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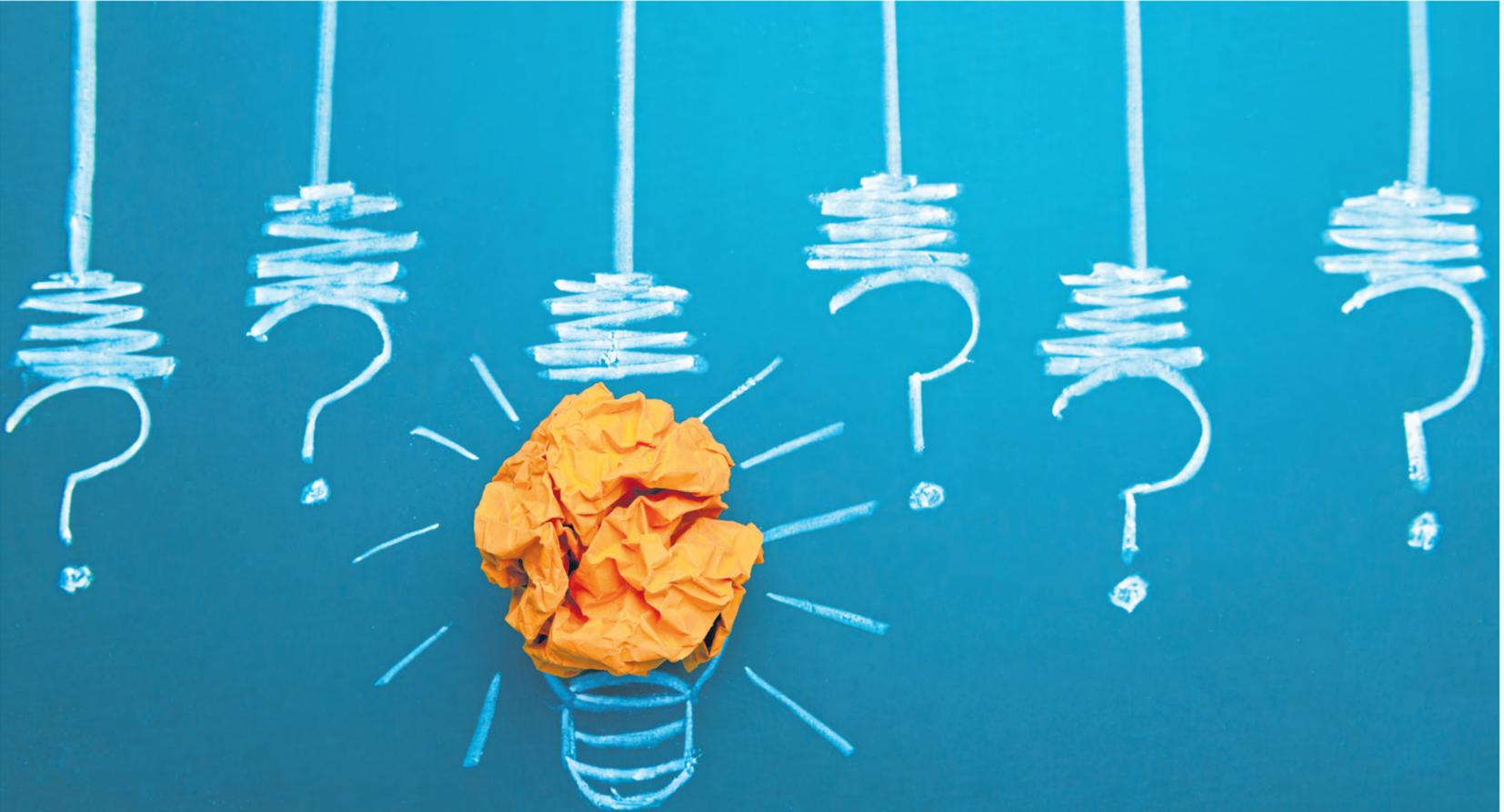
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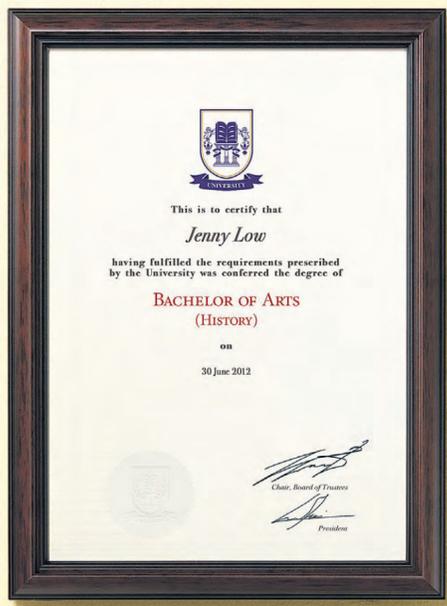
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Ministry of Education SINGAPORE



In service of Singapore's maritime defence

RADM Ken Cheong Kwok Chien of the Republic of Singapore Navy shares the highlights of his career

By Michelle Bong
SPH Content Lab

Rear-Admiral (RADM) Ken Cheong Kwok Chien was awarded The SAF Scholarship (formerly known as the SAF Overseas Scholarship) in 1992 to pursue a degree in Chemistry at the University of Cambridge.

"What drew me to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) was the chance to lead and serve the nation, as well as the opportunity to work closely with people towards a common goal of defending our nation," he says.

RADM Cheong, 44, describes the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) evolution through the years.

He says: "We went from small wooden boats to a balanced force of modern frigates, submarines and aircraft in less than 50 years. Our people have also grown quickly with the evolution.

"In less than a generation, we have shed the more traditional, hierarchical modus operandi in most military organisations and embraced a new generation of working relations, greater interconnectivity, flatter decision-making and greater agility to respond to challenges and emerging opportunities.

"The workplace is now more vibrant and inclusive, with greater participation from the rank and file."

Myriad of experiences

RADM Cheong experienced many different roles in the SAF.

"I have led operational units, engaged in policy development, driven capability development and worked with people from all walks of life," he says.

One of his career highlights includes assuming command of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, a multinational coalition force to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden, in 2016.

"It was an honour to be part of the international effort to keep vital sea lines of communication free from piracy," he shares.

He was part of many interesting overseas deployments, one of which he recalls fondly was his deployment to San Diego in 2009 to operationalise the S-70B Seahawk naval helicopter.

"We sailed RSS *Stalwart* across the Pacific Ocean, trained hard with the newly acquired Seahawk helicopters and returned almost seven months later with the capability to operate the helicopters from our frigates," he says.

He also recalls how port calls to countries such as Oman were memorable because of the beautiful cultures and the warmth and hospitality of their people.

Leading the fleet

Today, as Fleet Commander, he oversees more than 20 warships, thousands of active personnel and Operationally Ready National Servicemen.

His work spans a variety of roles and responsibilities.

He says: "I am first and foremost responsible to the Navy to ensure that our warfighting ships and crew are well trained, motivated and prepared.

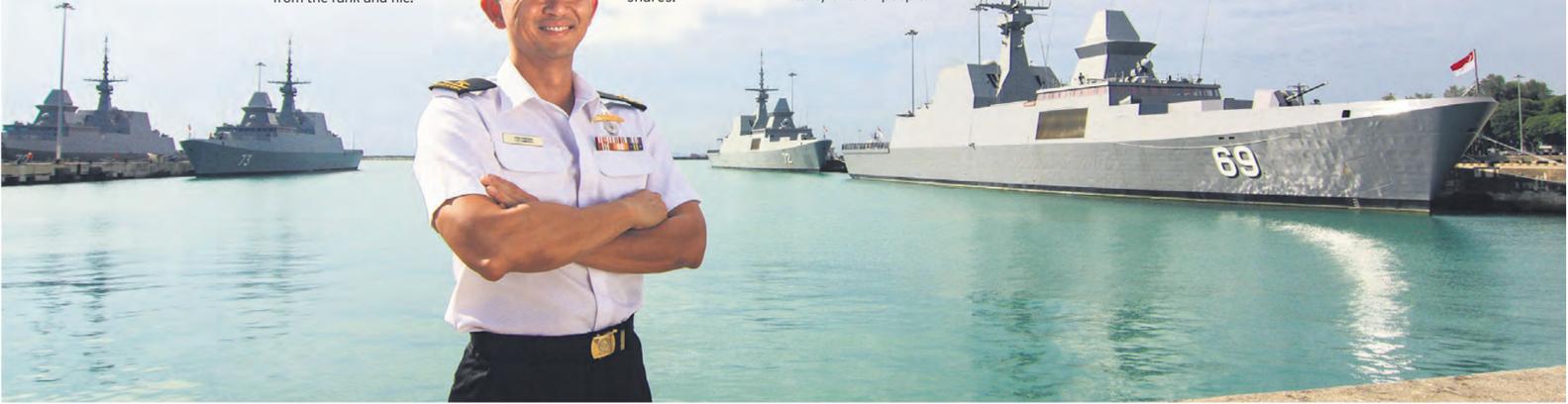
"I work with my team of commanders to develop training processes and content, as well as oversee effective implementation of the plans and policies.

"When specific incidents occur that require our ships and aircraft to respond, I lead these operations.

"I also interact with my counterparts from around the world to build professional relations that can help advance our diplomatic ties."

For those considering a career in the SAF, RADM Cheong advises: "It is a challenging and fast-paced environment. You will be constantly tested mentally and will have to learn to make sound decisions that affect lives and equipment.

"Most importantly, you will make lifelong friends. Many of them will be your true comrades, whom you know you can depend on for life."



RADM Cheong's responsibilities in the Navy include ensuring that its warfighting ships and crew are well trained, motivated and prepared.



LTC Tong says The SAF Scholarship has given him exposure to strategic, operational and tactical aspects of the SAF, and empowered him with the ability to influence and make changes to the organisation.

Flying high

For Republic of Singapore Air Force's LTC Ronald Tong, The SAF Scholarship has paved his way to a challenging career

Being passionate about economics and sociology – two subjects not normally associated with a career in the military – did not stop Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Ronald Tong from pursuing a career in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

On the contrary, the 33-year-old graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, says both subjects have given him insights into his current role as Commanding Officer of 145 Squadron in the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF).

He explains: "Sociology and economics have a lot of relevance in my career. Through the lens of sociology, I can better appreciate, challenge and improve SAF culture and practices.

"Meanwhile, economics provides me with empirical analytical training so I can perform systematic cost-benefit analysis, which is essential in military decision-making."

LTC Tong adds that The SAF

Scholarship has given him exposure to strategic, operational and tactical aspects of the SAF, and empowered him with the ability to influence and make changes to the organisation.

Such experiences have helped him upgrade his skills to lead and shape the squadron and RSAF.

Sharpening the spear

Though few people take on the challenging path of being an SAF scholar, LTC Tong feels that his decision to do so has made all the difference in his life, allowing him to serve his family and nation as an SAF officer.

"Fighter Group, and in particular 145 Squadron, has been described as the tip of the spear that is the SAF. "My main responsibility is to sharpen this spear – to raise, train and sustain the airmen and women under my charge.

"I also ensure that 145 Squadron serves the nation's peacetime operational responsibilities such as air

defence, and is ready when the button is pressed, to achieve a swift and decisive victory," he says.

