabilitate ex-offenders. This is good because it humanises them and reminds people that ex-offenders are part of our community," he explains.

"In the long run, I hope this can help reduce stigma and improve reintegration of ex-offenders."

Currently seconded to the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) as the head of programme planning and control, SUPT Neo ensures science and technological capabilities are developed strategically and in a timely manner to meet the Home Team's operational needs, including those of SPS.

"Being able to help inmates find a landing point in their lives and see the changes that can be made to their lives and their families - that is priceless," he says.

Being able to help inmates find a landing point in their lives and see the changes that can be made to their lives and their families - that is priceless.

SUPT Neo Ming Feng  
Recipient of the MHA Uniformed Scholarship (SPS)

Scan for more on the MHA Uniformed Scholarship.



Superintendent of Prisons Neo Ming Feng hopes to help improve the reintegration journey of inmates and ex-offenders.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



LEE KONG CHIAN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## NURTURING THE DOCTORS YOU AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CARING FOR US.

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) trains doctors who put patients at the centre of their exemplary care. The School, which offers both undergraduate and graduate programmes, is named after local philanthropist Tan Sri Dato Lee Kong Chian. Officially opened on 28 August 2017, LKCMedicine aims to be a model for innovative medical education and a centre for transformative research. The School's primary clinical partner is the National Healthcare Group, a leader in public healthcare recognised for the quality of its medical expertise, facilities and teaching. Graduates from the five-year undergraduate medical degree programme will have a strong understanding of the scientific basis of medicine, with an emphasis on technology, data science and the humanities.

The School affirms NTU's commitment to a needs-blind, merit-based admissions policy that will ensure no deserving student is denied an education because of financial difficulty. The following are scholarships, financial aid programmes, awards and prizes on offer:

**Scholarships**

LKCMedicine Scholarship

Toh Kian Chui Scholarship

ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship

Irene Tan Liang Kheng Scholarship

Sim Yung Chong Medical Scholarship

Temasek Foundation – G Muthukumarasamy Scholarship

SAF Medicine Scholarship

PSC Scholarship

**Bursaries and Grants for Living Expenses**

Lee Kong Chian Bursary

E I Parrish Bursary

GGV Capital Award

Yi Xuan Medical Bursary

Irene Tan Liang Kheng Student Financial Assistance Grants

MHC Asia Group Bursary

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Bursary Fund

Singapore Medical Association Medical Students' Assistance Fund

**Awards and Prizes**

Ong Hock Tien Gold Medal

Anthony SC Teo – Gordon Johnson Gold Medal

Chee Yam Cheng Gold Medal in Professionalism, Ethics, Law, Leadership and Safety (PELLS)

Chew Chin Hin Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Medicine

Low Cheng Hock Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Surgery

Academy of Medicine, Singapore Medal for Outstanding Leadership

Chee Choong Seng Prize

Chay Oh Moh Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Paediatrics (KKH)

Ho Tew Hong Prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (KKH)

Feng Pao Hsui Rheumatology Prize (College of Physicians Singapore)

College of Ophthalmologists National Ophthalmology Academic Prize

College of Ophthalmologists National Ophthalmology Research Prize

Society of Infectious Disease (Singapore) Prize

Kanwaljit Soin Prize in Orthopaedics

Singapore Medical Association Prize for Best Scholarly Project

College of Family Physicians Singapore Prize in Family Medicine

College of Physicians Prize in Internal Medicine

Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award

Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal

Toh Kian Chui Gold Medal

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit [www.ntu.edu.sg/medicine/mbbs](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/medicine/mbbs)

# Embracing AI in auditing for the nation

Forward-thinking AGO scholar leverages technology as part of his audit work to enhance public accountability

**D**uring a time of rapid technological advancements, business and accountancy graduate Paxton Ong often wondered: "Will AI steal my job?"

"While I was studying accounting, there was always a nagging fear that auditing jobs would be replaced by AI," says the 25-year-old. However, just six months into his career as an associate audit officer at the Auditor-General's Office (AGO), Mr Ong is heartened to know that the organisation is not cutting staff but is ensuring its auditors stay ahead of the curve through cutting-edge initiatives.

Since 2018, Singapore's national auditor has made a concerted effort to expand its use of data analytics tools, artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies to automate AGO's systems and processes.

In particular, it set up the Digital Innovation Office (DIO) to examine how auditors can use analytical skills and tools to identify financial data abnormalities.

The transformation at AGO has been significant. Mr Ong recalls that when he was doing his internship at AGO in 2021, things were still done manually using paper forms and physical transactions.

Since he joined as a full-time officer in July 2023, he has noticed that things had changed.

"It's all e-files now. Our working papers are also electronic," he notes.

**"Every year, as the Auditor-General presents its report to the President and the public, I feel proud to be part of a team that has made a nationwide impact."**

**Mr Paxton Ong**  
Recipient of the AGO Auditing Service Scholarship

Mr Ong remembers stumbling upon the AGO Auditing Service Scholarship while doing his national service. At that time, he was interested in investing and reading financial statements, which led him to apply for the scholarship and pursue business and accountancy studies at Nanyang Technological University.

**Taking charge of his journey**  
Far from being a threat, AI has opened up more opportunities for junior accountants like Mr Ong by automating mundane tasks and freeing them to take on more advisory roles. Having picked up programming skills such as Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) and basic Python on his own, Mr Ong finds that AGO often empowers him to manage his own projects and lets him voice his suggestions.

"I enjoy the autonomy I'm given to be in control of my timelines and progress," he says.

Opportunities to learn new tools such as robotic process automation (RPA), Tableau and Python are also available through workshops.

Having obtained a coveted first class honours and done internships at major banks, Mr Ong could have had his

pick of the best companies in the private sector.

However, he is adamant that public sector accounting is his best choice. He draws a strong sense of purpose from his work and looks for more than just prestige in his job.

"Every year, as the Auditor-General presents its report to the President and the public, I feel proud to be part of a

team that has made a nationwide impact," he says.

"Being at the forefront of auditing, AGO is a great place for those who want to help put the public's money towards running a well-functioning democracy."



Scan for more on the AGO Auditing Service Scholarship.



Associate audit officer Paxton Ong uses his programming skills to streamline audit work and processes carried out by the Auditor-General's Office.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

## SHAPE FUTURES,



## SHARE VALUES

### LAUNCH YOUR FULFILLING CAREER WITH A TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP.

Journey towards an enriching career with a teaching scholarship. Our range of scholarships will provide various development opportunities, designed to prepare you to be a future-ready educator. Become a teaching scholar and uplift lives through education.



**Values that last a lifetime. It begins with a teacher.**

Apply now. [moe.gov.sg/tss](https://moe.gov.sg/tss)



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE



SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024



Ms Rebecca Loy monitors the health of Singapore's marine and coastal habitats. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Conserving S'pore's marine life to fight climate change

The NParks scholar's career enables her to shape the island's coastal future, ensuring its sustainability for generations to come

For a few days every month, Ms Rebecca Loy is up by 4am and out at Changi Beach, East Coast Park or Coney Island Park (also known as Pulau Serangoon) before the high tide comes in. Together with a group of colleagues and volunteers, she surveys Singapore's intertidal sand and mudflats. She also studies seagrass, mangroves and coral reef habitats.

Working in the coastal and marine division of the National Biodiversity Centre at the National Parks Board (NParks), the 25-year-old holds consultations with private and public land developers on the impact of their developments on the coastal and marine environment, as well as suggests mitigation measures that can reduce any damage. The biodiversity (coastal and

marine) manager goes on regular dawn expeditions to gather information that can help to influence policy decisions regarding coastal and marine habitats, while providing advice to stakeholders like nature group members and academics.

## Steward of the environment

To the layman, NParks may be generally associated with parks, gardens and greenery. However, few may know that it is also the guardian of marine habitats.

Besides its OneMillionTrees movement which aims to plant a million more trees by 2030, the agency also has a new initiative to plant 100,000 corals in our waters.

This is the main reason why Ms Loy, who loves diving, snorkelling and swimming, applied for the NParks Undergraduate Scholarship.

"As I started to learn more about the threats our marine life is facing, I wanted to do whatever I could to combat them," says Ms Loy.

She knew that she would be given ample opportunities to pursue this at NParks as it is the main government agency in charge of the conservation of Singapore's natural habitats.

Ms Loy graduated from the University of Cambridge with a Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences. She chose the university because she could study multiple disciplines of science in the first few years before specialising in zoology in her final year.

I chose TSP

Because I believe it is the springboard for me to become the educator I aspire to be. TSP is where I embark on an exciting journey of personal growth, surrounded by like-minded, passionate peers committed to shaping the future of our nation.

Tan Wee Yu  
Recipient of MOE Teaching Scholarship

## NTU-NIE TEACHING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

- **Premier Programme**  
Be challenged by our Double Major Programme with its multi-disciplinary curriculum
- **Cutting Edge Research**  
Be mentored by eminent researchers and top professors
- **Global Immersion**  
Gain international perspectives through semester exchange and international practicum
- **Expand Horizons**  
Learn beyond the classroom through industry internships and service learning opportunities
- **Transform Lives**  
Be leaders of educational change
- **Fulfil Aspirations**  
Broaden your knowledge and deepen your skills in two majors – an Academic Discipline and Education



“These experiences gave me a greater understanding of what I can do to study, conserve and protect our natural habitats in Singapore.”

Ms Rebecca Loy  
Recipient of the NParks Undergraduate Scholarship

Memorable too were the many field trips throughout Britain. She also went on a trip that took her back to South-east Asia, to the Danau Girang Field Centre in Sabah. There, she did a project on the distribution of ant species across different canopy levels in the rainforest.

With NParks' support, she also had the opportunity to pursue a research attachment at the Palau International Coral Reef Center and take part in its long-term coral monitoring programme.

"These experiences gave me a greater understanding of what I can do to study, conserve and protect our natural habitats in Singapore," she says.

Ms Loy believes her field is a growing one as more people recognise the importance of preserving nature, in the face of climate change.

"There are many instances around Singapore that have shown us how biodiversity can thrive in difficult conditions if we learn more about maintaining the right conditions to sustain nature," she says.

NTU  
OPEN  
HOUSE  
2024

Learn more about us at the  
NTU Virtual Open House from  
17 February to 23 February  
<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/openhouse>

Visit us at the NTU In-Person Open House on  
2 March. NIE booth at Nanyang Auditorium,  
Level B1.

The Teaching Scholars Programme is a premier scholars programme by Nanyang Technological University and it is administered by the National Institute of Education (Singapore).

Follow us  
[bit.ly/niete](https://bit.ly/niete)

Scan here for  
more information

Scan for more  
on the NParks  
Undergraduate  
Scholarship.

# Shaping key projects from Tuas Port to RTS Link

A civil engineer by training, this MPA scholar is developing a wide range of skills in policy, planning and even communications

Growing up, Mr Lim Chu Rui was captivated by megastructures like bridges and underground tunnels that are built across large bodies of water.

This was why he majored in civil engineering and took up a mid-term scholarship with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

While the agency might not appear to be an obvious choice for an aspiring civil engineer, Mr Lim found out that MPA is not just the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, but also the authority behind reclamation works for key projects, such as the Tuas Port.

"The scholarship is a gateway to your first job," says the 29-year-old. "I wanted my first job to capitalise on my strengths and align with my interests."

Mr Lim's dream of building megastructures materialised much sooner than he had expected.

While in his third year at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), the MPA scholar was given the opportunity to work on an engineering project at the Tuas Port.

He continued to work there after joining MPA in 2019, contributing to the design of the port's operations.

In the first three years of his career, he learnt how extensive the work of a civil engineer can be.

Beyond applying technical knowledge, he also had to coordinate work with stakeholders from other divisions and collaborate with consultants on plans and designs, opening his eyes to the wider ecosystem that underpins the success of mega-engineering projects.

**The scholarship is a gateway to your first job. I wanted my first job to capitalise on my strengths and align with my interests.**

**Mr Lim Chu Rui**  
Recipient of the MPA  
Mid-Term Scholarship

He adds: "I am trained as an engineer but was given many opportunities and exposure to sustainability, policy, planning and even communications work."

The "soft" skills needed in these new areas may seem to be a stretch from what he was trained for, yet to his surprise, Mr Lim discovered how interconnected and critical they are for a civil engineer working in the public service.

In August 2022, he became the special assistant to MPA's chief executive (CE). "I helped the CE handle various and diverse portfolios, including his engagements with international organisations, ports and authorities, unions, academia and private sectors," says Mr Lim.

As part of MPA's career development for officers, he was seconded in 2023 to the Ministry of Transport, the parent ministry of MPA.

"Many policy issues involve engineering, science or technology so this job still plays to my strengths," he says.

Apart from examining policies in rail reliability, manpower and operations, he was also part of the

communications working group for a commemorative ceremony held last month for the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link project.

Mr Lim is able to quickly grasp and understand the challenges faced by engineers at the Land Transport Authority (LTA), the lead agency for the Singapore side of the RTS Link.

He is grateful to MPA for giving him many opportunities

to develop a range of skills beyond the engineering discipline.

"My experiences with MPA made me realise I have so much more to learn to be a good engineer and public officer in order to contribute on all fronts."



Scan for more on the MPA Mid-Term Scholarship.



Mr Lim Chu Rui is currently seconded to the Ministry of Transport, where he dives deep into policy formulation.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY  
SINGAPORE**



**Angeline Wong Li Ning**  
NTU-University Scholars  
Programme



**Rahul Gupta**  
Lee Kong Chian  
School of Medicine

**Changemaker  
Creator  
Trailblazer**

You want a university that prepares you for the future. A world rapidly changing through digital technologies, artificial intelligence, climate change, pandemics and misinformation.