He also gets deployed overseas for detachments and exercises.

For him, a typical work week at the office involves managing his squadron and flying to hone his skills. He also spends time with his people to understand their challenges.

He strives to create conditions that help each member of his team thrive in the squadron and in the RSAF.

He also mitigates the risks of daily operations, achieving a strong safety culture.

"I hope to continue contributing to Singapore's continued success.

"I believe strongly in the SAF's mission, and know that a strong SAF is the bedrock of peace and prosperity for my child and her generation," he concludes.

MICHELLE BONG



LTC Helmi says the most fulfilling aspect of his work as a Commanding Officer is the opportunity to influence positive change in the lives of almost 600 soldiers in the battalion.

Leading a family

LTC Muhammad Helmi Khaswan's Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Merit Scholarship has enabled him to fulfil his childhood dream of a career with the armed forces

He may be just 34, but Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Muhammad Helmi Khaswan has proven himself in many different appointments in his fast-paced career. He is now serving as the Commanding Officer (CO) of 4th Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment (4 SIR).

He says: "I aspire to live up to the ideals and values of a military professional – to lead by example, demonstrate fighting spirit, courage and resilience in the face of challenges, and care for the people who trust me to lead."

LTC Helmi – who has a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Philosophy in Advanced Chemical Engineering from Cambridge University – adds that he is pursuing his calling in life.

He explains: "Even at a young age, I had always wanted to serve in the public service.

"Given my background in sports and the potential I demonstrated in previous leadership appointments, my family and friends felt that a career in the SAF was the right fit for me. My parents were very proud when I was awarded the SAF Merit Scholarship."

Armed and ready

For LTC Helmi, every day is filled with new and dynamic experiences as he carries out his duties.

As the CO of 4 SIR, his main task is to bring together individuals from different backgrounds to form a cohesive and effective fighting unit.

His responsibilities include setting the vision and direction for the unit, giving clear guidance in the conduct of key training and operational activities, and most importantly, inspiring his soldiers to become better individually and collectively.

He adds: "Beyond producing an operationally capable fighting unit, being a good CO is about transmitting values to our soldiers so that they will go on to become good citizens, sons, husbands and fathers one day. I strongly believe in that."

LTC Helmi's idea of a productive day in the unit is achieving objectives relating to both the mission and his soldiers.

It is important that the unit achieves the desired training standards and innovates to exceed those standards. Beyond training for operational tasks, the unit must also always be ready to undertake tasks set by the SAF.

However, it is just as crucial that his soldiers grow during their National Service (NS) experience.

He says the most fulfilling aspect of his work as a CO is the opportunity to influence positive change in the lives of almost 600 soldiers in the battalion.

"I had soldiers who had no clear indication about what the future held for them. However, through our conversations, we talked about their strengths and their ambitions in life.

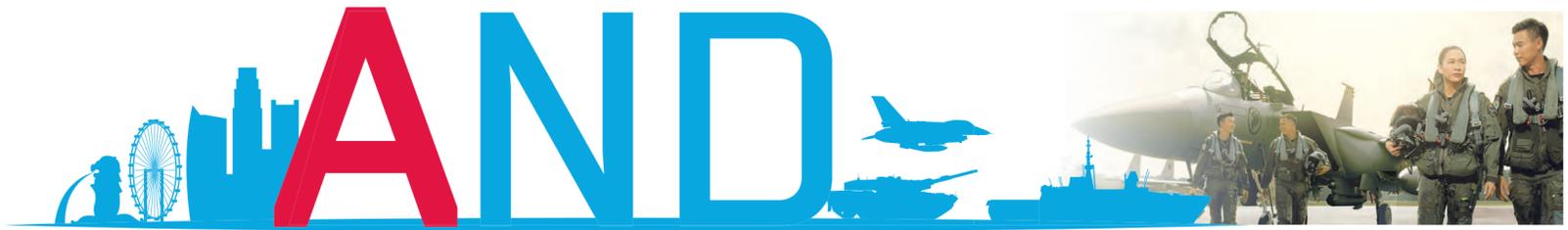
"I recall them saying that the tough NS experience taught them that anything was possible in life. Many eventually went on to pursue their higher education and dreams," he shares.

"It is important to note that in the military profession, the notion of 'family' extends to beyond our loved ones at home. The soldiers we lead, the peers and superiors that we serve with; I see them as an extension of my 'family'. They are my loved ones too.

"As such, I do not see my duties as work. I am always surrounded by my family," he concludes.

MICHELLE BONG

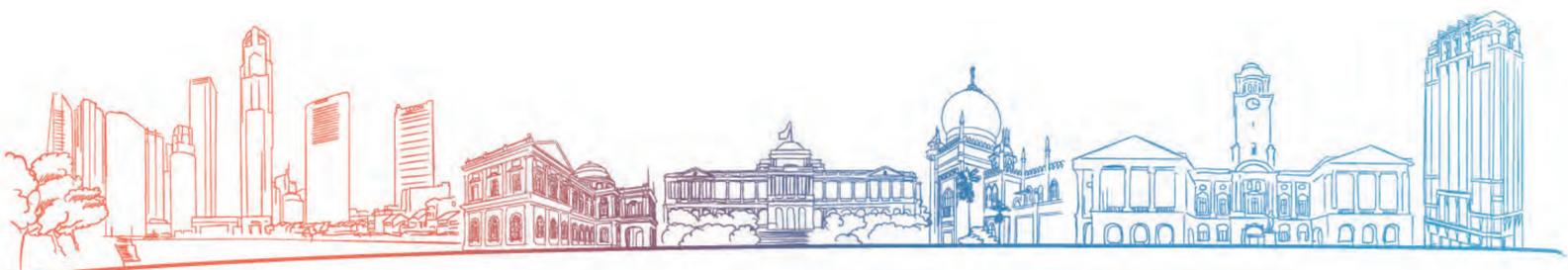
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BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Devoted to fighting crime

Three Singapore Police Force scholars share what motivates them in their work

In the name of justice

By Hazel Tan
SPH Content Lab

A visit to Geylang Neighbourhood Police Centre in 2009 after he graduated from Raffles Junior College was an eye-opening experience for Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Jonathan Au Yong Kok Kong.

After he saw how the police fought crime on the ground, the nature of the job appealed to him, as it would take him from behind the desk and onto the streets. So he applied for The Singapore Police Force Scholarship (SPFS).

Getting the scholarship was a dream come true for DSP Au Yong, who grew up reading detective stories and crime novels.

DSP Au Yong graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Affairs from Yale University in the United States in 2013.

"The scholarship gave my family financial reprieve and allowed me to fulfil my dream of attending one of the top global universities," he says.

The SPF Scholarship covers tuition fees, and provides scholars with an allowance for books, computers, warm clothing, food and lodging. Scholars are also paid a salary for the duration of their studies.



DSP Au Yong seeks the truth on behalf of deceased persons. PHOTOS: SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

Today, the 28-year-old SPF and President's Scholar is Deputy Head of the Special Investigation Section of the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) Major Crime Division.

Armed and ready

Policing work is tough but extremely rewarding, says DSP Au Yong, who is currently serving a six-year bond with the SPF.

He says: "My branch investigates the gravest offences committed in Singapore, such as homicide, kidnapping and firearms offences, and is responsible for putting away the most dangerous criminals."

"My schedule is unpredictable as I am activated whenever a major crime has been reported."

Investigating a crime includes canvassing a bloody scene for forensic leads, going door to door to identify potential eyewitnesses, consoling the grieving family member of a murder victim, or watching terabytes worth of closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage to trace the whereabouts of a suspect.

"After the culprit is arrested, I need to prepare the case for prosecution by meeting with prosecutors from the Attorney-General's Chambers, or reviewing forensic evidence with a forensic pathologist from the Health Sciences Authority," he says.

DSP Au Yong renders help when a crime has been committed — a commitment he does not take for granted.

"Very few people are given the chance to speak for the dead," he says. "Through my work, I seek the truth on behalf of the deceased, give closure to their loved ones and bring perpetrators to justice."

Harnessing the power of technology

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Brenda Ong Bi Hui hails from a family of Home Team officers, who influenced her choice of career.

The 28-year-old Singapore Government Scholarship (Singapore Police Force) (SGS (SPF)) recipient joined the SPF after graduating from the University of Cambridge in England with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Psychology and Sociology (Honours) in 2012.

She says: "My father was a policeman, and I grew up listening to his stories about fighting crime and protecting those who needed help."

"A few of my relatives also worked in the Home Team. They helped me to better understand what the job entails."

DSP Ong is an Operations Officer in the Future Ops Division at the Operations Department.

Scholarship benefits

For DSP Ong, the SGS offered her the chance to do something exciting yet meaningful, while setting her on a career that promises growth.

She says: "I knew that I did not want a desk-bound job. I was looking for something with enough job security to allow me to develop long-term career goals, while challenging me constantly and giving me a sense of purpose."

The scholarship also offered opportunities for foundation postings at the frontline, where she could deal with crimes and crime-related issues directly.

She adds: "These postings enabled me to strengthen critical thinking, crisis management and social intelligence, before I moved on to policy work."

"It is important to understand and experience the pain points

at the frontline before trying to solve them."

Future-proofing Singapore

DSP Ong belongs to the first batch of Future Ops officers. They ensure that police operations are future-ready by engaging stakeholders, exploring new ideas and experimenting with new concepts of operations.

Part of her job entails creating strategic master plans that incorporate longer-term visions. As an example of this, DSP Ong cites how the SPF is trying to harness emerging technologies to aid crime fighting.

She elaborates: "I work on technology master plans that are applicable across the Joint Operations, Investigations and Intelligence domains."

"On a day-to-day basis, I trial emerging technologies. These include Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or chatbots with frontline officers to test how technology can be applied to frontline policing and help them do more with less."

DSP Ong adds that it is no longer a rarity to see women in the uniformed services these days. Everyone on the team shares the same goal of protecting Singaporeans.

She says: "Several amazing women have paved the way for females in the police force, and more female leaders are going further in their careers today."

"We hope to continue to keep Singapore safe and secure, and help our country stay resilient in the face of future challenges."



HAZEL TAN

DSP Ong guiding a fellow officer on the capabilities of the CommandWear, a mobile tracking software that enhances Command, Control and Communications for Police Operations.



ASP Lee interviews the owner after the latter's motorcycle is recovered.

Helping victims of crime

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Lee Ting Wei's career goal is to impact people's lives positively — be it through shaping young minds or playing a role in national security.

He eventually decided on a career with the SPF after taking part in the Home Team Associates Programme (HAP) in 2007, where he had the opportunity to experience a different side of Singapore through the eyes of the police.

HAP is organised for A Level students who are keen to explore a scholarship with the Home Team.

Students are offered an internship with one of the Home Team departments during the December school holidays. They get to visit the different Home Team departments to experience the operations first-hand before making a decision to apply for the scholarships.

"I believe helping vulnerable people or crime victims will bring me fulfilment and maintain my passion for the career," he says.

When he was pursuing a Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London in the United Kingdom as a Singapore Government Scholarship (Singapore Police Force) (SGS (SPF)) recipient, he was invited to take part in a Vacation Attachment Programme (VAP) during every summer break when he was back in Singapore.