You want a university that will push you. To be a thinker. To be a disruptor. To be exceptional with your talent.

You want a university with a smart campus that puts you at the forefront of tomorrow's technologies. That lets you see the world. And then come home to one of the world's most beautiful campuses.

**NTU. It all starts here.**



**SMART CAMPUS, SMARTER THINKING**  
[ntu.edu.sg/admissions/ug](https://ntu.edu.sg/admissions/ug)

**SIGNATURE  
PROGRAMMES:**

- Turing AI Scholars
- Renaissance Engineering
- CN Yang Scholars
- NTU-University Scholars
- NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars
- Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Designing products with purpose

This DesignSingapore scholar creates practical and aesthetically-pleasing products that improve everyday tasks

**H**airdryers and hair straighteners may be two different gadgets, but in them, Mr Kevin Chiam envisioned an entirely new product.

The senior industrial designer of new product innovation at Dyson was part of the team that worked on the company's AirStrait straightener which was launched in the United States in May 2023. It dries and straightens hair at the same time.

Identifying and solving problems – or what his industry dubs “pain points” – is why he ventured into industrial design.

“It's about designing something that benefits and improves people's lives while also making it look appealing in someone's home,” he says.

At Dyson, the 31-year-old does “a bit of everything for the full journey”. He brainstorms with researchers and engineers, conducts stress tests, makes presentations to stakeholders – including Mr James Dyson himself – and compiles post-production feedback.

**Exposure to global perspectives**  
As a child, Mr Chiam would take toys apart and reassemble them, a process that gave him a lot of joy, he says.

This early curiosity was further nurtured by his father, a handyman who would repair broken furniture at home.

“Once, when he removed the upholstery from a sofa, I saw the springs in it and was very fascinated by how things are put together,” he recalls.

“As I grew up, I realised that design is about adding science and engineering to art, and giving it an additional layer.”

Under the DesignSingapore Scholarship, Mr Chiam enrolled at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in

London where he graduated with a Master of Arts in Innovation Design Engineering in 2020.

The scholarship is the only one in Singapore that provides funding for students and industry professionals in the widest range of design disciplines that include industrial and product design, visual communication, design research and service design.

The DesignSingapore Scholarship cultivates undergraduate and postgraduate talent for Singapore's increasingly dynamic design landscape.

Since 2015, the DesignSingapore Council has nurtured around 70 scholars. Some of its illustrious recipients include textile artist Tiffany Loy and President\*s Design Award Singapore recipient Hans Tan.

Mr Chiam appreciated how the scholarship gave him the leeway to serve his bond in any design-related role in a Singapore company.

Besides financial support, the scholarship also offers access to various networking opportunities through the DesignSingapore Associates Network.

“At least once or twice a year, past and present scholars meet to share experiences from Singapore and other parts of the world,” says Mr Chiam.

“Being from different cultures and backgrounds, we can learn more about how different design disciplines are executed across the world.”

He also benefited from a mentorship programme where he was

paired with a design professional who helped him navigate through his career decisions.

While attending RCA, he went on a month-long field trip to Nairobi where he and his schoolmates designed an app and SMS system whereby students could discreetly consult about taboo subjects such as sex.

This experience showed him the importance of industrial design in creating helpful solutions beyond products.

“Industrial design isn't limited to a physical product, but it is about designing solutions that may be a system,” he explains.

“The ‘why’ is very important as it allows us to understand how to intervene and improve areas while also sparking innovation and new experiences.”

Mr Chiam drew inspiration from this concept when designing a range of kitchen tools that enable both the elderly and visually impaired to prepare food safely.

The Folks Kitchenware for the Blind range, which won the James Dyson Award in Singapore in 2018, included a knife with a retractable guard to prevent injuries and a chopping board with a special tray to minimise spillage.

On why he thinks he won the award, Mr Chiam says: “My invention wasn't high-tech and it didn't require a charger. It was all about accessibility.”

“Industrial design isn't limited to a physical product, but it is about designing solutions that may be a system.”

Mr Kevin Chiam  
Recipient of the DesignSingapore Scholarship



Scan for more on the DesignSingapore Scholarship.

Mr Kevin Chiam ventured into industrial design because he wanted to identify and create solutions for real-world problems.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



# THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY IN YOUR HANDS

Get a head start in a career with diverse opportunities.

If you are excited about shaping the future of land transport and how commuters travel, the LTA Scholarship gives you the opportunity to do just that.

You will play a part in developing strategies, policies and smart land transport engineering solutions to deliver faster, safer and more inclusive journeys for all.

Join us in bringing our land transport vision to life. Build an exciting career where a multitude of opportunities awaits you. Apply now at <https://lta.gov.sg/careers>



Land Transport Authority  
We Keep Your World Moving

# Inspiring women to make a quantum leap in Stem

As she excels in the rapidly evolving field of quantum computing, this SG Digital scholar is also helping the next generation navigate the tech industry

Imagine your computer as a superhero librarian who can read many books at once, absorbing and processing every word on every page simultaneously. Enter the thrilling world of quantum computers.

This capability can unlock new advancements in industries such as aerospace and automotive to help design fuel-efficient vehicles, says Ms Amanda Chew, 32, who is at the forefront of this rapidly evolving field.

As vice-president of product at Horizon Quantum Computing, she leads the product vision, strategy, and research and development of tools for programming quantum computers.

While looking for scholarships after junior college, Ms Chew was drawn to the Singapore Digital (SG Digital) Scholarship offered by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA). It would open doors to the ever-exciting tech industry and give her the freedom to choose the company she wanted to work for while serving out her bond, as long as it was in a tech- or media-related role.

In 2010, the SG Digital Scholarship took Ms Chew to Brown University in the United States where she pursued a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science.

**“The scholarship gave me the opportunity to pursue a well-rounded education and meet nurturing mentors.”**

**Ms Amanda Chew**  
Recipient of the IMDA  
Singapore Digital Scholarship

Ms Chew was excited to start a new chapter, but had to overcome the high expectations she had placed on herself to excel.

“It took me a period of discomfort and maturing to be comfortable with fear, uncertainty, insecurity and groundlessness. My scholarship experience helped me to let go of perfectionism and experience life as it is.”

## Embracing new possibilities

The scholarship also enabled Ms Chew to embark on two internships in Nairobi, Kenya.

On her first visit, she taught 3D computer animation to local trainers who taught design and computing to underprivileged teenagers.

Later, she returned to assist a company in developing a prototype for a disaster response mobile application which tracks victims' whereabouts in crisis situations such as riots or earthquakes.

After graduation, Ms Chew landed a job with Microsoft in Singapore. There, she started out pitching enterprise software and services to Fortune 500 customers and went on to become a senior program manager for Microsoft's Visual Studio App Center software in San Francisco.

Ms Chew's technical expertise and interpersonal skills are now indispensable in her current role.

Her achievements have also been widely recognised. In 2023, she was listed

among the Singapore Computer Society's Singapore 100 Women in Tech.

Ms Chew is also a mentor to female Stem (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students at Brown University and coaches younger IMDA scholars through the organisation's speed mentoring programme.

“The scholarship gave me

the opportunity to pursue a well-rounded education and meet nurturing mentors.

“I am grateful for the generosity and happy to share that with others,” she says.



Scan for more  
on the IMDA  
Singapore Digital  
Scholarship.



Ms Amanda Chew is a female trailblazer in quantum computing.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# ADMISSIONS NOW OPEN

10 Jan to 19 Mar 2024

It's not about the finish line.  
Because every experience is  
a learning journey.

Forge your own path and turn  
your passion into a career.

Apply at  
SingaporeTech.edu.sg

**PREPARED FOR LIFE**

@SingaporeTech

Singapore Institute of Technology

SingaporeTech.edu.sg

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Traversing new horizons for connectivity

Changi Airport Group scholar is eager to elevate Singapore's standing as a leading global aviation hub

**D**riven by curiosity and a great passion for adventure, Ms Ella Tan has always been drawn to the unknown. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, she moved abroad to pursue her undergraduate studies at the University of Oxford, living independently and adapting to a new school under fluctuating social isolation rules.

These experiences, she says, made her who she is today.

"I learnt how to adapt to ever-changing conditions while maintaining my peace of mind," says Ms Tan, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 2023.

"Living in the UK not only broadened my horizons but also taught me to be adaptable and resilient, and to thrive in uncertainty."

Ms Tan's overseas studies and living expenses are fully covered by the Changi Airport Group (CAG) Undergraduate Scholarship. The scholarship provides opportunities for overseas study, exchange programmes, internships and a multifaceted career with CAG.

Initially apprehensive about the aviation industry, Ms Tan found herself drawn to CAG's dynamic and innovative approach to managing the world's most awarded airport.

With the organisation's diverse business functions, she could see

the numerous opportunities to tap her strengths, learn new things and develop herself professionally. This was the catalyst that motivated her to apply for the scholarship.

As a CAG scholar, Ms Tan has completed two internships that gave her diverse experiences. In her Airside Operations placement, she led a data analysis project on Foreign Object Debris, participated in runway inspections and made policy recommendations.

During her internship with the Strategic Workforce Planning team, she launched Kids@CAG, a pilot initiative that aims to promote staff welfare.

"While both involved very different types of work, what I valued most about them was the opportunity to take ownership of my work, and to develop myself as both a leader and a team player," says Ms Tan.

With these enriching experiences, combined with her international education, she feels that she has been thoroughly empowered and prepared for a promising career at CAG.

"As the operator of a leading air hub, CAG must respond to ever-changing local and international conditions. I believe my studies have equipped me to tackle complex and dynamic problems in a fast-paced environment," she says.

Her studies at Oxford provided her with the skills to analyse global issues from various perspectives,

-ranging from politics and international relations to development and gender studies. These topics have helped her grasp the nuances of the aviation industry.

"My education not only expanded my perspectives immensely but also taught me how to think critically to analyse complex issues and solve multi-layered problems," she says.

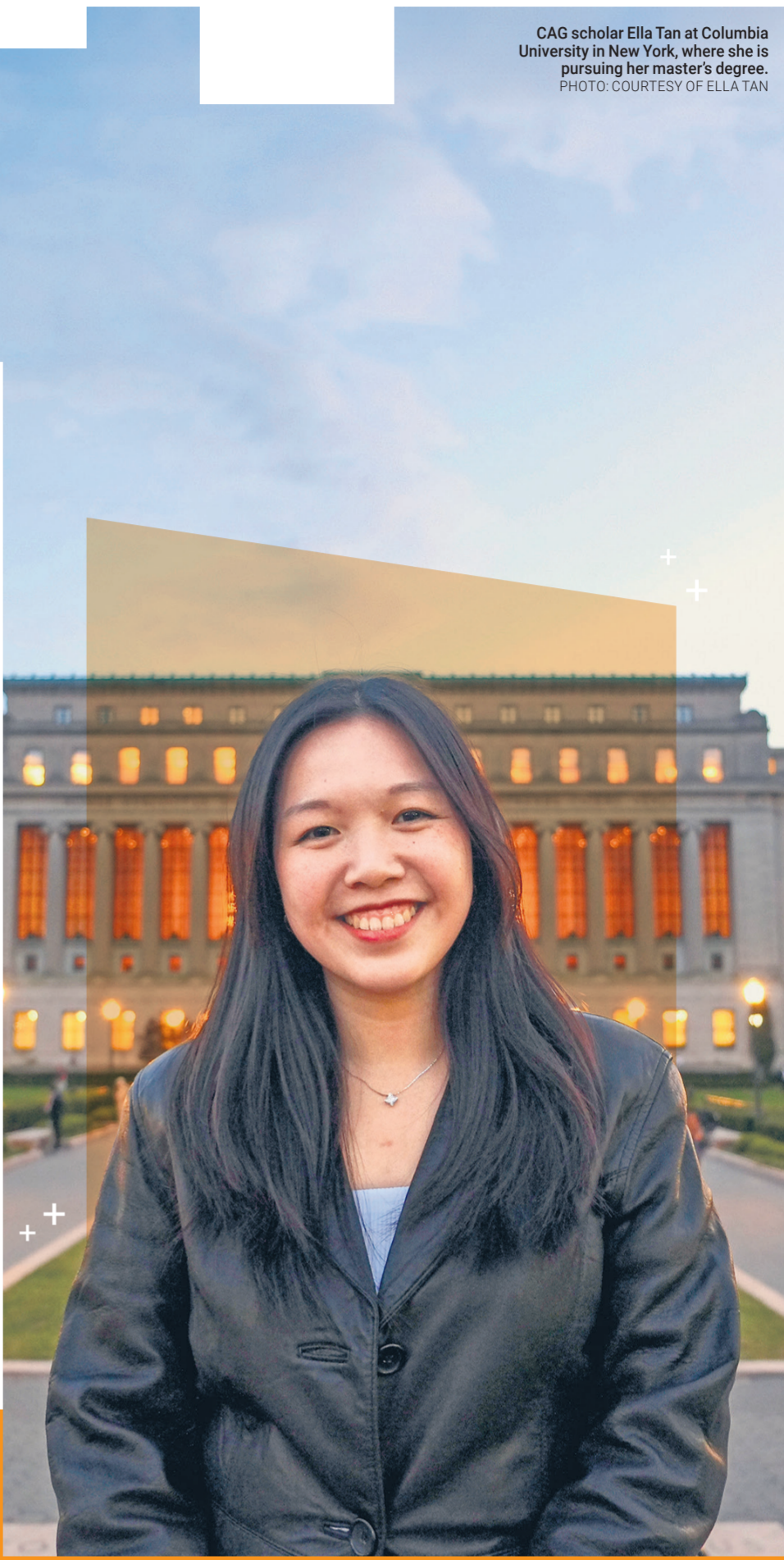
**Leveraging global perspectives**

Ms Tan is currently furthering her academic journey at Columbia University in New York, where she is pursuing a Master of Arts in Political Science with a specialisation in comparative politics.

Her course also provides her with the opportunity to diversify her skill sets, delving into areas like coding and statistical analysis. She is confident that she will be able to apply and deepen the research skills acquired during her studies to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current geopolitical landscape.

Her scholarship experience has reinforced her belief in the value of stepping out of one's comfort zone.

To students aspiring to apply for the CAG scholarship, Ms Tan offers this piece of advice: "Do not feel like you need to fit certain expectations. It is not about how much you have achieved so far but how you will make use of the opportunities given to you in the future."



CAG scholar Ella Tan at Columbia University in New York, where she is pursuing her master's degree. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ELLA TAN

**“It is not about how much you have achieved so far but how you will make use of the opportunities given to you in the future.”**

**Ms Ella Tan**  
Recipient of the CAG Undergraduate Scholarship



Scan for more on the CAG Undergraduate Scholarship.


# PA SCHOLARSHIP

## An Undergraduate Scholarship with a Difference!

The People's Association (PA) Scholarship offers you the opportunity to build a career in an area that you are passionate about. We offer you experiences in diverse areas of work and you can anticipate a rewarding and challenging career with numerous opportunities to reach your full potential. Join us in making a difference!


**Making a tangible difference to lives gives me purpose.**

**Prinita Mukherjee**  
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology  
Cornell University




**Let's get creative and bond with crocheting.**

**Nurul Asyiqin Binte Shahmudin**  
Bachelor of Communication Studies  
Nanyang Technological University



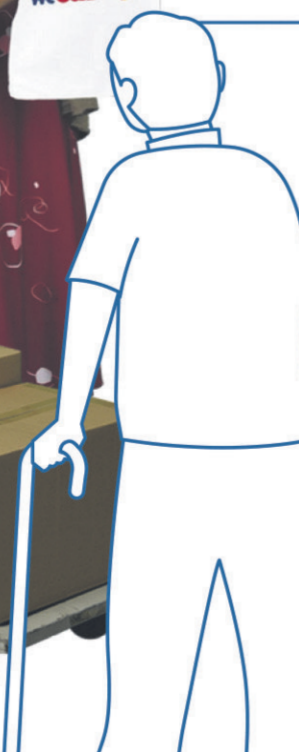
**Every opening brings me an opportunity to meet people!**


**Tay Zi Heng**  
Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Public Policy & Global Affairs  
Nanyang Technological University



**There is no greater pleasure than to serve the community!**


**Benedict Loo**  
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
National University of Singapore





People's Association

**About the People's Association**  
The People's Association was set up in 1960, in a time of racial and communal strife, to foster racial harmony and social cohesion. Today, we continue to be driven by the same purpose - to build an inclusive, united and resilient Singapore. We create spaces and opportunities for people of different backgrounds to participate and volunteer in their community. Through community participation, we connect people and deepen relationships to build communities of mutual care and trust.



Scan this QR code or visit <https://go.gov.sg/pascholarship2> to find out more about the PA Scholarship!

# She wants to know what your sweat says about you

A\*STAR scholar is working on a cutting-edge sensor for non-invasive health monitoring

Imagine a sensor the size of a plaster that can be worn like a watch to monitor sweat for health abnormalities. At A\*STAR, Dr Yang Le is creating such a sensor.

"Most of the wearables that we have now focus on physical parameters, like how many steps you walked or your heart rate," she explains. "If you want to know anything about your body's chemical composition, you have to do an invasive blood test, even if it's just a finger prick. We see our sensor as a non-invasive alternative that can complement current wearables on the market."

As head of the new Sensors and Flexible Electronics Department at A\*STAR's Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, Dr Yang sees her sensor as a step towards personalised healthcare, offering holistic and accessible monitoring of previously unavailable health information.

Her WISH (Wearable Integrated Sweat-Sensor for Health) prototype is still undergoing engineering fine-tuning as well as human on-body trials, so a commercially viable product is likely a couple of years away. Still, it is one of the many promising projects being advanced by the eight-strong PROFESS group she leads.

Named after its research in Printed, Organic, Flexible Electronics and Sensors, the group has made breakthroughs for highly energy-efficient display electronics. It is further developing such capabilities in frontier optoelectronic applications and functional devices. Optoelectronics, a burgeoning field, finds applications in medicine, telecommunications and consumer electronics.

The scholarship experience has instilled a sense of responsibility in me to use my knowledge to make a tangible, positive impact.

Dr Yang Le  
Recipient of the A\*STAR National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)

"We are focusing on addressing global energy and healthcare issues. Improving electronics' energy efficiency contributes to sustainability, and our sensors could lower the barrier to accessing health information and transform the way we monitor our vitals," says Dr Yang.

Her team is at the forefront of these developments, creating technology that could revolutionise how we interact with our health data.

**Groomed for success**  
Dr Yang attributes her achievements to A\*STAR. The agency's National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) supported her undergraduate studies at Imperial College London and her doctorate at the University of Cambridge, fostering crucial connections.

"In research, mentors and advisors are essential for career guidance," she says.

A\*STAR assigned her a senior principal scientist as a local mentor during her PhD studies.

Dr Yang also benefited

from the scholarship's broader perks, including a supportive community of peers.

"Having a good social network during a gruelling PhD is vital. Many of my closest friends are from the A\*STAR community, and I even married a fellow scholar," she shares.

Reflecting on her journey, Dr Yang believes the scholarship was crucial in shaping her career and ambitions.

"The mentorship and collaborative environment

encouraged me to aim higher and tackle challenges confidently," she says.

"The scholarship experience has instilled a sense of responsibility in me to use my knowledge to make a tangible, positive impact."



Scan for more on the A\*STAR National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD).



A\*STAR scholar Dr Yang Le sees her sensor as a step towards personalised healthcare. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DR YANG LE



NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE

OPEN HOUSE 2 MAR 24

## Meet Hailey. Human or AI?

Fascinated by the fine line between the human brain and machine intelligence?

Help Hailey, a persona we created using AI, pass the Turing Test, which determines whether a computer can think intelligently like humans.

Decode this mystery through our new programmes that examine the essence of AI and its impact on society. As we enter an era of misinformation and disinformation, the ethical and responsible use of AI is critical to society.

NTU's new **AI and Society undergraduate degree programme** and the **Turing AI Scholars Programme** prepare students to critically assess both the promise and challenges of the AI revolution.

Join us in developing innovations and shaping the ongoing convergence of AI and society at a university ranked among the best in the world for AI.

**NTU. It all starts here.**

**Programmes:**

- Turing AI Scholars
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in AI and Society
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Data Science and AI
- Minor in AI

Named World's Top 10 Best AI and Data Science Undergraduate Courses  
FORBES

NTU Ranked #2 globally for AI  
US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

SMART CAMPUS, SMARTER THINKING  
[ntu.edu.sg/admissions/ug](https://ntu.edu.sg/admissions/ug)



Why choose AI at NTU?  
Scan to hear from Hailey.



SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Moving the nation with world-class transportation

This SGRail Industry scholar discovers an exciting career as an engineer maintaining the tracks of Singapore's transit system

It is the middle of the night. The trains have stopped running and the sound of the ventilation fan reminds Mr Leow Jian Chong he is deep underground in the rail tunnel.

The tunnel is lit with service lighting, which reveals the high walls of the cavernous tunnel. Rail workers shine torches to check for cracks and leakages on the concrete surfaces.

This is the beginning of the night shift, when the rail crew uses the limited hours to maintain Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system.

Mr Leow, a 22-year-old engineering student from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), is among them. He is a recipient of the Singapore Rail (SGRail) Industry Scholarship and was attached to SBS Transit Ltd's Downtown Line (DTL) as part of his internship. For his eight-week attachment, he was with the Permanent Way maintenance team which oversees track maintenance.

The importance of such "night work" cannot be underestimated. Comprising engineers and technicians, the crew checks for any issues, such as water seepage, electrical faults and track damage.

Without regular inspection and maintenance, there is a higher risk of equipment failure and service disruptions.

Various departments oversee different aspects of the rail system: Permanent Way is responsible for tracks, Rolling Stock for trains, Power for moving trains, Signalling for controlling trains' routes, speeds and frequency.

"With so many different departments, there are many

opportunities for me to hone my engineering skills and expertise," notes Mr Leow.

As Singapore moves towards a car-lite society, the rail network is set to grow – up to 360km of train tracks by the 2030s, with eight MRT lines, including the planned Jurong Region Line and Cross Island Line.

A growing rail sector also means greater demand for talent and technology. And Mr Leow exemplifies the kind of talent the sector is looking for.

In another 18-week traineeship with the DTL Signalling department, he used his coding skills to create a dashboard to help engineers investigate train faults, monitor trends and pre-emptively conduct maintenance to prevent faults more efficiently.

"I'm glad to be part of a team working to improve rail efficiency, and up till now the team is still using my dashboard," he says.

"It is rewarding to know that people find my work useful and that I can make a tangible impact."

#### Developing diverse expertise

Mr Leow's main priority when considering an engineering career is whether he would be able to continuously learn and grow on the job.

"In Singapore, the extensive public transport infrastructure opens up numerous opportunities for me to

engage in practical engineering work and tackle complex problem-solving," he says.

To Mr Leow, engineering involves "breaking down the issue, looking at the root cause, making sure we target the problem and having a systemic approach to solving the problem".

As an SGRail Industry scholar, he has the opportunity to work with either public transport operators such as SBS Transit Ltd and SMRT Corporation Ltd or the governing agency Land Transport Authority.

"Not many scholarships offer this opportunity to gain insights from both operator and regulatory perspectives," says Mr Leow, who will join the industry upon his graduation in 2027.

For students still undecided on which scholarship to go for, he has one piece of advice:

"Choose an organisation that can give you opportunities from the start, expose you to diverse experiences and offer you the resources to support your journey."

“Not many scholarships offer this opportunity to

gain insights

from both operator and regulatory perspectives.”

Mr Leow Jian Chong  
Recipient of the SGRail Industry Scholarship



Scan for more on the SGRail Industry Scholarship.



Mr Leow Jian Chong has a bright future as an engineer in Singapore's growing rail sector.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



Singapore-Industry  
Scholarship

# SgIS

## ADVANCE YOUR ASPIRATIONS AND TAKE THE LEAD

### GET A HEAD START IN KEY SINGAPORE INDUSTRIES WITH SgIS

Take the lead in your industry of choice with the **Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS)**. As the only multi-industry scholarship offered by leading organisations in partnership with the Singapore Government, SgIS propels you on a fulfilling career journey in one of Singapore's strategic sectors. Advance your aspirations through professional growth and development. Nurture your passions and take Singapore to new heights with SgIS!



Visit the SgIS website for more information: [go.gov.sg/sgis](https://go.gov.sg/sgis)



# Counting her career wins

A diverse range of roles has given this Iras scholar the exposure she needs for personal and professional growth

**A**lthough it has been nearly a decade, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (Iras) scholar Sophia Gao still remembers the first high-stakes meeting she attended at the government agency.

It involved negotiating with a foreign tax authority over the allocation of profits for a multinational group with operations in multiple countries. Preparation spanned months.

"This complex undertaking demanded a sophisticated economic analysis and a commitment to scrutinising every detail because of the substantial impact it had on Singapore's tax revenues," the 35-year-old says.

The negotiation was one of many formative experiences that highlighted the intellectual rigour of her career at Iras.

Says Ms Gao: "The scholarship I received from Iras helped shape my intellectual outlook while the tremendous exposure and learning opportunities at work were instrumental to both my personal and professional growth."

In 2011, after acquiring a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Chicago and a Master of Finance from Princeton University on the Iras Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship, Ms Gao found herself on the front line in the Corporate Tax Division at Iras, fielding queries from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

After two rewarding years in the division, she transitioned to international tax where she liaised with multinational corporations (MNCs). She was subsequently rotated to the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Iras' parent ministry.

**“There is a huge sense of gratification that comes from resolving long-standing issues with taxpayers.”**

**Ms Sophia Gao**  
Recipient of the Iras Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship

During her secondment to MOF, Ms Gao's professional journey took on a global dimension. Tasked with staying abreast of international developments, she had opportunities to travel for meetings conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Europe as well as the G20 Summit held in China in 2016.

"We were helping to shape new international tax standards and safeguard Singapore's interests. Beyond the technical intricacies, I found myself challenged to view matters through the lens of strategy and diplomacy," she reflects.

In 2017, Ms Gao returned to Iras for a policy role, followed by a stint in compliance strategy. She was later seconded to the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) in 2020 where she focused on grants and loans for companies.

She has since returned to Iras and taken on the position of a director in the Corporate Tax Division.

In her current role, she utilises predictive technology to identify high-risk returns. Yet, the human touch remains the most important factor in her line of work.

"There is a huge sense of gratification that comes from resolving long-standing issues with taxpayers," she says.

She regularly communicates with taxpayers or their agents, conducts on-site visits and consults with stakeholders. Like her supervisors, Ms Gao aspires to cultivate a collaborative culture within her team, which comprises 70 officers.