The programme aims to help scholars keep up to date with the latest developments in SPF, and undergo attachments at various SPF

departments to gain a better understanding of the organisation.

Developing capabilities

Currently an Investigation Officer at Central Division, ASP Lee's work spans a wide range of crime, from theft and voluntarily causing hurt to unnatural death.

The 28-year-old's job involves going to the crime scene to survey the area, interview witnesses and collect evidence crucial for court proceedings. He is also often involved in cross-department projects to improve the SPF's capabilities in the long run.

With crimes getting more sophisticated these days, the SPF is hoping to attract those with specific deep specialisations in science, technology and engineering to join the Home Team in protecting Singapore.

The Home Team Science and Technology Scholarship is a new scholarship introduced last year. Recipients will undergo foundation postings as uniformed police officers before being rotated to police operational, operations-technology and operations-science postings.

Scholars get to develop science, technology and engineering capabilities in the Home Team, and integrate cutting-edge technologies into Home Team operations.

ASP Lee, who is a trained chemical engineer, believes that science and technology play a big part in solving crime, as they often constitute independent evidence.

"With the growing threat of cybercrime, technological forensics and capabilities will definitely play a big part in solving crime in the near future."

HAZEL TAN



JONATHAN AU YONG KOK KONG
PRESIDENT'S SCHOLAR CUM
THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
SCHOLARSHIP (SPFS) RECIPIENT
DEPUTY HEAD SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
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Beyond classroom learning



Miss Chin would like her students to have a fulfilling life beyond their studies.
PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

NTU-NIE scholar Amanda Sarah Chin is inspired by teachers who are concerned with more than just academics

ANDY CHEN

WHEN Ms Amanda Sarah Chin was in her final year at Raffles Girls' School, she did not just study the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) syllabus. She had a go at delving into forensic science, which she loved.

"My science teacher encouraged my love of science beyond the PSLE syllabus — or rather, my obsession with the CSI: Crime Scene Investigation television

show — by creating CSI scenarios for me to solve," she recalls.

The way her teacher nurtured her intellectual curiosity and love of learning has inspired Ms Chin to do likewise when she becomes a full-time teacher.

She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Education in July next year from the National Institute of Education (NIE), an institute of Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Ms Chin, 21, who is in the second year of junior college.

Programme, says she has always appreciated teachers who are generous "with giving students time unrelated to academics, whether in lessons or conversations", as well as those who show "kindness, patience, authenticity and humour".

"Whatever it is, it always goes back to the heart and whether a teacher cares for his students," adds the former Raffles Institution student.

In kindergarten, she briefly expressed her desire to be a teacher and then "a teacher of teachers" — not to mention author, cashier and hairdresser, among many other jobs. She seriously returned to the thought of becoming a teacher only when she was in the second year of junior college.

"I couldn't imagine myself reading anything else other than English literature. It also occurred to me how meaningful education is, as an educator has the power and potential to benefit so many lives," says Ms Chin.

Her Academic Subject 1, which is similar to a major, is English literature, so she is well on track to achieving her goal of marrying both of her interests.

She says: "I will be teaching English literature and English language. My dream subjects to teach are Film Studies and Cultural Studies, neither of which is offered in secondary schools.

"I do hope that more parts of these subjects will be included in our curriculum in the future."

Pursuing other interests

Ms Chin loves the films of Hong Kong auteur Wong Kar Wai and American film-maker Wes Anderson.

She also loves reading, with Virginia Woolf's *To The Lighthouse* and Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* being two of her favourite titles. Yet, her interests extend far beyond these creative fields.

She also plays table tennis and pursues photography and has organised a photography workshop and day of appreciation for Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Ms Chin feels students should have a fulfilling life outside their studies, too.

She says: "Just as it would be miserable for us to live only for our jobs, a student's life isn't only about studying.

"Students are first and foremost human beings with their own interests and issues. We worry about who a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."

On her own passions, she says: "I really love whatever it is I do, so reading literature, for instance, doesn't feel like work. When I feel too stretched, I rollerblade, do Pilates or watch films."

Deep impression

At NIE, Ms Chin got to learn about the various education systems in other countries when she went on teaching stints to Zurich in Switzerland and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

Her experience in Zurich, especially, left a deep impression on her — she would love to be given the chance to know her students more thoroughly, like how Swiss teachers know theirs.

"Secondary school teachers there teach three to four subjects each, often staying with the same class for three years.

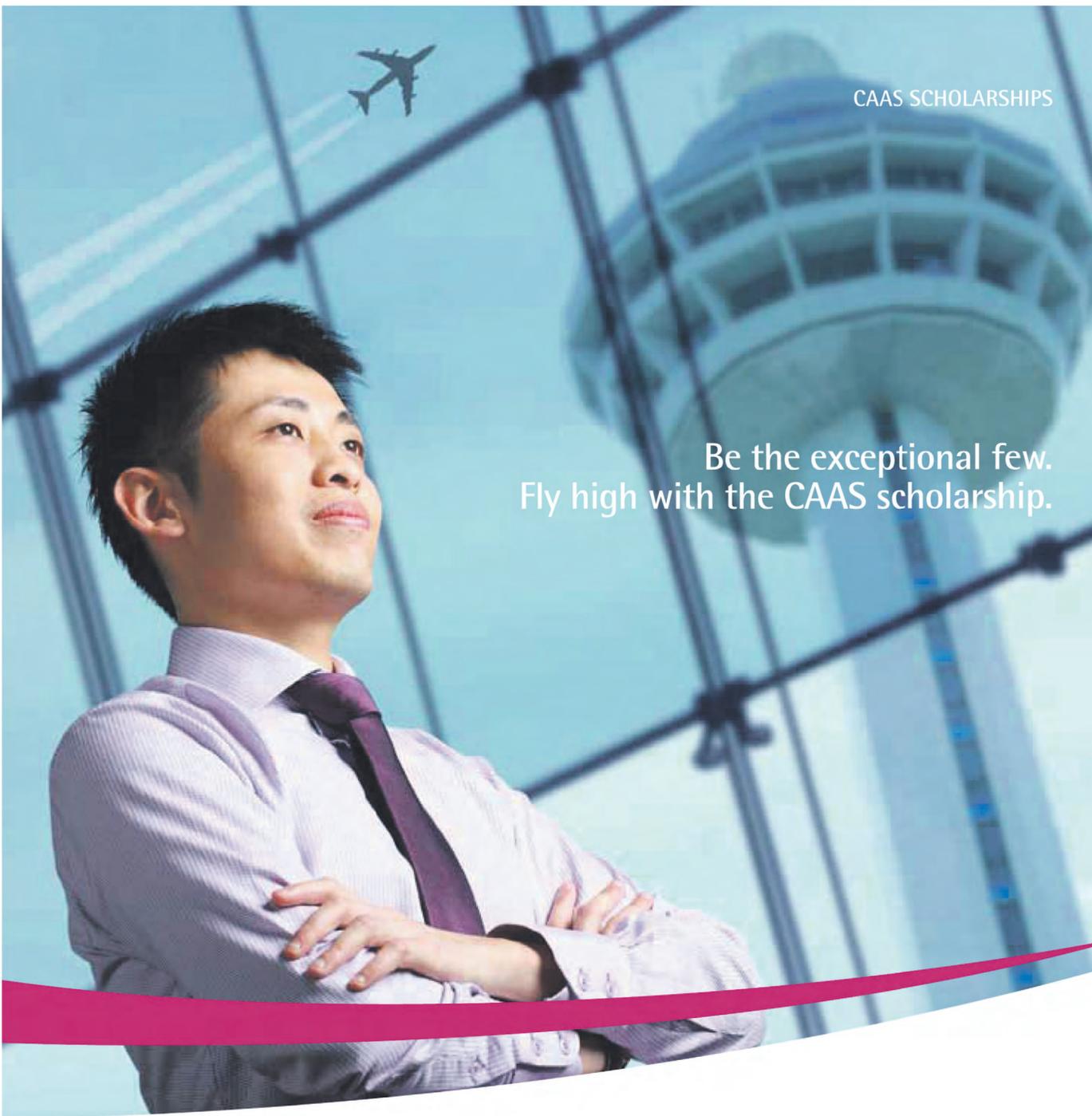
"They spend more time than we do with their classes, each of which comprise 13 to 24 students, and consequently get to know each student a lot better," she says.

She feels that this was perhaps why many of the Swiss teachers hardly raised their voices in class. Instead, they tapped on their rapport with the students, rationalised or used non-verbal cues to manage them.

Ms Chin also learnt about how to deal with unruly behaviour in local schools.

While on attachment at Spectra Secondary School, she recalls being suitably impressed by how a teacher reacted — or rather, did not react — when a group of students taunted her.

Ms Chin was surprised that the teacher did not scold them. Instead, she turned the episode into a teaching opportunity by explaining to a student with anger management issues that there is no need to respond to something that one does not like. Just by being in control of her own reaction then, the teacher presented a perfect example for her students to emulate. "This was one way she was a living example for her students," she says.



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Maximising her potential

NTU's inter-disciplinary Renaissance Engineering Programme will equip Ms Cassandra Mun Ji Kay with engineering and business skills

HAZEL TAN

THE flexibility of Nanyang Technological University's (NTU) Nanyang Scholarship appealed to Ms Cassandra Mun Ji Kay.

It allowed the final-year student in the Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) to choose her course of study and career path in her preferred industry.

REP is one of the four Premier Scholars Programmes offered by the university.

As NTU's foremost undergraduate scholarship, the Nanyang Scholarship recognises students who excel academically, demonstrate strong leadership potential and possess outstanding co-curricular records.

The scholarship covers tuition fees, and includes allowances for living, book, computer and travel expenses. Scholars are also given priority for overseas programmes.

Best of both worlds

Its dual-degree programme is characterised by the award of a Bachelor of Engineering Science and a Master of Science in Technology Management after four-and-a-half years.

The bachelor's degree is awarded by the College of Engineering, while the master's degree is awarded by Nanyang Business School.

Ms Mun, 22, who specialises in civil engineering, says: "The foundation in engineering, business and the humanities equips me with a holistic understanding and approach towards problems."

During the first two years of the programme, she studied electrical and materials engineering, as well as business classes such as accounting, fundamentals of management and financial management.

She finds the inter-disciplinary nature of REP useful as it helps her to regard engineering and business as complementary, instead of separate, disciplines.

"REP also lets me explore different disciplines before I need to select an engineering field," she says.

In line with REP's team-based learning (TBL) style, everyone reads up on an upcoming topic before each class.

"We are assessed on our understanding before the professor further explains key concepts. We then proceed to in-depth application questions that we complete as a team," she explains.

Ms Mun says the TBL approach enables her to learn independently and as a team. Her knowledge of the subjects is deepened as everyone helps one another understand the various concepts. As a result, she finds lessons more engaging.

"I also watch videos and take lessons online to gain a better understanding of key concepts. This helps me to learn independently and resourcefully," she adds.

Overseas industrial orientation

Ms Mun spent almost her entire third year of studies at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) in the United States.

She is grateful for the rewarding stint, which lasted from



Ms Mun finds the inter-disciplinary nature of REP useful. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

I gained a newfound respect for entrepreneurs as I saw the passion and countless hours they put into their ideas.

MS CASSANDRA MUN JI KAY
undergraduate
Renaissance Engineering
Programme
Nanyang Technological
University

August 2016 to last May, as it gave her the opportunity to get an overseas education to add to her NTU experience.

At UC Berkeley, she learnt from, and exchanged ideas with, her professors and peers, especially the practical application of what she had learnt.

"By speaking to individuals with diverse backgrounds, I saw how cultural practices and backgrounds shape and influence one's views, and gained new perspectives," she says.

As part of her industrial orientation, Ms Mun spent 10 weeks at Smart City Works, a smart-city business accelerator located in

the Washington metropolitan area. It helps start-ups with built infrastructure innovations to develop their businesses.

"It was exciting to be part of a start-up, as I was involved in different aspects of the company's business," she says.

Ms Mun helped to develop the company's strategic communication plan, sourced for cohort companies to undergo training and the accelerator programme.

She also organised the first cohort's Pitch Day, an event where companies come together to present their pitch to potential investors and customers after

the accelerator programme.

"I gained a newfound respect for entrepreneurs as I saw the passion and countless hours they put into their ideas," she says.

Interacting with different stakeholders in the smart city space also increased Ms Mun's understanding in this area and fuelled her excitement for Singapore's future.

"Overall, I learnt to be more confident when asking questions and communicate effectively during my stint," says Ms Mun, who plans on pursuing a career in transportation when she graduates in December.



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Aspiring to greater heights

Mr Tan Yu Jun sees his scholarship at Changi Airport Group as a means to improve himself, as well as Singapore

BRYANT CHAN

DESPITE his love of visiting exotic new places, Mr Tan Yu Jun's favourite part of travelling is the return trip home.

Even as a young boy, he was held in awe by the wonders of Changi Airport.

To the 24-year-old, the airport ran like a magnificent clockwork machine — from the efficiency of its service staff, to the pristine conditions of its marble floors and glass windows, to even the bronzed drops of the Kinetic Rain sculpture in Terminal 1.

While these qualities may have remained constant, the airport itself kept evolving. Every time he returned to the airport, new installations graced its atriums, and new faces greeted him with broad smiles.

It was this fascination with the airport that eventually inspired him to take up a scholarship with Changi Airport Group (CAG).

"During my junior college days, I researched everything there was to know about Changi Airport Group," he recalls of his time in River Valley High School.

"I knew that I wanted to be a part of this incredible organisation that was internationally renowned for being the best."

His efforts paid off. Mr Tan fought his way through a grueling selection process to become one of the few recipients of CAG's coveted scholarship, before finally being a part of the organisation that he had dreamed of joining for so long.

Sometimes, having a dream come true can lead to disillusionment. But Mr Tan's passion for



Mr Tan's fascination with Changi Airport inspired him to take up a scholarship with CAG. PHOTOS: CHONG JUN LIANG

his work was only further ignited after joining CAG.

During the internships in various positions in the organisation — such as enterprise risk management, as well as day-to-day operations in the newly unveiled Terminal 4 — he was only further enthralled to see how each piece of the Changi Airport machine fit together.

These valuable insights gave him a newfound appreciation for CAG's unflinching efficiency and its dedication to its customers.

"For CAG to succeed as a company, we must understand the purpose of our work, and

constantly think from the perspective of our target audience," he says.

"Without understanding the purpose and what our target audience would get out of the projects, we would no longer be serving our customers, but only ourselves."

But what he appreciates even more than CAG's passion for its customers is its passion for its own people.

From passengers, to airport partners and employees of the organisation, Mr Tan believes that everyone is valued in CAG.

"Everyone is dedicated to

working closely with our partners to achieve joint successes, and colleagues genuinely care about improving the experience of passengers coming to Changi," he says.

Most importantly, this culture of caring extends to nurturing talent and employee self-improvement.

Aside from sponsoring his master's degree in Management at the London Business School, CAG also sent him on an overseas trip to Hong Kong and Shanghai to learn more about Chinese business culture.

Still, while Mr Tan knows that

his future is in good hands, he is also aware that a challenging job awaits him.

"It is important to remain humble, and have a drive for continual improvement and excellence, as the aviation industry is constantly evolving," he says.

"Changi faces strong competition from airports all around the world, so we need to constantly push ourselves to explore new ideas and improve."

After completing his postgraduate degree, he hopes to join the airport operations team to get a better grasp of Changi Airport's daily goings-on.

Changi faces strong competition from airports all around the world, so we need to constantly push ourselves to explore new ideas and improve.

MR TAN YU JUN
postgraduate student
London Business School

"It would give me an opportunity to interact with passengers and airport partners, develop a deeper understanding of their experiences and needs, and identify areas where we could further improve on."

Still, it seems like there might be slightly more to his motivations, evident from the twinkle in his eye.

After all, as part of Changi Airport's vaunted operations team, he can finally lay claim to being one of those genius artisans behind that beautiful clockwork machine that first captivated him so many years ago.

Making tracks

AUDREY NG

WHILE some may find the prospect of an engineering career in land transport daunting, Ms Leong Huiyu, 23, finds it to be an appealing option — as she feels it would enable her to contribute to society.

Her interest in the field was piqued in 2013, when she attended a higher education fair in her final year at River Valley High School. There, she got to learn about the engineering-related nature of work in the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the complexity of transport challenges in Singapore.

She also found out about the LTA Undergraduate Scholarship, which comes with a four-year bond, at the event.

After deciding to apply for the scholarship, she attended information sessions organised by LTA for interested scholarship applicants that provided her with insights into a career with the company.

The sessions included a visit to LTA premises to understand the history of Singapore's transport system, a sharing session from a scholar working in the company and another visit to a LTA office.

Says Ms Leong: "Speaking with the officers provided greater insight to the different types of engineering work available in LTA."

"I also got a glimpse into the operational aspects of our traffic-monitoring system, an experience that I can still recall vividly."

Learning journey

Ms Leong was awarded the scholarship after a rigorous application process that included three rounds of interviews.

In 2013, she enrolled for the mechanical engineering undergraduate programme at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

It offered her an opportunity to intern in the Mechanical and Electrical Services department

under LTA's Rail/Road Systems Engineering Group.

It was there that she built models to simulate airflow in road and rail tunnels in the event of a fire to determine the placement of tunnel fans.

It was a great learning experience for her as she got to learn how fan configurations in stations were designed to allow the public to evacuate safely in the event of a fire.

After graduating from NUS in 2016, she enrolled in the Master of Science (Mechanical Engineering) programme at Stanford University in the United States, where she pursued her interest in control systems and mechatronics.

Speaking with the officers provided greater insight to the different types of engineering work available in LTA.

MS LEONG HUIYU
engineer
Systems Assurance &
Integration department
Land Transport Authority

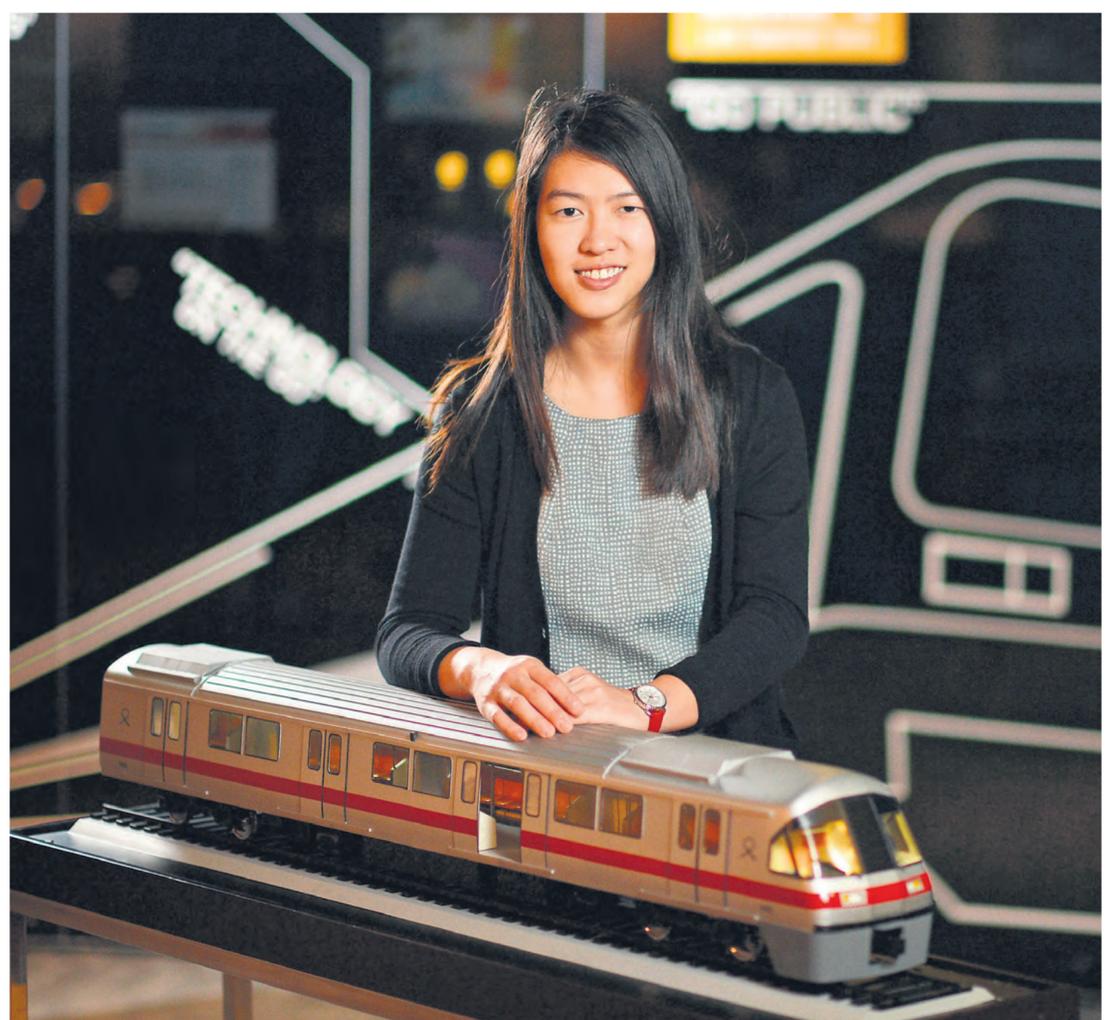
Both degree programmes were sponsored by LTA.

Ms Leong's favourite subjects in high school were physics and mathematics and choosing to study engineering which requires knowledge in these subjects was a natural one for her.

One of her university modules, Introduction to Mechatronics, she had to design and build an autonomous robot.

Through this project, she learnt how hardware and software need to be integrated for a system to work.

As part of her postgraduate education, she also learnt that during the process of engineer-



ing design, other factors, such as the user experience, should be considered as well.

Maximising potential

Since Ms Leong joined LTA as an engineer in the Systems Assurance & Integration department last September, she has been working on safety and reliability management. She is currently involved in testing tunnel fans.

She says: "At the start of a project, we identify potential safety

risks posed to the operator and end users based on the nature of the projects.