Emphasising the interconnectedness of her experiences, she says: "It all fits together. Iras gathers taxes, MOF allocates them and EDB channels

funds for Singapore's economic development.

"My career, spanning diverse roles, now encompasses a seventh 'job' in a span of 12 years. Even as I ventured for secondments to MOF and EDB, the anchor of my professional voyage was Iras."



Scan for more on the  
**Iras Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship.**



Currently a director at the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, Ms Sophia Gao has held many roles throughout her career. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

## Fly High, Bond-Free



**Eliora Joseph**

**Year 3, NUS Faculty of Law  
NUS Merit Scholar**

NUS' bond-free scholarships empower students to pursue whatever aspirations they choose. Beyond cultivating their talents holistically, our support enables our scholars to become changemakers in their communities.

An NUS Merit Scholar, Eliora Joseph is pursuing her bachelor's degree at the NUS Faculty of Law. Her passion for advocacy and sterling training at NUS Law paved the way for her to clinch the championship at the WongPartnership International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2023.

With the scholarship, Eliora also had the opportunity to go abroad for an exchange programme at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC, where she volunteered at legal clinics to assist refugees seeking asylum. Aspiring to be a force for good, Eliora is committed to advocate for causes such as climate action, mental wellness, and the empowerment of marginalised communities.

**Applications open on 1 February 2024.**

**#ShapeYourFuture**

[nus.edu.sg](https://nus.edu.sg) [nus.singapore](https://nus.singapore) [nusingapore](https://nusingapore)  
[nus\\_singapore](https://nus_singapore) [nus.singapore](https://nus.singapore) [National University of Singapore](https://National University of Singapore)



# Small spaces, big possibilities

With his background in economics and real estate, this SLA scholar is finding creative ways to better serve residents in Singapore

For Mr Marcus Yoong, the saying “The apple does not fall far from the tree” certainly holds true. With both parents involved in the real estate business, it was almost a foregone conclusion that he, too, would follow in their footsteps. “Whenever we went out, they would point at a building and state several facts about it,” recalls the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) scholar, 25.

“They were telling the unknown story of a building – and by extension, of Singapore.” These experiences greatly deepened his understanding and appreciation of the process of land development and made him more aware of the difficulties that Singapore faced regarding its scarcity of land resources. Inspired by SLA’s vision of “Limited Land, Unlimited Space”, Mr Yoong applied for the SLA Undergraduate Scholarship when he chanced upon an advertisement in the newspaper.

The SLA Undergraduate Scholarship is one of the three scholarships offered by the SLA, alongside the Singapore Geospatial Scholarship and the Singapore Geomatics Scholarship. Under the scholarship, Mr Yoong was able to pursue his Bachelor of Science in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and received financial sponsorship to complete a Master of Science in Real Estate Development at Columbia University in New York, United States.

“After LSE, I decided on the US for my further studies as I felt it was

important to learn how attitudes towards real estate differ across continents,” he says. In the US, he explains, perspectives on real estate are entirely different from the rest of the world, given the amount of land that developers have access to there. “This results in a lot more creativity in their decisions and attitudes, even in cities with limited land,” he says.

He was able to witness the creativity first-hand when he visited iconic New York

buildings such as 432 Park Avenue – one of the tallest residential towers in the Northern hemisphere – and One World Trade Center as part of his postgraduate curriculum. He also attended seminars with the architectural and engineering teams responsible for their construction. Now an assistant manager in the Land Development Division at SLA, Mr Yoong works on multiple integrated developments across Singapore.

His dual background in economics and real estate naturally led him to gravitate towards integrated developments, which he has been working on for the past seven months. “Integrated developments are a great representation of our land optimisation efforts – it is the reason I embarked on a career with SLA in the first place,” he says.

In his current role, he works on Chong Pang Integrated Development in the north of Singapore that incorporates amenities such as

swimming pools, fitness facilities and shops, plus a hawker centre and market into a single plot of land. It is slated for completion in 2027.

Putting his knowledge into practice, he checks in with the project’s consultants and contractors to ensure that everything is going according to schedule and budget.

On the real estate side of things, Mr Yoong is also responsible for conducting regular consultations with prospective tenants and stakeholders – including residents – before incorporating their feedback into the overall plan.

## Learning on the job

Mr Yoong also enjoys working with a diverse team of architects, engineers and quantity surveyors. His team’s knowledge base is so extensive that Mr Yoong says he feels like he gets a free lesson in real estate and land management every day.

Despite having different job scopes, team members are dedicated to residents’ well-being. This people-driven approach is what drives the day-to-day operations at SLA.

“The purpose of a building is, at its core, to serve residents,” he says.

“When you have the mandate to make something as good as possible for residents, you become the custodian of their wants and needs.

“It is our responsibility to ensure that the building is the best it can be, for as many people as possible.”

Integrated developments are a great representation

of our land optimisation efforts

it is the reason I embarked on a career with SLA in the first place.

Mr Marcus Yoong  
Recipient of the SLA Undergraduate Scholarship



Scan for more on the SLA Undergraduate Scholarship.



Mr Marcus Yoong is working on the Chong Pang Integrated Development project. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



SG DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

# PREPARE FOR THE DIGITAL FUTURE. OR SHAPE IT.

IMDA’s SG Digital Scholarship is your chance to deepen your pursuit of emerging tech, connect to the best leaders in the field, and forge your way towards what’s next on a global stage.

Will you take the leap?



The SG Digital Scholarship  
For those who choose different.  
Apply now at [go.gov.sg/SGDScholarships](https://go.gov.sg/SGDScholarships)



METaverse



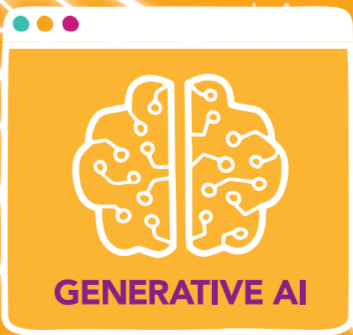
WEB3



CYBERSECURITY



QUANTUM COMPUTING



GENERATIVE AI

# Bringing stories to life through innovation

By developing new generative AI tools, this NLB senior manager is transforming storytelling experiences and library services

Imagine putting your own twists to stories and watching them come to life with text and visuals generated by artificial intelligence (AI).

Not only that, you can also change elements such as the genre and character of well-loved stories such as The Wizard of Oz and Attack of the Garfish from The Malay Annals.

That is the capability of StoryGen, a new generative AI prototype recently launched as an immersive experience at the Central Public Library on Victoria Street.

Driving this culture of innovation is Ms Joti Upadhyaya, a senior manager in the Innovation Office of the Strategy Division under the National Library Board's (NLB) Partnership and Strategy Group.

She is part of a team that develops, implements and champions products and services that make libraries more interactive.

## Putting ideas into action

NLB has had to come up with new ways of engaging its patrons in recent years.

To keep up in an era of rapid technological change, the Strategy Division – of which Ms Joti is a part – brainstorms and generates ideas with senior management to continuously improve on what NLB can offer to the community.

Ms Joti is also working with a different team on the development of another generative AI prototype – ChatBook. Currently in its user-

testing phase, ChatBook is available on a web version and on WhatsApp. Users can engage or even “debate” with books in an interactive and conversational manner.

When they ask ChatBook a question, it will provide responses based on the content ingested from published books, NLB's online resources and more.

“This allows users to consume the book in a different way, adding a depth and richness to the experience,” explains Ms Joti.

ChatBook is in the prototype phase. It has so far learnt the content of the book Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore as well as selected NLB resources.

“Patrons can learn about Singapore's history through conversations with a book,” she says.

As she drives innovation at NLB, Ms Joti herself is also constantly learning and upgrading her skills.

She first joined NLB as an arts librarian in 2012. Since then, she has had opportunities to take on different roles – from planning arts programmes as a librarian to designing libraries of the future as a library planner to ensuring the smooth running of Bishan Public

Library and Central Public Library as a branch manager.

“Each role has taught me something new and helped me grow both personally and professionally,” she says.

In 2019, she was awarded an NLB postgraduate scholarship to pursue an Executive Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Leading Innovation and Managing Change at Hertie School, located in Berlin, Germany.

Upon her return to NLB, she created a facilitation guide to help the staff to better contextualise the operating shifts and the various efforts that will be required as part of LAB25.

LAB25, which stands for Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025, is the organisation's five-year road map to make Singapore's libraries and archives more accessible to everyone from all walks of life.

“Although we are navigating a lot of uncharted territory, I enjoy helping to develop a long-term vision for the organisation as this involves exploring new ideas and identifying opportunities for growth and development,” says Ms Joti.

Each role has taught me something new and helped me

grow both personally and professionally.

Ms Joti Upadhyaya  
Senior manager, NLB,  
Strategy Division

## About the NLB Undergraduate Scholarship

The National Library Board (NLB) Undergraduate Scholarship seeks to develop and nurture talents to champion NLB's mission. Scholars will have the opportunity to be part of NLB's transformation efforts through the LAB25 (Libraries and Archives Blueprint 2025) programme. The scholarship is a fully funded programme that covers tuition and other compulsory fees, return airfare (for overseas scholarship), maintenance and other allowances (where applicable), and includes an internship.



Scan for more on the  
NLB Undergraduate  
Scholarship.



Ms Joti Upadhyaya is working on an AI prototype that allows users to engage with books interactively. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Be More, Be Better BE AN SMU SCHOLAR



UNDERGRADUATE

## JOIN US AT SMU OPEN HOUSE

24 - 25 FEB 2024

Scan the QR code to find out more:



GET READY TO TAKE ON  
THE WORLD

School of Computing and Information Systems 1

## YOUR POTENTIAL. OUR SCHOLARSHIPS.

Do you strive to make a meaningful impact, and have a desire to make the world a better place? So do we. We are always on the lookout for passionate individuals who truly care for their community, and want to make a difference.

If you excel academically and have outstanding leadership qualities, don't let this opportunity slip past you. Apply for a prestigious SMU scholarship and join our community of changemakers at <https://bit.ly/smuscholarship2024>

ADMISSIONS

# Chasing his dream of a career in finance

The SMU scholar has gained valuable experience from his internship with an investment analysis firm and exchange programme at The Wharton School

Looking back, Mr Jordan Lee would describe his 19-year-old self as risk-averse.

"We are a little bit sheltered. We chase the dreams that are fed to us from a young age – not necessarily the dreams that we really want for ourselves," he says.

"When you're just 18 or 19 years old, you don't really have any idea what you are going to do."

While contemplating his course of study, he leaned towards business and finance.

This was his motivation behind choosing Singapore Management University (SMU), where students do not have to declare their choice of majors right away. It gives them ample time to experiment with their course of study in the first two years. This way, they have more breathing room to explore their academic options.

As one who wanted to take a double degree in economics and information systems, Mr Lee valued the freedom and flexibility to decide on a major at the end of his second year at SMU.

Their generous financial aid packages – with close to 40 per cent of its students receiving some form of financial aid – won him over.

To Mr Lee's pleasant surprise, not

only was he accepted into SMU but he was also awarded the SMU Global Impact Scholarship.

"SMU taught me to embrace uncertainty, and that there is much to be gained from learning from my experiences and failures," explains Mr Lee, who turns 24 this year.

According to Mr Lee, this outlook has proved useful in solving real world problems – such as in one's career, where rules and assumptions do not hold up as well as in theory.

"These lessons have given me the confidence to think independently and creatively," he says.

In an increasingly uncertain and volatile world, one can have the edge only if they are ready to adapt to new situations, Mr Lee explains.

"Being open

to new ideas and experiences can help us to find solutions to problems that cannot be solved through traditional methods and theories."

According to Mr Lee, SMU also gave him many opportunities to network and build connections.

It was a place that enabled him to learn from friends and mentors who provided him with diverse and insightful perspectives on life.

For instance, one of his mentors, an experienced entrepreneur and

businessman, compared investing to riding a bike.

"Falling down is part of learning how to ride a bike," he says. "You have to accept that you will experience pain."

That piece of pertinent advice made him approach his investments and career with a renewed perspective.

"You can't give up because you had a bad experience, otherwise, you will never learn how to ride your bike, right?"

"Likewise with investments, you either make money or you learn something. Life is about growing from your good and bad experiences," he shares.

After having wrapped up an internship with an investment analysis firm, Mr Lee is currently on a semester-long exchange programme at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he is keen to gain a broader world view.

"I am excited to learn how people outside of Singapore view risk, specifically those at one of the top business schools in the world. I want to see how risk-takers dare to chase the things they want," says Mr Lee.

Being open to new ideas and experiences can help us to

find solutions

to problems that cannot be solved through traditional methods and theories.

Mr Jordan Lee  
Recipient of the SMU  
Global Impact Scholarship



Scan for more on the SMU Global Impact Scholarship.



Mr Jordan Lee is currently on a semester-long exchange programme at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



## THE DESIGNSINGAPORE SCHOLARSHIP

### IMAGINE BIG. LEAD BY DESIGN.

Embark on an exceptional career in design with the DesignSingapore (Dsg) Scholarship – the only scholarship in Singapore that supports the study of any design discipline.

#### AREAS OF STUDY

The Dsg Scholarship supports a wide range of fields – from industrial and product design to visual communication, design research, and service design.

The scholarship also contributes to advancing the future of design in Singapore. Seize the opportunity to be at the forefront of design by choosing programmes that intersect with emerging fields in sustainability, digital technologies, and/or care.