"Then we follow up to ensure there are adequate mitigation measures protecting concerned parties from risks as far as possible," she says.

When a project is completed, her team does a review to ensure the risks, if any, are addressed.

At LTA, its scholars go on a job-rotation exercise so they get to gain experience in different

departments to learn the various aspects of what the organisation does. This may include areas outside engineering, such as policy and planning.

Ms Leong appreciates that the scholarship has given her more exposure to the industry.

"Having the opportunity to understand the non-engineering considerations behind the system allows me to develop more holistically as an engineer," she says.

Ms Leong enjoys the hands-on learning experience that an LTA scholarship provides its scholars as they get exposure to different job functions.

For a better future

Research scientist Kedar Hippalgaonkar is motivated to improve peoples' lives through his work on materials science and matter

HAZEL TAN

FROM a young age, Dr Kedar Hippalgaonkar believed that the way for him to make a difference to society was through the academic route.

In 2000, at the age of 15, he was among the 50 students who left India for Singapore after being awarded a Singapore Airlines-Youth scholarship to study at Hwa Chong Junior College.

In 2002, Dr Hippalgaonkar was awarded the prestigious National Science Scholarship (PhD) by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*Star) and graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University in the United States.

He went on to complete his PhD in mechanical engineering at the University of California at Berkeley in 2013. That year, he received the Materials Research Society Silver Award by the Materials Research Society for outstanding graduate research.

"Research seemed to be an enticing opportunity to learn new stuff. Plus, the allure of getting a higher education that would be completely paid for was an exciting prospect for me at that age," says Dr Hippalgaonkar, 33.

"My parents were brave enough to let me be independent at that early age. I wanted to continue my higher education in the best possible school.

"Since I was young, I believed that a scholarship is an avenue to a better life and contribute more to society—a belief that has been reinforced over the years."

He is now a research scientist with the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, and an adjunct assistant professor at the Nanyang Technological University School of Materials Science & Engineering.

Passion to discover

But doing a PhD may not suit everyone. "I know of smart and talented scholars who realised late in their careers that they did not enjoy research," admits Dr Hippalgaonkar.

He says he is lucky that he enjoys the process of discovery and innovation.

"Be aware of your interests and actively pursue research activities early to find out if you enjoy the process," he advises.

"It is fine to want to win scholarships, but a research scholarship is unique in that it entails a long process that will only bear fruit after more than a decade.

"Aspiring scholars should ensure that they are curious and keen to learn new things — as both qualities are paramount for the PhD path," he adds.

Improving lives

Dr Hippalgaonkar hopes to use his research, which focuses on fundamental problems in materials science and matter, to make people's lives better.

He says: "I build experimental tools to try to understand how heat, currents and light move and interact with matter—specifically, starting from fundamentals at the nanoscale and atomic level.

"I also apply these new concepts to functional devices that will hopefully be useful to society in the future."

One particular interest of his is extracting electrical power from heat.

"Converting one type of energy (heat) into useful electrical power is a difficult challenge that excites me," he says.

Scientific breakthrough

In March last year, A*Star announced that Dr Hippalgaonkar and his collaborators had found a metal called vanadium dioxide that can conduct electricity without conducting heat.

This discovery enables the heating of electrical devices to potentially be better managed in future.

Dr Hippalgaonkar says he and his team are also working to understand how things work in nature, especially in physical sciences.

"This way, scientists and engineers can build devices that are useful for people. For example, the design and invention of new low-cost, abundant materials that can be used for thermoelectrics that uses heat to generate electrical power," he says.

For Dr Hippalgaonkar, the most challenging aspect of his research

Aspiring scholars should ensure that they are curious and keen to learn new things — as both qualities are paramount for the PhD path.

DR KEDAR HIPPALGAONKAR
research scientist
Institute of Materials Research
and Engineering

work is the race against time.

"New fields of research are being discovered every day. Identifying and making time to learn and implement new stuff is challenging and exciting at the same time," he says.

"Another important, yet difficult task is communicating the relevance and importance of our work to funding agencies and the public at large. At the end of the day, we use taxpayers' dollars to fund our research. This makes us feel responsible — the problems that we address should make people's lives better in the future."



Dr Hippalgaonkar believes that a scholarship is an avenue to a better life and contributing to society.
PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

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Step by step

With the SUTD Technology Entrepreneurship Programme, Mr Lionell Loh is on his way to fulfilling his dream of improving lives through design

JESSICA LEOW

AFTER completing his studies at Hwa Chong Institution, Mr Lionell Loh applied for and was accepted into the law programme at a local university in May 2015.

After completing his National Service in December 2016, and while waiting to matriculate, he decided to look into gaining some entrepreneurial experience on his own.

Mr Loh, who has a keen interest in entrepreneurship, spent three months with Impact Hub, a co-working space for start-ups.

"I was free to choose my projects. Initially, I had two projects — one was law-related while the other one was to design a digital system.

"I found myself gravitating towards the system project. I designed an automated ticketing system that could register customer feedback and personnel issues, and calculate key metrics such as response time and customer satisfaction."

Calling the process of creating and debugging the system "tough but extremely satisfying", Mr Loh says it was then that he came to fully appreciate the "immense potential of computer science".

Consequently, he became interested in the Technology Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) Scholarship offered by Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD).

The bond-free scholarship provided subsidised tuition fees for the duration of the bachelor and master's degree courses at SUTD for up to 10 terms.

Study-related allowances for a year-long overseas stint in the United States and China, including airfare, accommodation, visa



fees and travel insurance, are also given. The recipient must take up the Tuition Grant Scheme from the Singapore Government.

"After my stint at Impact Hub, I saw the value of experiential learning," he says.

Mr Loh says his friends were surprised by his decision, but his family was supportive of his shift towards technology.

"Ten years ago, the potential of information technology was not so evident. Today, with technology giants such as Google and Apple a part of our daily lives, my family came to see and appreciate the importance of technology."

Well-rounded education
The first-year undergraduate jumped right into things and has accumulated an impressive body of experience.

For instance, he was part of the team that designed Sentience, a modular plug-and-play anti-fatigue system that keeps drivers safe and alert by employing

computer vision and machine learning technology.

"We focused on identifying big problems that technology can solve. Having done our research, we zoomed in on the issue of 'drowsy driving', or drivers falling asleep at the wheel," he says.

In the United States, drowsy driving causes approximately 1,500 deaths and losses worth \$16 billion a year.

The three-month project, which was part of the Introduction to Design module, was one of five projects chosen for the Create4Good Challenge.

Not only did the team clinch \$10,000 in funding to build the prototype, it also won a special prize at Hack.Singapore, a business pitch competition organised by Mercedes-Benz. This will see the prototype being displayed at the Mobile World Congress, which will be held in Barcelona from Feb 26 to March 1.

As part of SUTD's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP), Mr Loh



Mr Loh was part of the team that designed Sentience (above left), a modular plug-and-play anti-fatigue system for drivers. PHOTOS: CHONG JUN LIANG, LIANHE ZHAOBAO

recently completed a one-month overseas attachment at Chiba University in Japan.

He equipped a robot with the visual ability to autonomously administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) through machine learning. This enables it to identify a person in distress and respond to such situations.

In early 2020, Mr Loh will get

a chance to go on an overseas entrepreneurship and innovation immersion programme in China and the United States.

During the year-long programme, he will attend courses at Zhejiang University and University of California Berkeley, and experience the vibrant entrepreneurial and business ecosystems in these countries.

With the STEP Scholarship, Mr Loh is well on his way to fulfilling his dream of improving lives through design.

"Good design goes a long way in shaping our everyday lives. The best designs are often invisible yet seep into our sub-consciousness. Good design enables and empowers technology to make a real impact," he says.



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Luke Leong

Singapore Prison Service
Singapore Government
Scholarship Recipient, 2007
University of York, United Kingdom
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy,
Politics and Economics

Reaching for the skies

Ms Du Yiran is scaling new heights to fulfil her calling for public service

NUR SYAHIDAH ZAINAL

MS DU Yiran, 25, always dreamt of a career that would allow her to work towards a larger cause.

Pair that aspiration with her love for travelling and experiencing different cultures, and the aviation industry was the perfect choice.

"I find the idea of working in aviation exciting, as it is a bridge of sorts, bringing together people, idea and cultures from all over the world," says the air navigation services policy and planning (ANSPP) manager with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

CHASING DREAMS

Certain that she wanted a career in the public service that would offer her a global outlook and a chance to contribute to strategic national goals, Ms Du applied for the CAAS Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship after completing her A levels at Hwa Chong Institution in 2010.

She says: "A scholarship with CAAS presented me with the opportunity to achieve these aspirations, and also to work in a vibrant and multi-faceted industry."

Ms Du pursued a degree in international relations and economics at Tufts University, in Massachusetts, United States, after which she completed a master's degree in technology policy at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

She says the years she spent studying abroad expanded her horizons, and taught her to be independent and adaptable.

As part of her scholarship requirement, she also interned at CAAS during her summer breaks, working with two divisions: air navigation services policy and planning (ANSPP) and aviation industry.

She says: "These internships were useful in giving me insight into CAAS' varied functions as a regulator, industry developer and air navigation service provider."

LEARNING THE ROPES

In 2015, Ms Du joined CAAS full-time in the futures and planning office (FPO), where she dealt with long-term strategic planning.

The FPO team identifies possible future trends which may have an impact on aviation, and the potential risks and opportunities to CAAS and the local aviation industry.

My portfolio is very fast-paced and dynamic, which makes it challenging and very exciting at the same time. I find my work extremely meaningful, given its impact on the public's means of access to the rest of the world.

MS DU YIRAN
manager

Air Navigation Services Policy and Planning
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

"These future trends are taken into consideration when policies are developed to ensure that they are robust and future ready," she says.

After a two-year stint, she joined the ANSPP as a manager.

Her team is responsible for planning, formulating and coordinating airspace policies.

She says: "We take our work seriously, given its implications on the safety and efficiency of air traffic."

"My portfolio is very fast-paced and dynamic, which makes it challenging and very exciting at the same time. I find my work extremely meaningful, given its impact on the public's means of access to the rest of the world."

For Ms Du, one of the highlights of her job is the opportunity to meet foreign delegates and thought leaders in the international aviation community. Speaking with them about their experiences crafting policies that benefit the lives of so many serves as an inspiration for her.

Another perk is getting to work closely with, and learn from, experienced air traffic controllers.

She says: "My daily interaction

with these senior officers not only enriches my understanding of the operational and technical ins and outs of air navigation services provision, but also provides me with an appreciation of their public-spiritedness and dedication to their job."

One initial challenge, says Ms Du, was the need to develop a functional understanding of air navigation services within a short time, in order to be an effective policy officer who can meet the demands of a fast-paced operating environment.

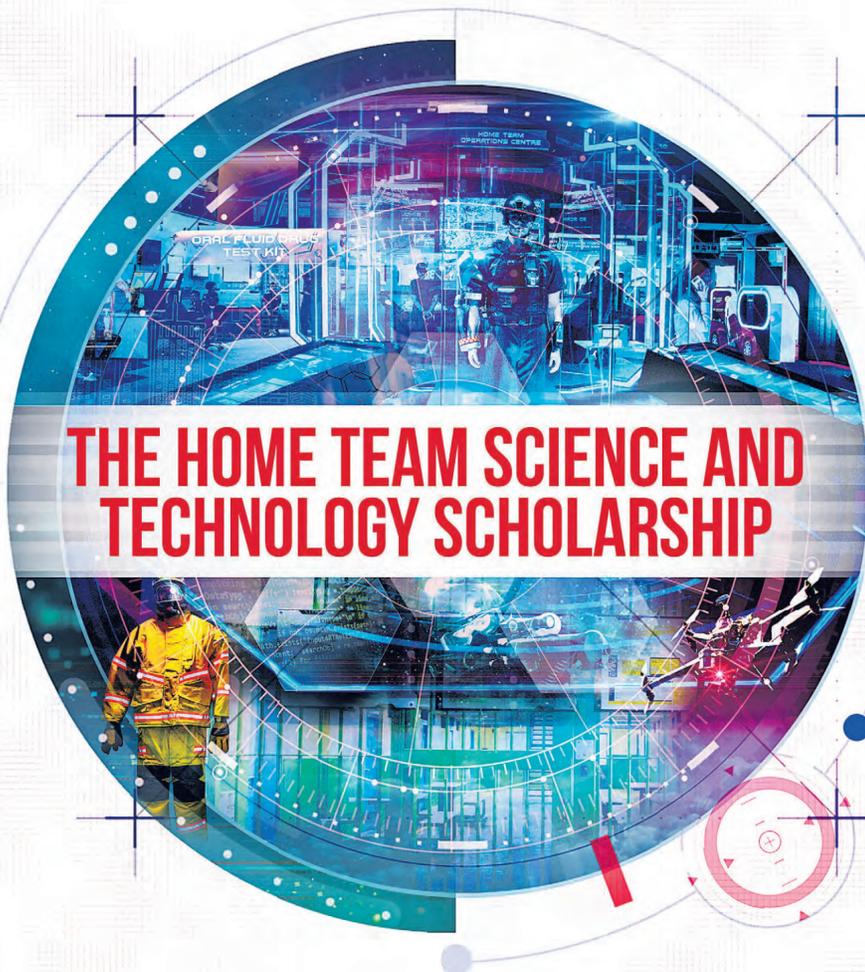
She recalls: "There was a steep learning curve — supportive bosses and team-mates, and a commitment to learning helped me get over the initial hump."

That nurturing culture and commitment to developing its officers also means that, in her short time with CAAS, Ms Du has already had the chance to undergo strategic planning and public policy courses to further hone her critical thinking skills, as well as aviation-related courses to deepen her technical knowledge.

For aspiring scholars who are keen to follow in her footsteps, Ms Du says that due to the intensity of the job, a strong commitment to public service is key, as the heavy demands may otherwise wear a person out. She adds that they should have a "firm interest in global affairs which would make their career with CAAS more fulfilling".



A strong commitment to public service is important for those keen to join CAAS, says Ms Du. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



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CPF Board scholar Josiah Chia was drawn to how the fund features in every major milestone in Singaporeans' lives. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Nurturing a growth mindset

CPF Board scholar Josiah Chia Jun Kit relishes opportunities to develop professionally through exposure in different roles

TEO KUAN YEE

DURING the first year of his accountancy studies at Nanyang Technological University, Mr Josiah Chia Jun Kit chanced upon the CPF (Central Provident Fund) Scholarship online, which appealed to his desire to make a difference in Singaporeans' lives.

Says Mr Chia, 28: "I was drawn to how the CPF features in every major milestone in Singaporeans' lives — be it buying a home, paying for healthcare expenses or preparing for retirement.

"I believe few agencies in public service can offer such a diverse range of opportunities for learning and development."

He applied for the scholarship as he was confident that joining the CPF Board would provide him with a challenging and multi-faceted job, and enable him to have a meaningful public service career.

Mr Chia, now a senior manager with CPF Board, recalls having to prepare for the scholarship interviews by beefing up his knowledge about the Board's operations and its myriad schemes.

He went for three interview sessions with the CPF Board's human resource personnel, underwent psychometric tests, and attended another interview session with its chief executive and several group directors.

He successfully clinched the CPF Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship in 2011, which covered the tuition fees for the remaining two years of his studies and a monthly allowance, as well as the funds for his overseas exchange programme.

Valuable preview

In 2012, Mr Chia began a 10-week internship programme in the CPF Board's Policy Research Department, where he undertook an individual research project on the state of retirement adequacy of women in Singapore, under close mentorship by a senior officer.

One of his tasks was to identify vulnerable population segments by analysing the underlying factors that affected retirement adequacy among women, and studying the feasibility of using initiatives from other countries to address this issue. The project culminated in a final report and presentation to CPF Board's management.

The internship helped him to assimilate into the work culture and build relationships with his co-workers, while the project's presentation to the organisation's core management gave him a better idea of what was expected of him.

Mr Chia found it heartening to know that his research project contributed towards real policy implementation to help improve retirement adequacy for women.

The scholar graduated with a Bachelor of Accountancy in 2013 and started work at CPF that same year.

Broadened horizons

To gain a broader perspective of intra-agency policies, Mr Chia was seconded to the Ministry of Manpower from June 2015 to March 2017.

Working at both organisations has enabled him to better appreciate their different perspectives and foster cross-agency working relationships.

"Being a scholar has also allowed me to witness first-hand the close interaction between ministry and statutory board stakeholders when designing and implementing government policies," he says.

Mr Chia notes that it is inevitable that the organisations will have differing interests and inclinations.

However, he found it "satisfying to see different parties working in tandem towards the ultimate goal — to collectively design and implement effective policies to benefit Singaporeans".

Being a scholar has also allowed me to witness first-hand the close interaction between ministry and statutory board stakeholders when designing and implementing government policies.

MR JOSIAH CHIA JUN KIT
senior manager
Central Provident Fund

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In full bloom

NParks scholar Isis Lim's career is blossoming

JESSICA LEOW

JUST as trees take years to sink roots, so did Ms Isis Lim Ee Mei's career path.

The seeds of her interest in nature were planted began in her childhood, when she spent hours exploring the parks and nature reserves in Singapore with her family.

While on a biology field trip in secondary school, she used different methods to estimate the population sizes of coastal fauna.

"That experience sparked my interest in the processes behind what I observed, and I became keen on field work," says Ms Lim, 26, a manager with the Park Planning department of National Parks Board (NParks).

Diverse landscapes

After graduating from junior college in 2009, she decided to apply for the NParks Undergraduate Scholarship, which covers approved tuition and compulsory fees, return economy airfare, accommodation and living expenses.

"I was interested in ecology and environmental science, and I also wanted to play a direct role in realising our City in a Garden vision," says Ms Lim. "My family and friends were very supportive; they knew the organisation's role in developing the green spaces and nature areas in Singapore."

At the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, Ms Lim pursued a Bachelor of Science in Forest Science and Marine Science, graduating in 2014 with first class honours.

She was particularly drawn to the many opportunities for hands-on laboratory and field work that the courses offered.

It was not just living things she got to study, but also nature in the prehistoric ages.

As part of an intensive field

course in Advanced Palaeontology, she went on a 10-day road trip from Canberra to Adelaide to uncover the earth's history through fossils.

"From trace fossils of the Ediacaran fauna to skeletons of the Australian megafauna preserved in caves, we saw glimpses of what life on earth could have been like hundreds and millions of years ago."

The experience was an eye-opener for her. "I gained a lot more knowledge about the underlying earth processes that shape the landscapes, flora and fauna we see today, and a greater appreciation for the amount of time it has taken for all these to take place," she says.

Just moving from an urban jungle like Singapore with its limited space and nature to the massive Australian continent was enough to reshape her thinking and appreciation for nature.

"Living in Australia opened my eyes to how diverse natural landscapes can be, and the factors that come together to influence them in a dynamic manner over different scales of time and space. This made me think about nature in a more flexible and fluid manner and the importance of being adaptable and resilient to change," she says.

Over the course of her final year at ANU, she designed and conducted her own underwater research project, where she explored relationships between a fish population and its changing habitat at the Ningaloo Reef.

"I valued the research process, gaining new skills and knowledge, and collaborating with experts in the field," says Ms Lim.

Fruits of her labour

The nature lover joined NParks full-time in December 2014 as a manager in the Skyrise Greenery department, which steered a wide range of initiatives in green-



Exploring Singapore's parks and nature reserves sparked Ms Lim's interest in nature. PHOTO: NPARKS

ing Singapore's built environment.

While with the department, she embarked on a project at the new 180 sq m rooftop community garden atop Kampung Admiralty, to demonstrate how the espalier technique could work in skyrise greenery.

Espalier is a horticultural technique where plants are grown on a flat plane by pruning and tying the plants onto a support structure, and is typically seen in temperate regions.

"We also showed it could be a practical, space-saving option

to grow fruit trees in Singapore, where most people have limited space for gardening," says Ms Lim.

"When the development at Kampung Admiralty was launched, many visitors were intrigued by the unique way the fruit trees were grown. I hope it inspires them to try out the technique."

In February last year, she joined the Park Planning department, which focuses on studying and developing a well-connected network of parks for recreation and conservation.

Ms Lim's new role, which includes studying new opportunities for green spaces that shape larger development plans, has her once again exploring Singapore's ever-shrinking green spaces.

"This has taken me to see many parts of Singapore that still have their rustic charm, being tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the built-up city. I enjoy this aspect of the job very much, because it inspires me to think of how we can better optimise our greenery for people to enjoy in

the future," she says.

"Given Singapore's densely populated urban setting, nature plays a pivotal role in ensuring that we enjoy a living environment of the highest quality."

Through her work, Ms Lim has even able to spread her love for nature, albeit sometimes in somewhat unexpected ways.

"My family and friends are usually interested in hearing me ramble on about nature — especially when it concerns the things they can eat," she says with a laugh.

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Investing in her future

Ms Tay Yan Ling benefited from valuable exposure overseas and ample development opportunities with GIC's scholarship

AUDREY NG

DECIDING on a scholarship that shapes one's future career is by no means an easy task for an impressionable 18-year-old.

But after weighing her interests and career opportunities, Ms Tay Yan Ling chose the GIC Scholarship Programme, which comes with a five-year bond.

Upon nomination by her junior college, the then Hwa Chong Institution student applied for the scholarship offered by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund in 2007 before her A levels.

She chose GIC as she felt that the dynamic field would allow her to explore her interests.

Says Ms Tay: "I thrive in an intellectually stimulating and challenging environment. GIC struck me as an organisation where I could interact with the top minds and enjoy autonomy in decision-making."

The rigorous selection process included three rounds of interviews with human resource representatives, investment professionals from different departments and a managing director from GIC.

Ms Tay felt her last interview with the managing director did not go well as she was asked to go back when she was better prepared.

But looking back, the 29-year-old believes that it was actually a test of her emotional resilience and how well she could function under pressure.

She had her doubts if she could be a good investor but she spoke with several older scholars who helped her better understand the scholarship and company.

Out of her comfort zone

In 2008, Ms Tay chose to study economics at Waseda University, a top private research university in Tokyo, Japan, as she felt that it would give her a firm foundation on how global markets and societies work.