#### THE BENEFITS

- Tuition fees
- Annual living allowance
- Pre-studies allowance
- Travel allowance

Beyond financial sponsorships, successful applicants will gain access to valuable networking opportunities as part of the DesignSingapore Associates Network. Visit our website to learn more.

Scan the code to find out more or visit [bit.ly/dsg-scholarship](https://bit.ly/dsg-scholarship).



# Science educator grows with every lesson he conducts

This NTU-NIE scholar uses a reflective approach to teaching and gaining knowledge



Mr Lee Hong Liang wants to make learning an immersive experience for his students. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

Eager to deliver a memorable lesson on his first day as an intern teacher, Mr Lee Hong Liang did not expect he would be the one walking out armed with newfound knowledge.

"A student started crying even before I could start the lesson – I was shocked," he reflects on his 10-week Ministry of Education Teaching Internship Programme (MOE TIP) attachment, fresh out of junior college.

That day marked a significant shift for him as he realised the importance of being sensitive to his students' emotional needs, not just focusing on the academic content.

Mr Lee found out the student was being bullied by his desk mate and the situation was dealt with.

"This incident reinforced my aspiration to become an educator because I realised there was more to the job than meets the eye," says the 24-year-old, referring to the complex nature of teaching.

Mr Lee understood that his educational journey was just beginning.

A nature lover who enjoys bird-watching, selecting biology as his teaching subject was a natural choice.

He remembers the National Institute of Education (NIE) field trips to Singapore Botanic Gardens, and has led school excursions to Jurong Lake Gardens.

Through these experiences, he picked up the value of immersive learning and intends to incorporate

such enriching activities in his future classes.

## Embracing the full spectrum of education

Meeting students with different backgrounds and varying learning abilities has also taught Mr Lee to be more aware of how to engage them.

During the pandemic when online classes were the norm, he realised some of his students were self-conscious about turning on their videos and revealing their living situations. He permitted them to turn off their cameras but asked more questions to keep them alert.

"When you give students a choice, it empowers and motivates them to participate," he says.

"While imparting knowledge, I am also shaping the character of my students and preparing them for their future endeavours."

Today, Mr Lee is at the tail end of his four-year MOE Teaching Award scholarship undergraduate programme at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) under the NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP).

He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science with a double major in biology and education with a minor in chemistry, along with annual teaching attachments.

The scholarship comes with a four-year bond.

"As I am immersed in education-related courses the whole duration, I have more time to think about the sort of teacher I want to be."

His highlights so far include a sponsored semester exchange to Canada and a trip to Ireland for The Global Undergraduate Awards Summit 2023 where he won the award in the Education category for a research paper he wrote.

"It was a great opportunity to share my work with undergraduates from across the world," he says.

Mr Lee is also grateful for the role-play practicums, where undergraduates take turns leading lessons as their peers act as students, offering feedback and identifying areas for improvement.

During these sessions, Mr Lee gained insights into the nuances of teaching, such as signalling students to begin note-taking or pausing briefly during a lesson to check if they are keeping up.

It is this adaptive and receptive mindset that he wants to bring inside the classroom once he starts full-time teaching.

"The best advice I have received is that we teach the child, not the subject."

"In a way, I am also learning from my students and surroundings. Teaching is a two-way street," says Mr Lee.

While imparting knowledge, I am also

shaping the character

of my students and preparing them for their future endeavours.

Mr Lee Hong Liang  
Recipient of the MOE Teaching Award



Scan for more on the NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme.

## BE THE GAME-CHANGER. Be you. Be an A\*STAR Scholar.

Science is all around us, from the engineering behind modern marvels to the muscles that propel us in sports. An A\*STAR scholarship gives you the opportunity to explore your passion, wherever it may take you. Gain access to a strong growth network of collaboration and tap on resources to kick-start your career in Research and Development.

Hear how A\*STAR has helped our scholars take their research to greater heights.

**“The National Science Scholarship has been pivotal in my journey as a research scientist. It unlocked opportunities at leading global universities and exposed me to different research ecosystems and approaches. This helped me shape my research directions and facilitated my establishment of scientific networks as an independent investigator. Outside of the lab, the scholarship enabled me to hone my leadership skills and gave me the chance to chart new paths in the emerging and high potential fields.”**

**Wang Liang Wei**

National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) Recipient  
Senior Scientist, Singapore Immunology Network (SIgN)



Start your career in research today, visit [a-star.edu.sg/scholarships](https://a-star.edu.sg/scholarships)

# Tapping deep learning to boost defence capabilities

This DSTA scholar is at the forefront of using AI to transform military tech for quicker decision-making and increased precision in modern warfare

Hostile enemy soldiers camouflaged amidst dark foliage. Darting vessels on the horizon used by terrorists, indistinguishable in the night. Weaponised drones approaching too fast for defensive fire.

These are just some scenarios where the human eye may find it difficult to detect and pinpoint targets. With Singapore's security at stake, enter the latest military technology developed for the Singapore Armed Forces to acquire and neutralise targets before harm is done to soldiers and civilians.

"Deep learning is a method in artificial intelligence (AI) that trains computers using a data-driven approach, in a similar manner that emulates how the human brain would learn from its experiences and mistakes," explains Mr Lua Ying Hao, who was a recipient of the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) Scholarship in 2016.

Deep learning is used to support "automatic target detection in complex environments for enhanced situational awareness". He adds that this saves time and resources.

Today, as a senior engineer at DSTA's Digital Hub, the 28-year-old is involved in the development of deep learning solutions for computer vision applications.

#### Enhancing the nation's armour

"It is my honour and privilege to be able to contribute as one of the first few engineers to deploy and operationalise deep learning solutions in support of Singapore's national defence," he says.

Mr Lua developed an early interest in AI when he marvelled

at optical character recognition – how computers can automatically "read" pictures as text.

This made him curious about how the technology works and its application in computer vision. Wanting to find out more, Mr Lua interned at DSTA's Digital Hub in 2018 where he worked on AI technology.

"The internship was truly a launchpad for me," he recalls. "It was the first time I fully grasped the concept and implemented deep learning algorithms to train AI modules for various recognition and detection tasks."

The DSTA Scholarship gave Mr Lua the opportunity to study abroad. He graduated in 2020 with a Master of Engineering in Electronic and Information Engineering from Imperial College London, where he consistently topped the dean's list.

With deep learning advancing at a breakneck pace, it has been a steep learning curve for him.

"Deep learning has only become relatively viable in the last seven years. Back when I was in school, AI courses were not widely available or even offered. I had to learn on the job or during my free time," he says.

Under the scholarship's purview,

there is also a Global Internship Programme which allows scholars to intern anywhere.

Mr Lua decided to return to Singapore during a summer break at Imperial and did a three-month internship at software analytics company SAS in 2019. There, he

worked on machine learning solutions for satellite image segmentation and generation of image captions.

He headed back to London to complete his studies after his internship, but the Covid-19 pandemic forced him to return home in March 2020, just before he was due to graduate in June that year. He completed his degree in Singapore through online

classes, examinations and presentations.

Looking back at his scholarship experience, Mr Lua encourages students to persevere through challenges and keep going.

"Always have faith in yourself and never give up," he says.

"Always dare to try new things and do not be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them."

“It is my honour and privilege to be able to contribute as one of the first few engineers to deploy and operationalise deep learning solutions in support of Singapore’s national defence.”

Mr Lua Ying Hao  
Recipient of the  
DSTA Scholarship



Scan for more on the  
DSTA Scholarship.



Mr Lua Ying Hao works on AI projects that aim to transform tech used in military operations.  
PHOTO: DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY



## The SPH Media Journalism Scholarship

Shape your story  
Shape the world

Be your own protagonist and write your own future. A career in journalism is more than a profession.

It's a platform to touch lives. It's an opportunity to shape narratives and for your story to be filled with discovery, empathy, knowledge and creativity.

Make an impact now.

Mid-term scholarships available.

APPLY NOW



Visit [www.sph.com.sg/scholarships/](http://www.sph.com.sg/scholarships/) or scan to apply

# Blossoming into a more confident version of herself

By saying yes to activities she has never tried before, this NTU-USP scholar discovers new interests and loves every moment of it



Ms Gwyneth Tan's vibrant university life has helped her break out of her shell.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

**B**right lights illuminated the stage, casting expectant gazes on Ms Gwyneth Tan. She quietened her beating heart, stepped out from behind the curtains and started to speak.

Never had Ms Tan, 21, imagined that she would one day stand in front of a crowd and perform in a play.

A few years ago, she was someone who enjoyed quiet hobbies like playing the guitar.

Today she has become a billed cast member in a student-produced family drama, playing two shows in the limelight.

"My friends said it was the first time they heard me talk so much and so loudly – I have really come out of my comfort zone," says Ms Tan, who is a scholar under the Nanyang Technological University's University Scholars Programme (NTU-USP).

While in junior college, her research for an assignment led her to videos of Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan speaking in Parliament and at the United Nations.

"He is so well-versed and charismatic. Because of him, I was inspired to pursue my degree," says the third-year student, who is studying economics, public policy and global affairs.

Ms Tan's admiration for the minister stemmed in part from her own quiet nature: She had been a shy girl who longed for a more exciting life.

As she considered her university options, Ms Tan watched a NTU-USP video livestream of scholars sharing their experiences.

To prepare NTU-USP scholars for university life, the programme offers core modules which impart skills on

writing and reasoning, living well and ethics.

NTU-USP also guarantees hall residence for students who wish to stay on campus, which allowed Ms Tan to form close friendships with fellow scholars.

As part of her major's programme requirements, Ms Tan joined the Singapore Fashion Council as an intern and learnt how to promote sustainable fashion and organise outreach events.

On impulse, she also joined the hall dance team in her second year. She performed for the Hall Olympiad Closing Ceremony, an annual performance held by students at NTU.

"It involved a lot of training – a high commitment and was quite tough – but in the end, I had a lot of fun and made many friends," she says.

NTU-USP also offers a Travel Overseas Programme for Scholars (TOPS) which provides a guaranteed overseas learning opportunity for all scholars.

In Ms Tan's first year, her cohort travelled to Ipoh to learn about sustainability efforts. One memorable moment was when she and her group mates had to collect animal footprints as a visual aid for their group work on wildlife conservation. "Many animals just did not want to step on the paper," she says with a laugh.

The scholar enjoyed her TOPS

experience so much that she joined the programme again in her second year as a student mentor and led juniors on a trip to Chiang Mai.

Another overseas experience she cherished was her four-month exchange programme in 2023 at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

There, Ms Tan took courses in development, inequality and trade, foundations in global security, and

South Asia: culture, politics and the economy. These classes broadened her scope of learning and exposed her to a more relaxed collegial

experience, where professors often enjoy conversing with young people. Through her experiences, Ms Tan says she has grown to become more confident.

She relishes the opportunities to try new activities, especially those outside her comfort zone. "I never thought I would go into acting, for one – it was so foreign to me. Many of those opportunities came up suddenly and I acted on impulse to try them," she says. "Now I am much more confident in public speaking and talking to new people."

**Now I am much more confident in public speaking and talking to new people.**

**Ms Gwyneth Tan**  
Scholar in the NTU-University Scholars Programme



Scan for more on the NTU-University Scholars Programme.

Share your love for nature and animals at  
**#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG**

# GROW WITH US

## NURTURE YOUR FUTURE AT NPARKS

Stand out from a crowd and make a lasting impression on society. At the National Parks Board (NParks), our scholars challenge themselves to make a difference in our living environment.

The NParks Scholarship will give you the opportunity to develop your skills for an exciting and fulfilling career. Become a tree doctor, protect our mangroves, design a park or safeguard animal health and well-being. These are some of the diverse experiences that will broaden your horizons. You will have a career that grows with you as Singapore flourishes.

**Be part of transforming Singapore into a City In Nature!**

**Apply for the NParks Scholarship today.**  
Log on to [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg) or call 6471 7323 / 6471 7324.