She says: "Japan was an interesting place to study economics as it was the only developed market that had been in a deflationary trap for many years."

"I felt it would be exciting to learn the drivers behind that and the solutions to tackle the problem first-hand."

The scholar recalls having to step out of her comfort zone and be more mature and independent as she had to adjust to a different language and culture.

A highlight of her undergraduate studies was a one-year exchange programme to Columbia University in the United States from 2011 to 2012, which was covered by the scholarship.

Ms Tay appreciates how her education in Japan and the US enabled her to experience the best of the east and west.

Accumulating experience

She also feels that the training and development opportunities she enjoyed during her studies were the most useful components of the scholarship.

A GIC employee was appointed to be her mentor and helped arrange visits to the Tokyo GIC office, besides linking her up with other Japanese and Singaporean scholars to get to know each other.

She also did internships during her summer holidays that saw her working at both the Singapore and Tokyo offices in her second and third year of university respectively.

After graduating in 2013, Ms Tay joined GIC under the GIC Professionals Programme, a foundation programme open to fresh graduates, including scholars and non-scholars.

She believes that the scholarship helped to take her to where she is now in her career.

Currently a portfolio manager and assistant vice-president in the Public Equities department, Ms Tay manages a team portfolio with eight colleagues.

She oversees the industrials sector, where she looks for new investment ideas, analyses the

companies under her and makes investment recommendations.

Keeping her emotions in check

While her university education provided her with the academic skills needed to analyse investments, Ms Tay found she had to develop emotional skills when making investment decisions.

"It can be difficult to maintain one's conviction to buy into a stock when it sells off, and at the same time be disciplined to sell when it is going up," she explains.

Even now, she feels that she has to better manage her emotions while investing. She finds it more challenging to sell stocks than to buy them.

Fortunately, her senior colleagues have helped her improve on that front by advising her to think probabilistically, and consider risks and rewards before deciding.

To those interested in a career in investing, Ms Tay advises speaking to industry professionals to better understand the job requirements in the industry and giving them careful consideration before taking up the GIC scholarship.

Ms Tay's overseas university education and internship experience equipped her with not just the investment know-how but also a more global perspective.

PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



A physiotherapist at work in a rehabilitation centre

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A lifelong calling

Social worker Tan Qiu Ling contributes to society by serving the less fortunate

HAZEL TAN

NATIONAL Council of Social Service (NCSS) scholar and social worker Tan Qiu Ling came face-to-face with people suffering from dementia back in 2011, when she spent a day volunteering at a dementia day care centre as part of a print journalism module she was taking.

That meeting left an indelible impression on her mind, and she resolved to help those less fortunate than herself.

An active volunteer, the recipient of the inaugural Teresa Hsu Scholarship in 2012, awarded by NCSS, read for a bachelor's degree in social sciences (social work) at the National University of Singapore.

The scholarship, which pays for all tuition-related expenses, comes with a four-year bond.

Ms Tan, 26, says being awarded the scholarship was especially meaningful, because she draws inspiration from the late volunteer nurse Teresa Hsu, who was widely known in Singapore and overseas for her lifelong work of helping those with dire needs.

Ms Hsu, who founded the Home For The Aged Sick in Singapore in 1965, died in 2011.

"Ms Teresa Hsu was a strong role model. As a social worker, she was selfless in her contributions towards the aged sick and destitute.

I was also really inspired by how she never ceased her good works even after she became a centenarian.

"Her passion and dedication reminded me that being a social worker is not really just a job, but

more of a lifelong mission," says Ms Tan.

Secondment opportunities

For Ms Tan, the scholarship came with an added bonus — the opportunity for secondment across the social service sector during the bond period.

"This helps us gain more exposure as social work practitioners after graduation," explains the scholar, who is also on the Sun Ray scheme.

Under the Sun Ray scheme, NCSS centrally employs and develops a core group of social service professionals with the potential to lead organisations.

NCSS will work with these select individuals on their postings across organisations and sub-sectors to develop rich, cross-sector experience.

Currently, Ms Tan is a social worker at the South Central Community (SCC) Family Service Centre, where she focuses on partnering with families to work towards transformational change.

SCC's community-centric casework means engaging families as contributing members in the community and empowering them to be self-sufficient by linking them up with needed resources.



"SCC's community-centric casework means engaging families as contributing members in the community and empowering them to be self-sufficient by linking them up with needed resources.

"I also work with my colleagues from the corporate engagement and community social work teams, among others, for this purpose," she shares.

A gratifying career

Social work is an immensely satisfying job, says Ms Tan.

She recounts a particularly touching encounter.

"I visited a family with seven children facing financial difficulties. It was dinner time and everyone was home.

"The place was bustling — as it turned out, the children's father was cooking crabs for the family as part of his monthly payday celebration.

"Their simple yet palpable joy touched me deeply. The family was very welcoming and generous; they offered me some of their food."

A year on, the same family welcomed her into their humble abode again, this time sharing with her not just food but a precious recipe.

"This time, the mother offered me her home-cooked sambal prawn and stir-fry cabbage. The food was delicious and she happily shared her recipe, even for the gravy.

Through the meal, I truly experienced how it feels to connect with them at a personal level," she says.

The family's spirit of generosity and hospitality inspired her.

It is cases like these that keep Ms Tan going, despite the many challenges the job brings, chiefly the emotional and mental strain of managing difficult cases on a daily basis.

"Remaining clear-headed and



A career in the social services requires one to have perseverance, and to be calm and composed when there is a crisis, says Ms Tan. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

detached is always a challenge in our line of work, where we often encounter strong emotions from the families we serve. Many of them are frustrated by their predicaments and some are quite disenfranchised as a result of their life experiences, and this can, in turn, have an impact on us," she says.

Heeding the call

For Ms Tan, social work is a calling, one where the interesting

aspects in her job more than make up for the challenges.

One perk is that she gets to meet a wide range of people "from different walks of life and backgrounds, many of whom have many hidden talents," she says.

Ms Tan says those considering a career in the social service sector must possess a key quality — perseverance.

"It plays a very big part in getting through the initial learning

curve or when everything gets too much. It is not easy having to deal with others' issues on a day-to-day basis. On top of that, you need to remain calm and composed when there is a crisis," she adds.

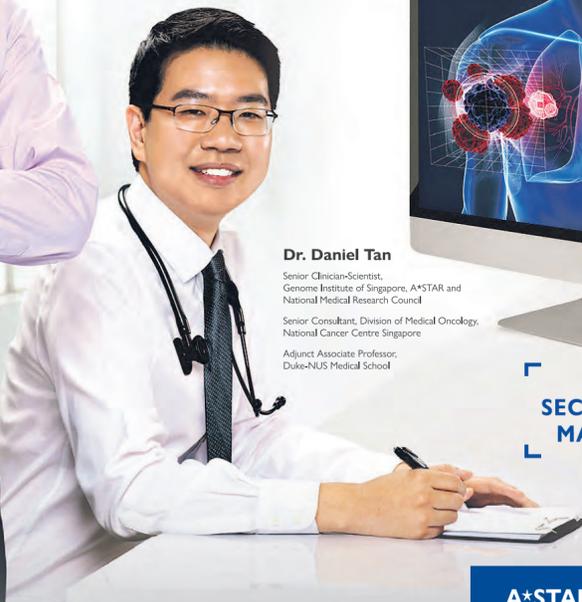
Ms Tan advises those who want to follow in her footsteps: "Make time to volunteer in various settings, to better appreciate the unique challenges, and also to find out which target populations you work well with."

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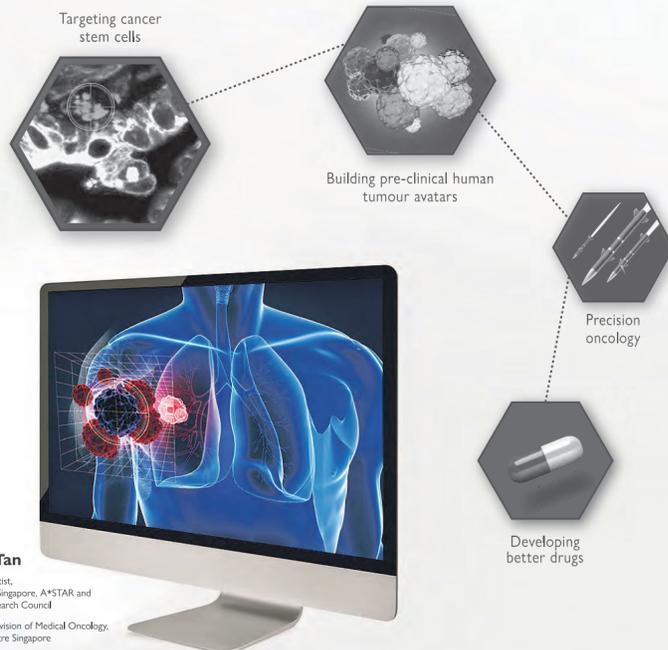
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PhD, National University of Singapore
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Making it count

The IRAS scholarship has helped Mr Jonathan Yee to explore computer science fields to develop his career

DAVID MENG

SNOW rookies are easy to identify. During the winter of 2011, a Singaporean student was so excited by his first sighting of snow in Pittsburgh, United States, that he immediately rushed outdoors.

There was just one problem — he was wearing shorts.

Looking back on that experience, Mr Jonathan Yee, 27, an infocomm specialist at the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS), says his choice of clothing almost led to hypothermia.

But that was just one of many great experiences he had while pursuing a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) degree at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in Pennsylvania.

Enjoy the journey

Mr Yee, who was awarded the IRAS Undergraduate Scholarship in 2010, says he always had a passion for computers since childhood.

After all, he had been playing computer games since the age of five. He also taught himself programming when he was 12 years old, and was a member of the Computer Science Club at Raffles Institution.

He followed his passion when choosing his university course, saying the high quality of computer science courses at CMU was a major highlight.

He says: "I found the operating systems, distributed systems and machine learning courses most influential. To date, my interests still revolve around these subjects. "Self-directed learning is a critical component of all these classes, but the teaching assistants or professors always offered support when I needed it."

The IRAS Undergraduate Scholarship scheme covered his tuition fees and provided a monthly stipend, which he used for living expenses such as rent, food, transportation and textbooks.

An important component of the scholarship scheme was the career guidance provided through mentorship and buddy programmes.

One piece of advice from his mentor, Mr Ong Khiaw Hong (then deputy commissioner of Corporate & Services, now chief executive of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority) — "the important thing is that you are having fun" — made a particularly lasting impression on him.

Mr Yee adds that implicit in Mr Ong's statement was that whether easy or difficult choices were ahead of him, he had to enjoy the path nevertheless.

The scholar's learning experience at CMU required him to change his mindset.

Initially, he simply read the provided materials and occasionally asked his friends for help.

This approach did not really work in his first semester.

"I was not used to approaching my teaching assistants for help on working through some of the problem sets," he shares.

"But I came to see that seeking outside help to learn was not a sign of weakness. I even attended supplementary classes, something I personally would not have done before attending CMU," he says.

He says the projects were "immensely fun and challenging" and that the course material was taught well.