Photo: Liew Tong Leng

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Striking a chord with her patients

This pianist and LKCMedicine scholar aims to bring a more compassionate and human-centred approach to healthcare

Amidst a rigorous clinical posting at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, medical student Loh Pei Yi found herself gravitating towards the grand piano in the hospital lobby. There, she would lose herself making music, using it as a way to recharge from days filled with clinics, tutorials and self-study. Having played the piano since she was seven, Ms Loh believes in the power of music to move people and communities. Equally important to her are her family and a genuine desire to care for others. The aspiring defence chemist pivoted to medicine as her career choice when her father suffered a second heart attack and she could not understand his medical reports. Ms Loh decided to apply for and accept the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) Scholarship from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 2021. “I chose LKCMedicine because of its use of cutting-edge pedagogy and it being a young, dynamic and innovative school. “The approach of humanistic medicine in our education helps us grow into medical professionals skilled in clinical sciences and who understand patients are people, not just case studies,” says Ms Loh. After almost three years at LKCMedicine, Ms Loh can now understand her father’s electrocardiogram (ECG) readings and the purpose of his prescriptions. “Medical knowledge empowers

me to be a bridge between the community and the public healthcare system, making it more accessible to typical Singaporeans like my father,” says the 21-year-old. Even in the thick of her studies, Ms Loh continues to give back to society. By melding her musical skills with her medical training, she is serving as founder of Project Gift of Song which she set up with five friends in 2020. The group raises funds for the charity Ambulance Wish Singapore (AWS) to fulfil the wishes of the terminally ill. As vice-chairperson of the NTU Piano Ensemble in 2023, Ms Loh also led the club to collaborate with Project Gift of Song on a charity concert that brought in other arts groups from NTU to raise over \$50,000 for AWS. When she first started medical school, Ms Loh was pleasantly surprised to discover that the structure of her five-year programme would enable her to balance her interests alongside her studies. LKCMedicine’s team-based learning (TBL) approach – unique among the medical schools in Singapore – was one of the reasons it earned the international ASPIRE Award for excellence in curriculum development in 2021, the first local medical school to do so. Compared with traditional lecture-style teaching for large classes, TBL brings undergraduates to work collaboratively in small teams, guided by a facilitator and content experts. “Materials are given to us for pre-reading and classroom

discussions take place twice a week, so for three days each week, we have time to self-study and prepare for TBL sessions,” explains Ms Loh. “I have come to appreciate the beauty of these discussions that stimulate our critical thinking and encourage us to look at the patient as a whole beyond the medical issues,” she says. This patient-centred approach is further emphasised through short attachments at hospitals and polyclinics in the students’ first year and a long-term patient project that teaches them how people manage chronic conditions. Beyond textbook knowledge Ms Loh has also gained from advancements in technology. Part of her curriculum involves learning with 3D-printed body part models developed at NTU and engaging with 3D simulations that make textbook concepts easier to understand. Additionally, she has also participated in school events such as the Art and Science of Medicine Festival as well as the International Conference on AI in Medicine. “These enriched my real-world learning towards becoming a future-ready clinician,” she says. Ms Loh believes the LKCMedicine experience is nurturing her into becoming someone who is clinically competent and genuinely cares for people. “I aspire never to lose sight of the patient’s perspective and always practice medicine with patients’ dignity at heart,” she says.

I aspire never to lose sight of the patient’s perspective and practise medicine with patients’ dignity at heart.

Ms Loh Pei Yi  
Recipient of the LKCMedicine Scholarship (NTU)



Ms Loh Pei Yi decided to become a doctor after her father’s second heart attack. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



# Rethinking maritime efficiency with data analytics

This MaritimeONE scholar is honing skills to build systems that streamline shipping routes and reduce emissions

Mr Ernest Lim is pursuing a second major in data analytics, which he thinks will be crucial to planning efficient shipping routes. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



Ernest Lim grew up wanting to be a diver. That was what he told his teachers every time they asked him what career he envisioned for himself. “While my classmates would say ‘doctor’ or ‘lawyer’, I just thought swimming in the deep ocean would be fun,” he recalls. It may have begun as a mere whim, but the idea has since gained philosophical depth for him. He believes the ocean connects everything and “in a sense, it is the lifeline of the world”, he muses. While Mr Lim did not fulfil his childhood dream of becoming a diver, he has been steered towards a career in which the ocean plays a leading role. The 23-year-old sophomore was awarded the MaritimeONE Scholarship last year for maritime studies at Nanyang Technological University, with multinational shipping company “K” Line as his sponsor. The MaritimeONE Scholarships with the Singapore Maritime Foundation are sponsored by leading maritime organisations to attract talent to the sector. His interest in the field was piqued by a friend he met during national service. This friend, whose father worked at a maritime company, had just completed the maritime studies course a year prior. Through their conversations, he found out how the industry is using digitalisation and new technologies to move forward and enhance efficiency. Mr Lim had studied mechanical engineering in polytechnic with a minor in business, and was looking

to expand on his minor. He realised that the maritime sector hit the sweet spot he was looking for between engineering and business. Given Singapore’s connectivity and deep reliance on maritime trade, a career in the industry would allow him to contribute to the country’s economy and help make it more competitive on the global stage. To drive efficiency at sea, digitalisation is key. To this end, Mr Lim took up a second major in data analytics, which he thinks will be crucial to planning efficient shipping routes. “The maritime industry used to be very focused on getting the goods to a certain destination, but now we are more focused on how we are getting there,” he says. Digitalisation does not just help with efficiency, he explains, but also addresses environmental concerns such as reducing port congestion. Adapting to change He and a team of fellow students won the MaritimeONE Digital Challenge 2023 by coming up with a system that optimised vessel berth allocation. The system would reach out to both ship owners and port operators to coordinate vessel and berth schedules, allocating berths in a way that would maximise efficiency. It was an interest in sustainability and innovation that drew Mr Lim to his sponsor company – “K” Line.

“The firm has collaborated with other parties to build ships that use alternative fuels such as LNG, B24 marine biofuel, and even fuels like ammonia and hydrogen that are currently being researched,” he says. Mr Lim was inspired by “K” Line’s efforts to develop more sustainable shipping practices. He is excited to start his internship at the company in May. “So far, what I’ve been learning is from my own readings, joining competitions or my friends. This will be my first step into the working world and seeing how I can put what I’ve learnt into practice,” he says. For his future career, Mr Lim is contemplating a role either as an analyst or in the dry bulk sector. Unlike container shipping, dry bulk involves the shipping of unpackaged cargo in solid form such as cement or iron. Given dry bulk’s essential role in ferrying the building blocks of infrastructure and trade, enhancing operations in this area will enable him to make an impact. “I would like to use my skills to optimise operations or digest data to come up with solutions,” says Mr Lim.

I would like to use my skills to optimise operations or digest data to come up with solutions.

Mr Ernest Lim  
Recipient of the MaritimeONE Scholarship



SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024



Mr Deepanraj Ganesan also leads the ST Sports Talk podcast. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Sports lover lands his dream job

SPH scholar hopes his stories are a source of inspiration for readers

Last year, Singapore's track queen Shanti Pereira shattered the 100m and 200m national records multiple times, but few know about how these marked a triumphant rebound from years of setbacks. Straits Times (ST) journalist Deepanraj Ganesan has been a keen observer of Ms Pereira's athletic journey over the years, writing extensively about how she overcame challenges to become an inspiration to many.

Mr Deepanraj had just started his journalism career as an intern when she won a Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) gold medal in 2015 – her first and only for seven years. During this time, she lost two scholarships and was labelled a "has-been" by critics.

"To see her go from the heartbreaks and the lows to the high points of her career is something you won't forget," he says.

Ms Pereira's story is just one of hundreds this Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) Scholarship (now known as SPH Media Journalism Scholarship) recipient has written over the past eight years.

Mr Deepanraj's journey as a storyteller began with his passion for sports like football and tennis, which led him to buy The New Paper daily and read it from cover to cover. While studying mass communication at

polytechnic, he aimed straight for a journalism internship with ST's sports desk.

After completing his diploma and national service, he applied for the SPH Scholarship.

His parents were overjoyed when he got it. "Before that, I was not the most diligent student... The scholarship was a sign to them that I had turned my life around," he says.

Journalism is a dream job for the 29-year-old. He says, "I've been a huge fan of Manchester United since I was young and I never imagined

that one day I could speak to some of my heroes like Cristiano Ronaldo and Ryan Giggs."

Mr Deepanraj was also deployed to cover business, crime and societal topics. While sports stories may not always make the biggest headlines in Singapore, Mr Deepanraj finds deep

satisfaction in knowing each story makes a difference.

"Athletes come up to me and say, 'Hey, the story you wrote inspired me.' Football fans thank me for the work I do for local football.

As long as I can impact one person a day with my stories, that's enough for me," he says.

As long as I can impact

one person a day with my stories, that's enough for me.

Mr Deepanraj Ganesan  
Recipient of the SPH Media Journalism Scholarship



Scan for more on the SPH Media Journalism Scholarship.

AGO

Auditor-General's Office  
Singapore



## BE THE NATION'S AUDITOR

Apply for the AGO Auditing Service Scholarship now

AGO is an independent organ of state. As the national auditor, we conduct various audits of public sector agencies on the management and use of public funds and resources. Our independence allows us to carry out our audits without fear or favour.

Apply through the PSC Gateway Portal and select the following:



- 'Accountancy' as your course of study; and
- 'Auditing Service' as your career choice.

For more information, please visit [www.ago.gov.sg](http://www.ago.gov.sg)



## THE LOKE CHENG-KIM FOUNDATION

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation invites students who have applied for admission to courses leading to first degrees conferred by established local and overseas universities in the 2024/2025 academic year to apply for scholarship awards.

### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be Singapore citizens or permanent residents and should not be current holders of other scholarship awards or grants. The Board is looking for applications to study the Natural Sciences (including Zoology, Botany, Physics, Chemistry), Environmental Sciences and Pure Humanities (Geography, History). We hope to find applicants who are committed to pursuing a life path in conservation, sustainable development, natural and cultural heritage or otherwise in the betterment of life on earth in all its aspects, whether as scientists, innovators, field workers, or other dedicated professionals. The scholarship is intended to provide outstanding young people with a unique opportunity to take their first steps along that path.

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Candidates will have a strong record of academic and co-curricular achievement. Consideration will be given only to those who show a capacity for independent thought, together with a deep and genuine commitment to their respective chosen fields. This must be demonstrated by knowledge, activities and initiatives in those fields, outside of the framework of their school curriculum. A mere declared interest or nominal participation in a co-curricular activity in any such field will not be sufficient. Applicants will be asked to submit with their prescribed application form a personal statement (maximum 500 words) stating their career aims and aspirations, and how they see their chosen course of study as helping to achieve them.

### SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

A scholarship's annual value will cover fees and book allowances, initial settling-in allowance, maintenance allowance and one-time return economy class airfare and is tenable for the whole undergraduate course of study leading to a first degree.

### APPLICATIONS

Applications must be made on the prescribed form downloadable from the Foundation's official website ([www.lokefoundation.com.sg](http://www.lokefoundation.com.sg)) or obtainable from:

The Secretary  
The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation  
c/o Tricor Singapore Pte Ltd  
9 Raffles Place, #26-01 Republic Plaza, Singapore 048619

Before downloading the form to apply for the Scholarship, applicants are urged to take a moment to re-read the advertisement above carefully, and consider if the declared scope and objectives of this year's scholarship awards are a match for their own interests and intended career path.

CLOSING DATE: 8 March 2024  
Applicants shortlisted for interview will be notified by 28 April 2024

ISEAS

YUSOF ISHAK  
INSTITUTE

Dedicated to the study of socio-political, security and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment.

## TUN DATO SIR CHENG-LOCK TAN M.A. SCHOLARSHIP 2024

ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute invites M.A. scholarship applications for the following areas of study:

**Southeast Asian Studies, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Archaeology/Archaeological Science, and other relevant subjects**

### Terms of Awards:

- The scholarship is tenable at reputable universities overseas or in Singapore
- Tuition and other compulsory fees
- Monthly maintenance allowance
- Thesis allowance
- Book allowance
- Conference/Fieldwork allowance
- Medical Insurance
- Return air passage (if applicable)
- Successful candidates will serve a one-year bond with ISEAS following the completion of their studies

### Eligibility:

- Candidates should:
- Be Singapore citizens or permanent residents
  - Be in possession of a good honours degree (or professional qualifications of equivalent standing) in a relevant subject
  - Have a consistently good academic record
  - Have a deep interest in Southeast Asia and are prepared to take up courses and/or carry out research on Southeast Asia

### Requirements:

Candidates who have already obtained university admission for 2024 and meet the above requirements are also eligible to apply. Applicants should submit (i) a cover letter, (ii) full CV, (iii) two letters of reference, (iv) educational certificates and transcripts, (v) a research proposal and a statement of purpose in pursuing the MA degree; and (vi) a passport-sized photograph.

### Submission:

Please send online applications through the [Careers@Gov](mailto:Careers@Gov) website. Please note that the two referees should email the letter of reference to ISEAS HR at [HR@iseas.edu.sg](mailto:HR@iseas.edu.sg) separately.

### Closing Date: 31 Mar 2024

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified

This scholarship is funded by the Tun Dato Sir Cheng-Lock Tan Trust Fund, Singapore

1

DIG DEEP

Explore your options. Check out different organisations, institutions, companies and foundations that offer scholarships. Consider factors such as eligibility criteria, application requirements, deadlines and award amounts.

2

FIND YOUR MATCH

Look for ones that align with your skills and passions. Some scholarships are made just for your unique talents, such as academic excellence, leadership, community service or artistic abilities.

3

BE TRUE TO YOURSELF

First, do some serious soul-searching. What drives you? What is your passion? Whether you are chasing a career dream, academic excellence or just eager for personal growth, knowing your goals is key to finding the right scholarship fit.

4

CHECK OUT THE VALUE

Figure out your financial needs and zero in on scholarships that can ease your expenses. Plus, pay attention to whether scholarships are merit-based, need-based or a combination of both.

5

STRATEGISE LIKE A PRO

Focus on quality over quantity when applying for scholarships. Stand out by highlighting what makes you different. Are you a frequent traveller with a global perspective? Have you shown creativity, innovation or leadership in past projects? These factors will help craft compelling essays. Additionally, secure strong letters of recommendation that emphasise your individuality and potential for success.

6

STAY ORGANISED

Create a spreadsheet or document to keep track of scholarship deadlines, requirements and application progress. Stay on top of your game and do not let any opportunities slip through the cracks.

7

DO NOT STOP AT ONE

Go for multiple applications. By exploring a variety of scholarships, you increase your chances of finding the perfect fit for your academic and personal interests. Each scholarship may have unique eligibility criteria, requirements and focus areas, providing you with the chance to discover new fields of study or areas of passion.

8

READ THE FINE PRINT (CAREFULLY)

Before you commit, read those terms and conditions. Some scholarships come with strings attached, like keeping your grades up or doing some community service. Make sure you meet these requirements throughout the duration of the scholarship.

9

NETWORK AND SEEK ADVICE

Reach out to your school's guidance counsellors, teachers, mentors and past scholars for gems of wisdom, from understanding your goals to insider knowledge. They can help point you in the right direction for suitable scholarships and give you some tips on how to ace the application process.

TIPS ON

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Which scholarship can shape your

# FUTURE?

A scholarship can serve as your passport to diverse experiences, opening doors to exciting opportunities and new horizons. Before making that important decision, take the time to explore the organisations listed here. The right scholarship could propel you far, paving the way for a bright and successful career



## Agency for Integrated Care

To create a vibrant care community for Singaporeans to live well and age gracefully, the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) coordinates and supports efforts in integrating care to achieve the best care outcomes for its clients.

AIC partners MOH Holdings to attract, develop and groom talent into future leaders in the Community Care sector through the award of the Community

Care Scholarship (CCS) and Community Nursing Scholarship (CNS).

Scholars will be deployed to one of AIC's partnering Community Care organisations or a community hospital to serve upon graduation.

If you wish to play a vital role in ensuring the health and well-being of seniors and the community, you can apply for the CCS and CNS.

## Agency for Science, Technology and Research

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) is Singapore's leading public sector R&D agency. Through open innovation, A\*STAR collaborates with its public and private partners to benefit the economy and society.

The prestigious National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) is Singapore's only through-train scholarship that provides for both your undergraduate studies and PhD training at top overseas universities and laboratories. Students will have the opportunity

to gain access to the scientific ecosystem reading scholars for impactful contributions in research.

Graduate scholarships include the National Science Scholarship (Masters), National Science Scholarship (PhD), A\*STAR Computing and Information Science Scholarship and A\*STAR Graduate Scholarship.

For post-doctoral fellowship, you can apply for the A\*STAR International Fellowship.

For scholarships inquiries, contact A\*STAR at [student\\_services@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:student_services@hq.a-star.edu.sg).

## Auditor-General's Office

As an independent organ of state and the national auditor, the mission of the Auditor-General's Office (AGO) is to audit and report to the President and Parliament on the proper accounting and use of public resources to enhance public accountability and help strengthen the financial governance of the public service.

Its observations include system weaknesses, non-compliance with control procedures or legislation, and instances of excess, extravagance,

or gross inefficiency leading to waste in the use of public funds and resources.

The AGO believes in nurturing dynamic and driven individuals who would like to contribute towards enhancing public accountability.

If you have an analytical and inquiring mind, and are interested to pursue a fulfilling career in public sector auditing, the AGO Auditing Service Scholarship is a good fit. A mid-term option is also available.

## Central Narcotics Bureau

The Ministry of Home Affairs Uniformed Scholarship is offered to highly motivated individuals passionate about safeguarding our home. Apply for a uniformed service scholarship with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), so that you can enforce, educate and engage for a drug-free Singapore.

You will join as a Direct-Entry Inspector, leading a team of officers in drug operation, investigation and intelligence work to achieve CNB's vision of a

drug-free and safe Singapore.

After graduation from a local or overseas university, you can enjoy learning and developmental opportunities through a route map comprising staff and command appointments, including placement in the Home Team Leaders-In-Development Programme or the Public Service Leadership Programme where you will be prepared for appointment to key positions in the CNB or beyond.

## Changi Airport Group

Changi Airport Group (CAG), which manages Changi Airport, undertakes key functions focusing on airport operations and management, air hub development, commercial activities and airport emergency services.

Recipients of the Changi Airport Group Undergraduate Scholarship enjoy the flexibility to pursue their preferred course at top local and overseas universities. Scholars will also broaden

their exposure through overseas student exchange programmes, summer programmes and internships.

After graduation, you will embark on a multifaceted career of diverse business functions in the dynamic and fast-growing aviation industry – where CAG makes magic happen in every aspect of the business, turning different airport touchpoints into seamless experiences with innovation and technology.

## Defence Science and Technology Agency

Stay ahead with the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) Scholarship.

The DSTA Scholarship offers many opportunities to grow in a dynamic environment where innovation thrives. Explore internship opportunities with DSTA, DSO National Laboratories (DSO) and Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies (CSIT),

including the Global Internship Programme.

Upon graduation, look forward to work in exciting domains from engineering to digital transformation and cyber security.

Apply for the DSTA Scholarship and be part of a mission that contributes towards strengthening Singapore's defence capabilities.

## DesignSingapore Council

The DesignSingapore (Dsg) Scholarship is the only scholarship in Singapore for the study of any design discipline. It cultivates the next generation of talents who may serve their bond in any Singapore-registered company of their choice, and opens doors to more rewarding careers and opportunities to advance the nation's design industry.

As the national agency that promotes design,

Dsg's mission is to develop the design sector, help Singapore use design for innovation and growth, and make life better in this Unesco Creative City of Design.

Talents with creative flair, the drive to push boundaries, and a heart to serve Singapore will be groomed under the DesignSingapore Scholarship to become leaders designing solutions to make life better.

SCAN FOR DETAILS ON YOUR PREFERRED SCHOLARSHIP

### Home Team Science and Technology Agency

Are you passionate about science and technology and seeking a meaningful career? Embark on the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) scholarship and be part of the Home Team's Force Multiplier to keep Singapore safe and secure.

A statutory board of the Ministry of Home Affairs, HTX is home to scientists and engineers who harness cutting-edge science and technology to deliver transformative solutions that empower Singapore's

front lines of security. Leveraging its expertise in artificial intelligence, biometrics and profiling, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) defence, cyber security, data science, forensics and robotics etc., HTX augments its Home Team's capabilities in their mission to solve crimes, save lives, secure borders, safeguard data and systems, and enhance public safety. With HTX, you will be able to sharpen your capabilities and fulfil your potential.



### Immigration and Checkpoints Authority

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs Uniformed Scholarship with Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), you will have the opportunity to play a crucial role in Singapore's home-front security.

Keeping Singapore's borders safe and secure is your top priority, with many exciting roles in checkpoint clearance, intelligence, enforcement, immigration and national registration available.

As an ICA scholar, you are primed for key

leadership positions through a structured programme of command and staff appointments that empower you to discover and develop your potential.

Not only will you be equipped with holistic skills to prepare for your future career in ICA's fast-paced and dynamic environment, you will also be exposed to a diverse range of functions in the immigration, enforcement and intelligence fields.

### Infocomm Media Development Authority

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) leads Singapore's digital transformation by developing a vibrant digital economy and an inclusive digital society.

The Singapore Digital (SG Digital) Scholarship is an industry scholarship that develops the next generation of leaders for Singapore's tech and media ecosystem.

The scholarship supports both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across a wide range of areas, including artificial intelligence, cyber

security, quantum technologies, digital and interactive media, film and TV as well as other programmes from overseas universities. Recipients have the flexibility to chart their own careers in the industry by serving their bond in a tech- or media-related job role in Singapore.

If you aspire to be a future leader in Singapore's digital economy or media ecosystem, apply for the SG Digital Scholarship.



### Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (Iras) acts as the custodian of the nation's taxes and enterprise disbursements. The statutory board also represents Singapore internationally on matters relating to taxation and provides advice on property valuation to the government.

By leveraging analytics, design and digitalisation, Iras has also been making continuous significant strides in transforming taxpayer and staff experiences. At Iras,

people are one of the most important assets critical to its success, and it is committed to developing the potential of talented individuals.

Apply for Iras Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship, Iras Merit Undergraduate Scholarship or Iras Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship, and join Iras for a career with dynamic and varied exposure, career development opportunities and the constant pursuit of innovation.

### ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

The Tun Dato Sir Cheng-Lock Tan MA Scholarship supports local students with the opportunity to pursue postgraduate studies in South-east Asian Studies, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Archaeology/Archaeological Science and other relevant subjects.

The scholarship, funded by Tun Dato Sir Cheng-Lock Tan Trust Fund, is offered on an annual basis and administered by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

So, if you are an aspiring scholar with a passion for South-east Asia and a hunger for knowledge, this scholarship might just be your door to a transformative academic journey.



### Land Transport Authority

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) is driven by the vision of a people-centred land transport network that connects communities and places.

Apart from charting the future of land transport through masterplans, it continually looks at innovative ways to manage traffic flow, provide reliable public transport and advocate active mobility options as it strives towards a car-lite city.

LTA is on the lookout for future leaders who are

keen to actively shape Singapore's innovative and future-ready land transport industry.

LTA scholars can look forward to opportunities to work on mega-infrastructure projects, experience multiple functions through job rotation, participate in high-level corporate committees and play a part in management decision-making. Your career can benefit from LTA's strong network of international experts and structured developmental opportunities.

### Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine

The Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCmedicine) at Nanyang Technological University is a thriving medical school with a global outlook, and a mission to nurture "doctors you and I would like to have caring for us".

Outstanding students aspiring to be doctors are invited to apply for the LKCmedicine Scholarship and other prestigious scholarships, paving the way for a successful career in

medicine. You will be offered an award-winning, technology-enhanced, interdisciplinary and patient-centred curriculum that will fuel your passion for medicine.

You will not just be investing in your academic education, but in a journey that equips you to emerge as future-ready clinicians, embodying values such as professionalism, integrity, empathy and compassion.



### Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

Discover unparalleled opportunities with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), a driving force in shaping Singapore's global hub port and international maritime centre.

As an MPA scholar, you will be at the forefront of port and maritime development, championing digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts both at home and at the global level.

You will get the opportunity to collaborate with industry

leaders, research agencies, and MPA's regional and international partners, to advance the interest of global maritime and drive transformation to make international shipping more efficient and sustainable.

MPA scholars have the opportunity to pursue their graduate studies locally or in Asia, Europe, Britain and the United States, and gain exposure through internships and overseas exchange programmes.



SCAN FOR DETAILS ON YOUR PREFERRED SCHOLARSHIP

Ministry of Defence / Singapore Armed Forces

The mission of the Ministry of Defence (Mindef) and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) is to enhance Singapore's peace and security through deterrence and diplomacy, and should these fail, to secure a swift and decisive victory over the aggressor.

As the bedrock of Singapore's defence and security, Mindef/SAF continually seeks talent who are willing to take up the challenge to defend Singapore's sovereignty and way of life.

There is a diverse range of scholarships to choose from:

- Uniformed scholarships: The SAF Scholarship, SAF Merit Scholarship, SAF Engineering Scholarship, SAF Medicine Scholarship and SAF Dentistry Scholarship
  - Non-uniformed scholarships: PSC Scholarship (Engineering) – Defence and Security, and Defence Merit Scholarship
- Taking up a scholarship with Mindef is a lifelong mission to contribute to the peace and security of Singapore. It is your chance to answer a higher calling, to defend what matters.



Ministry of Education

Teachers are the ultimate influencers who lead the future from the classroom. Embark on an unmatched leadership journey by shaping the character and values of the next generation.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) Teaching Scholarships are offered to individuals who possess a passion for teaching.

As a teaching scholar, you will be given developmental opportunities to prepare for an enriching career as a future educator.

After you have begun your career as an educator and depending on your performance and potential, you may have the opportunity to take on key positions in schools or be deployed to the MOE Headquarters.

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), commonly known as the Home Team, is in charge of Singapore's home front and internal security. It comprises the Ministry Headquarters and 10 Home Team agencies with a common mission – to safeguard the safety and security of our Home.

MHA offers uniformed and civilian scholarships and careers to individuals who enjoy meaningful work that would make a difference in the lives of their loved ones and the community.

As an MHA scholar, you will get to pursue undergraduate studies at a local or overseas university, receive full salary\* and allowance, and attend vacation attachment programmes as well as be sponsored for summer exchanges\* and postgraduate education\*. Upon graduation, you can look forward to growth opportunities to ready yourself as a future Home Team leader.

Kick-start your leadership journey with MHA.

*\*Where applicable*



Monetary Authority of Singapore

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Singapore's central bank and integrated financial regulator, assumes a pivotal role in shaping the future of finance, and promoting financial stability and innovation, while greening the financial ecosystem.

Committed to nurturing purpose-driven careers in finance, MAS offers scholarships to outstanding individuals who will embark on an exciting and purposeful career.

The MAS Undergraduate Scholarship supports up to four years of study, allowing pursuit in any discipline (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and Architecture) at a reputable university, either locally or internationally.

For recipients of the MAS Scholarship, a diverse array of developmental opportunities awaits. Apply for the scholarship today and take the first step towards a career in finance with purpose.

Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a leading global university that is nimble and keeps up with changing global trends. Whether you are an innovator, a changemaker or a trailblazer, you can tailor your curriculum to match your strengths and interests.

Choose from a range of signature programmes and scholarships, including the Turing AI Scholars Programme, Renaissance Engineering Programme, CN Yang Scholars Programme, NTU-University

Scholars Programme, NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme, LKCMedicine Scholarship and Nanyang Scholarship.

On the NTU Smart Campus, you will be immersed in a rich and stimulating learning environment, supported by mentors who are among the best in their field. Study at one of the world's most beautiful and sustainable campuses and realise your potential with a scholarship that is just right for you.



National Institute of Education

If you have a strong passion to teach and inspire young minds, the National Technological University-National Institute of Education (NTU-NIE) Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP) is for you.

TSP is a prestigious four-year programme that attracts passionate young individuals who have a calling to be professional leaders in education.

The programme augments a Bachelor of Arts/Science in an Academic Discipline

and in Education, providing you with a well-rounded education to prepare you for the future.

TSP scholars will be exposed to a multi-disciplinary curriculum with an interactive pedagogy, practical work experience, overseas opportunities and personal mentorship. It aims to produce graduates with intellectual rigour, strong leadership and global perspective to make significant contributions to education.

National Library Board

Join the National Library Board (NLB) in making knowledge come alive, sparking imagination and creating possibilities.

NLB nurtures Readers for Life, Learning Communities and a Knowledgeable Nation by promoting reading, learning and information literacy through its network of 28 libraries across Singapore, the National Library and the National Archives of Singapore.

NLB also forges strategic partnerships that encourage awareness, appreciation

and greater discovery of Singapore's history through its rich collections in Singapore and the region.

Under the NLB Undergraduate Scholarship, scholars can choose to pursue full-time undergraduate studies locally or at renowned universities overseas in diverse fields ranging from the Humanities, to Social Sciences, Information Science, and Data Analytics. Be a part of NLB's transformation under the Libraries and Archives Blueprint.



SCAN FOR  
DETAILS  
ON YOUR  
PREFERRED  
SCHOLARSHIP

### National Parks Board

The National Parks Board (NParks) is the lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, wildlife, and animal health, welfare and management. It has greened roads and infrastructure as well as sensitively restored habitats to conserve Singapore's native biodiversity.

Beyond enhancing and managing Singapore's urban ecosystems to create a more liveable and climate resilient nation, NParks also works closely with the community

to engender stewardship of our natural heritage and bring people closer to nature.

With the NParks Undergraduate Scholarship, dynamic individuals can look forward to studying in Singapore, Australia, Canada, Britain or the United States. They will develop specialised skill sets and be exposed to various professional portfolios, including streetscape, conservation and parks. Outstanding scholars may also work in the Ministry and other statutory boards.



### National University of Singapore

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is a leading global university and Singapore's flagship university, known for its innovative and rigorous education, research and entrepreneurship.

Since 1905, the tertiary institution has nurtured generations of leaders and luminaries across diverse industries and professions, in Singapore and beyond.

NUS Scholarships are highly coveted scholarships awarded to high-calibre

individuals who demonstrate academic excellence, high intellectual capacity, sound character, strong leadership potential, and a passion for creativity and innovation.

NUS offers a variety of scholarships to prospective students, such as the NUS Global Merit Scholarship, NUS Merit Scholarship, NUS Sports Scholarship and NUS Performing and Visual Arts Scholarship.

### People's Association

Established on July 1, 1960, as a statutory board to promote racial harmony and social cohesion in Singapore, the People's Association (PA) works to build and bridge communities in achieving One People, One Singapore.

If you seek a purposeful career in fields like youth, active ageing, sports, arts and culture, social development or community leadership, the PA Scholarship is for you.

As a PA scholar, you will gain valuable

experience in community organisation and leadership through participation in community projects, regular interaction with grassroots and PA leaders, strategic job placements, and overseas attachments and programmes.

Anticipate a rewarding and challenging career with numerous opportunities to reach your full potential. Join us in making a difference and creating a great home and caring community.



### Singapore Industry Scholarship

Singapore citizens keen to contribute to leading organisations in Singapore's strategic sectors can apply for the Singapore Industry Scholarship (SgIS), the only multi-industry scholarship in partnership with the Singapore Government. Full-term and mid-term (local and overseas) scholarships are available to support you at different stages of your university education.

Over 100 sponsoring organisations from industries ranging from arts to transport

participate in SgIS, and have a strong focus on nurturing talents. Kick-start your career and get ahead in personal and professional development through the SgIS Scholars' Development and Engagement Programme.

As next-generation industry leaders, hone your skills through induction programmes and internships, gain insights through interactions with leaders from different sectors at Leaders' Forums and expand your network through the SgIS Scholars' Network.

### SGRail

The SGRail Industry scholars will have the unique opportunity to work on projects with the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and public transport operators SBS Transit Ltd or SMRT Corporation Ltd through a structured developmental programme.

Enriched by perspectives from both the public and private sectors, your career path will be nothing short of diverse and dynamic.

Choose from a wide range of specialities such as Signalling, Rolling Stock, Power, Permanent Way and Systems.

Expect to gain valuable exposure and expertise in the exciting rail industry and make a positive impact on the lives of people in Singapore. All SGRail Industry Scholarships are centrally awarded and managed by LTA, on behalf of Singapore's rail sector.



### Singapore Civil Defence Force

If you are a highly motivated individual who is passionate about safeguarding the safety and security of Singapore, sign up for the Ministry of Home Affairs Uniformed Scholarship (SCDF) and be an integral part of the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

The scholarship will kick-start your leadership journey as an SCDF Fire & Rescue or Paramedic Officer. You will go through

structured postings to acquire specialised capabilities as well as staff and command competencies. There is pride in knowing that your day-to-day work contributes to a greater cause of keeping your loved ones and our country safe.

Make a difference in the lives of others and be a part of this noble mission. Join The Lifesaving Force.

### Singapore Institute of Technology

As a University of Applied Learning, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) is renowned for its innovative, industry-focused approach to education.

With close industry ties and collaboration, SIT provides a distinctive hands-on learning experience, offering applied degree programmes, some in partnership with renowned overseas universities.

The flagship SIT Scholarship recognises exceptional students for their academic excellence, robust co-curricular record and strong leadership qualities. It aims

to nurture well-rounded individuals and develop future leaders who impact society positively.

The bond-free scholarship grants SIT scholars access to valuable development opportunities and networks. Furthermore, the upcoming SIT campus within the Punggol Digital District has been designed to seamlessly integrate with the industry and community, augmenting teaching and learning with spaces that allow for stronger industry and community collaborations.



SCAN FOR  
DETAILS  
ON YOUR  
PREFERRED  
SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024



Singapore Land Authority

The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law. SLA optimises land resources for the economic and social development of Singapore through developmental and regulatory work.

As an SLA scholar, you will play a crucial role in revolutionising the management of

land resources and geospatial technology to extract greater value for our state properties and assets.

You will play a part in shaping Singapore's landscape with SLA's prestigious local and overseas scholarships. Embrace innovation, challenge the status quo and make a lasting impact on our homeland.

Singapore Management University

A premier university in the Asia region, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research, distinguished teaching and its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning.

SMU offers a wide range of scholarships dedicated to nurturing a new generation of inspiring and impactful leaders for the future. Each year, one in three SMU first-year students is given a scholarship or financial award.

The SMU Global Impact Scholarship Award realises scholars' leadership potential and hones their ability to make a meaningful impact on society.

Other scholarships include the Lee Kong Chian Scholars' Programme, the SMU Merit Scholarship Programme, the Yip Pin Xiu Scholarship that honours excellence in sports, and the Dato' Kho Hui Meng Scholarship, amongst a wide range of scholarships and awards.



Singapore Maritime Foundation

Established in 2004, the Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) is a conduit between the public and private sectors to accomplish the twin missions of developing and promoting Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC); and to attract, engage and grow a talent pipeline to position Maritime Singapore for continued growth.

The MaritimeONE Scholarship Programme is an initiative spearheaded by SMF and

its maritime partners to nurture talents for Singapore's maritime sector. Sponsored by some of the industry's leading organisations, the scholarship programme supports various local and overseas diploma and degree programmes.

In addition to providing financial incentives, these sponsors have pledged their commitment to the programme by offering MaritimeONE scholars possible career and internship opportunities.

Singapore Police Force

The Singapore Police Force Scholarship (SPFS) is one of the most prestigious scholarships awarded by the Public Service Commission. It is awarded to candidates who have shown outstanding leadership qualities, possess impeccable integrity and have a strong interest in policing work to safeguard our nation.

As an SPFS scholar, you will continue your learning journey in a world-renowned

university that provides intellectually, socially and personally enriching programmes.

Afterwards, you will be involved in shaping policies to address issues on public law and order, and play an integral role as a guardian of homeland security.

You will also acquire investigation acumen and policy conceptualisation skills as well as command and leadership abilities.



Singapore Prison Service

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Singapore Prison Service (SPS) officers – also known as Captains of Lives – enforce safe and secure custody of offenders and rehabilitate them for a safe Singapore.

Those who are passionate about shaping the future of corrections can apply for the MHA Uniformed Scholarship (SPS) and be sponsored for undergraduate studies in a prestigious overseas or local university. Upon graduation, you will embark

on an exciting and rewarding career as a Captain of Lives, to help influence communities in journeying with inmates and ex-offenders on their paths towards rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

You will be groomed and developed to hold leadership roles through a structured and dynamic route map comprising both command and staff appointments. You will also have the opportunity to be placed on the Public Service Leadership Programme.

Singapore University of Social Sciences

The Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), a local autonomous university, boasts a distinguished heritage in lifelong education and societal transformation through applied social sciences.

SUSS scholarships emphasise academic excellence and leadership, including the Global Excellence Scholarship, which considers both academic and non-academic strengths; the Social Impact Scholarship, which prioritises work experience and community involvement in social sciences; and the versatile SUSS Scholarship for well-rounded individuals with leadership potential.

Offering more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programmes in full- and part-time formats, SUSS also supports exceptional students from ASEAN\* member nations, through scholarships like the ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship and Temasek Foundation Sunburst Scholarship.

These bond-free premier schemes empower recipients to maximise their potential in their chosen fields.

\*Excluding Singapore



SPH Media

Are you curious, persistent, keen to uncover the truth and tell stories – whether about people, a country or region? Do you have the courage to uphold strong ethics and integrity when the going gets tough? If yes, you may want to consider an exciting career with SPH Media through the SPH Media Journalism Scholarship.

Leverage this platform to gain exposure and experience in a rotation of jobs across

the different parts of the organisation, working with experienced journalists, editors and other mentors on projects.

The scholarship covers tuition, monthly allowances, other compulsory university fees and more. If this is who you are, SPH Media believes you are the talent it seeks. Start your career journey with Asia's leading media organisation through the SPH Media Journalism Scholarship.



SCAN FOR DETAILS ON YOUR PREFERRED SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024



SUSS scholar Ezekiel Woo juggles an internship while attending university classes. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Jump-starting finance career with flexible scholarship

From clinching a coveted four-day internship to winning case competitions, this SUSS scholar is setting himself up for success

From Monday through Thursday, Mr Ezekiel Woo, 24, dons a crisp business outfit and reports to work at Standard Chartered Bank in Marina Bay Financial Centre.

As an investment banking analyst intern with the bank's Global Industries Group (GIG), he performs industry analysis and assists in drafting pitch documents for companies to perform mergers or acquisitions.

While he blends in with the finance crowd, what makes Mr Woo unique is that he is currently a student at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

He attends classes every Friday, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics under the SUSS Global Excellence Scholarship.

Mr Woo's schedule is atypical for an undergrad. He took on the internship in his third year, a year earlier than most university students who typically do it in their final year.

As a way to upgrade himself, Mr Woo is constantly planning as he keeps his eye on the ultimate goal: To break into the world of investment banking.

"Achieving a successful future is my top priority for supporting my family," says Mr Woo, who comes from a single-parent household.

His four-day internship is the first of its kind in his cohort. Mr Woo found the opportunity on Standard Chartered's website and applied for it.

He then worked with his lecturers at SUSS to arrange his classes into a single day to ensure he stayed abreast with schoolwork.

It is an intense schedule, but Mr Woo shares a hack to juggle well: "Always start early, whether it is a

job or school assignment. If you start early, you will have a better grasp of what is happening, more time to spot mistakes and improve."

Being able to combine an internship with his studies was one of the many reasons why Mr Woo chose to go with the SUSS Global Excellence Scholarship.

The first person in his family to enter university, Mr Woo applied for the scholarship, which covers the tuition costs and provides \$5,000 in living allowances annually.

Additionally, it offers opportunities beyond academia, such as taking on leadership roles and participating in case competitions, which can give him "a competitive edge when job-hunting in the future", he says.

In April 2023, Mr Woo and his team clinched the national champion title at the CFA Institute Research Challenge. This annual global competition requires students to assume the role of an equity analyst and test them on their analytical and pitching skills.

A month earlier, he and his classmates came in as second runners-up in the Point72 x Nanyang Capital Stock Pitch Challenge 2023, where they created a mock investment recommendation for a company.

Mr Woo has also experienced his first taste of entrepreneurship through the SUSS Venture Builder Programme. The three-month initiative aims to

teach students essential skills for building a business.

During this time, he founded Glam Deals SG, a beauty start-up which promotes mom-and-pop shops through a Telegram group chat.

Mr Woo's interest in banking and finance was sparked when he joined the student-run SUSS Investment Group, another strategic move he made to widen his horizons. The group's goal is to promote financial literacy and strengthen investment knowledge. Mr Woo, a financial informatics graduate from Nanyang Polytechnic, currently serves as its president.

Business analytics is Mr Woo's favourite subject as he enjoys telling stories and mapping trends with data. Still, he has decided to pursue banking as a career choice because it combines both his

passions for numbers and storytelling. As he approaches his final year, Mr Woo is looking forward to his one-month exchange programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science in Britain, where he will gain more global experience in finance. His travel expenses will be covered by the scholarship.

Achieving a successful future is my top priority for supporting my family.

Mr Ezekiel Woo  
Recipient of the SUSS Global Excellence Scholarship



Scan for more on the SUSS Global Excellence Scholarship.

## MAKE MARITIME YOUR PORT OF CALL



**SMF** Singapore Maritime Foundation

**Maritime1**  
The Industry Platform for Talent  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

[www.smf.com.sg/scholarship](http://www.smf.com.sg/scholarship)