Peer support was also a vital factor — his coursemates were so good at computer science that the spirit of friendly competition inspired him to push his own boundaries.

Lessons learnt

Mr Yee recommends the undergraduate scholarship scheme to aspiring scholars. For one thing, he feels that IRAS took good care of him when he was a student.

"I was allowed to do an internship with an American technology company during my summer vacation. I also spent a semester abroad in Japan learning about its language, culture, literature and religion," he says.

One fond memory the scholar has of his time in Pittsburgh was

receiving an IRAS care package every winter, with laksa and chicken rice packets among the contents.

Apart from this taste of home, he cherishes all that he has learnt — from his degree course to his career at IRAS.

Mr Yee says that one of the most important lessons he took away from his operating systems syllabus was that there is no single correct answer. Instead of trying to choose the "correct" response, it was wiser to pick the one with the "right compromises", by taking into account the benefits and trade-offs of each option.

"This approach sums up how decision-making works in IRAS. Being trained to think in this

manner has helped me to see why decisions were made and justify my own decisions more easily to the management," he adds.

Mr Yee appreciates that IRAS is constantly forward-looking in its application of technology to the tax collection process.

He is also proud to state that it is one of the first tax administrations in the world that allows the filing of income tax via the Internet.

Exploring the many areas of information technology has helped Mr Yee to understand not just the theory behind these computer science fields, but also how they might be applied to IRAS as it expands its methods of engagement.



Mr Yee followed his passion for computers and pursued a degree in computer science at Carnegie Mellon University. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

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Making sense of society

Mr Ma Xiangyu is accomplishing his personal and professional goals with the MOE-AU scholarship

TEO KUAN YEE

MR MA Xiangyu was pursuing his undergraduate studies at Pomona College, a liberal arts college in Claremont, California, in 2013, unsure about what he wanted to do.

Then, he walked into an Introduction to Sociology course in the

second semester of his freshman year, and fell in love.

He enthuses: "I leafed through the course syllabus and thought, this is what I want to do with my life. Sociology, to me, is all about putting our everyday struggles in the larger context of society."

"It shows how we are constrained by the larger workings of society, yet can live wonderfully

varied and meaningful lives by working with or struggling against these constraints."

To the 25-year-old, this "structure-agency problem" as described in sociological jargon is the heart of sociology — and also what he finds most intellectually compelling about the field.

He learnt about the Ministry of Education-Autonomous University (MOE-AU) Scholarship after a friend told him about it.

Confident that pursuing a PhD programme in sociology and entering academia was what

he wanted, Mr Ma applied for the scholarship as a mid-term candidate. He was awarded the scholarship in 2015.

The MOE-AU scholarship for full-term candidates covers all tuition and compulsory fees, a monthly stipend, a one-off pre-studies allowance, return economy airfare for scholars studying overseas; sponsorship for one overseas exchange programme for scholars studying locally, as well as other developmental opportunities.

"It was an unbelievable deal — not only would my education be

completely funded, but I would be assured of a great job at a top research university in Singapore," he says.

Inspired by his mentors

The scholar obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Magna cum Laude, from Pomona College last year, and is currently working on his PhD in sociology at the University of Chicago.

"I'm especially interested in how people's ideas of right and wrong motivate or affect their behaviour, as well as how these ideas come about.

"I want to know how people's social networks and social behaviour affect their beliefs and actions," he says.

After he completes his studies, Mr Ma hopes to become a good teacher to the next generation of students.

"I've been lucky enough to have had great mentors at Pomona College. They believed in my potential, invested time and energy on me, and more than once picked my spirits up," he says.

"I want to pay it forward, and be as great a mentor to others as they have been for me when I join National Technological University in five years' time."

He also aspires to be an excel-

lent sociologist — "someone who writes with grace and clarity, works with sophisticated computational methods, and furthers the understanding of culture and morality".

Dig deep

To those preparing for their scholarship interview, Mr Ma's advice is to study the academic subject they are interested in at an advanced level, including the latest findings in journal articles, and find out about the current big questions and debates in the field.

Reading up on ongoing research projects on websites and publications of relevant departments in universities will also help applicants choose their university and provide ideas for research specialisations.

He says: "Think seriously about what you want to dedicate your life to. What sort of work truly makes you happy?"

"The scholarship isn't a means to an end — it is an end. Once you know what you want — at least in the short- to mid-term — you would better appreciate what a scholarship has to offer. Then the "bond" becomes a blessing.

"I want to be a professor, and the scholarship gives me the opportunity to do exactly that."



Mr Ma, who is currently working on his PhD in sociology at the University of Chicago, says the MOE-AU scholarship has given him the opportunity to be a professor. PHOTO: MA XIANGYU

I've been lucky enough to have had great mentors at Pomona College. They believed in my potential, invested time and energy on me, and more than once picked my spirits up. I want to pay it forward, and be as great a mentor to others as they have been for me when I join National Technological University in five years' time.

MR MA XIANGYU
PhD student
University of Chicago



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Connection between heart and head

MSF scholar Shermain Lee has the right skills to act on her passion for helping people

DAVID MENG

In 2012, when Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) student Shermain Lee was debating her choice of career, her focus turned to social work.

Following her instincts, she looked for a university that would be appropriate for her vocational choice.

As it turned out, she did not have to look far, as National University of Singapore (NUS) offered an excellent social work degree programme.

She matriculated in 2013 after being awarded the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) Local Merit Scholarship, which covered her fees and expenses, and provided her with an allowance as well. She graduated in 2016.

Ms Lee, 23, a policy officer at MSF, recognised the merit in going overseas for further education, as she would acquire an understanding of myriad social work practices in other countries. But she opted to enrol in a local university, as she wanted her foundation to be specifically grounded in the local context.

Ms Lee cites "sufficient exposure and breadth" on related topics as a key strength of the social work curriculum at NUS, adding that the course prepares students to practise social work with confidence.

Besides the wealth of knowledge and experience that lecturers bring from their respective specialities, Ms Lee benefited greatly from the Director of Social Welfare teaching one of her modules on social policy and planning.

The lectures and tutorials were a strong foundation, providing her with the tools to begin her work in what she describes as a "helping profession". This included "many of the frameworks with which to assess my clients, my work, and the role that I would play".

Unique vocation

While the course was a valuable introduction, she points out that "social work is so complex, and so often nuanced with emotion and values," that studying the subject cannot provide a full understanding of what lies ahead.

Instead, she says, "you have to be a part of it".

A key insight she gained from her course was "the importance of the connection between heart and head".

The heart, she says, creates a passion for people and a genuine desire to help, while the head provides an understanding of how best to help those who need it.

"For social work to be effective, we must have both a genuine passion to help, and the right skills to do so. Let the skills we have acquired inform our desire to help, and let our passion for people influence the manner in which we approach learning the theories and concepts behind the helping profession."

As a policy officer with MSF, Ms Lee's work is aligned with the values of the ministry. "We are professionals with passion for people," she says.

Her internships have also shaped her views, and helped to prepare her for her career.

Her first internship, at a Family Service Centre in 2014, taught her a great deal about human dignity and the power of being able to help someone by understanding their struggles and how best to render assistance.

The following year, she interned at MSF, where she gained a strong understanding of "the importance of informed policies, and the considerable impact that policies have on the direct work that policy officers do".

It also gave her an opportunity to see policy makers in action.

After all, she says, the common goal of improving services for clients is a strong incentive for different areas of the sector to work together.

Since joining MSF last year, Ms Lee has discovered many opportunities to contribute to the organisation's different functions, and her personal goal is to do meaningful work wherever she is placed.

"It may sound cliched, but I really want to be able to make a difference, be it to an individual or to the system."

Ms Lee's work has enabled her to become involved in the policy-making processes relating to the protection of children and adults,

as well as the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

"Our policies and legislations provide the strategic direction for the division, form the structures within which our operations function, and directly impact our clients," she says.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved in something so meaningful and want to learn as much as I can, to truly understand the system, which will ensure that my work here is informed."



Ms Lee has many opportunities at MSF to do meaningful work. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

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Mr Soh is still pursuing his undergraduate studies, but is already actively participating in AGO events.
PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

All accounted for

The objectives of the Auditor-General's Office resonate with Mr Eddie Soh's personal values of accountability and fairness

MEREDITH WOO

WHILE adapting to life in national service, Mr Eddie Soh Jing Jie scored a personal victory.

After a rigorous application process that included several rounds of interviews, he was awarded the Auditor-General's Office (AGO) Auditing Service Scholarship with his family's support.

The 22-year-old Nanyang Junior College graduate was perusing a list of scholarships after his A levels when the organisation's inaugural Auditing Service Scholarship caught his attention.

Mr Soh researched the roles and responsibilities of the AGO and contacted AGO auditors to understand more about their jobs, before applying for the scholarship via the Singapore Public Service Commission portal in 2014.

Unlike other public-sector institutions that are under the jurisdiction of their respective ministries, AGO is an independent organ of the state. This independence is crucial for AGO to fulfil its role as the nation's auditor without fear or favour.

MR EDDIE SOH JING JIE
undergraduate
Nanyang Technological University

"Of the various scholarships available, I felt that AGO's work resonates the most with my personal values of accountability and fairness. It captured my interest and inspired me to ensure that public funds are properly accounted for and well-utilised," he says.

The Auditing Service Scholarship is awarded to undergraduates reading accountancy at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University. Applicants must demonstrate strong leadership qualities with active participation in co-curricular activities.

Awardees are required to undergo an internship with AGO during their undergraduate studies, and serve a four-year bond with the organisation upon graduation.

Mr Soh adds: "Unlike other public-sector institutions that are under the jurisdiction of their respective ministries, AGO is an independent organ of the state."

"This independence is crucial for AGO to fulfil its role as the nation's auditor without fear or favour."

Looking to the future

Mr Soh, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Accountancy degree at NTU, is currently in his second year of studies.

To date, he has attended organisation-wide social and training events, and mingled with his future colleagues in audit groups at AGO and its headquarters.

Valuable insights gleaned from the AGO Exchange, which he has attended four times, left a lasting impression on Mr Soh. This internal sharing of audit experiences by various audit groups within AGO is held every July.

He says: "I gained a deeper understanding of the techniques

and challenges in public-sector auditing, as well as how the audits by AGO have helped to promote public accountability.

"This is valuable knowledge beyond the university curriculum, which I would not have otherwise gained if it were not for this scholarship."

Mr Soh was also invited to participate in AGO's scholarship talk in February 2016, where he helped to introduce AGO to students looking for suitable scholarships that align with their passion.

He feels a sense of achievement from being able to contribute even before starting work.

Although he only graduates next year, Mr Soh is already excited to be part of the AGO family.

He says: "This is a dynamic profession that requires an enquiring and analytical mind, as well as a great deal of hands-on experience."

"I look forward to gathering a myriad of skills as I carry out my auditing duties with different ministries and statutory boards. My seniors shared that the work is never boring, as every day brings new experiences and challenges."

Understanding the nature of the respective ministries' operations within a short timespan before conducting the audit proper can be demanding.

But he believes that being open-minded and willing to learn on the job will help him overcome these hurdles and make his assignments fulfilling and meaningful.

Besides offering financial support to scholarship holders during their undergraduate studies, AGO also sponsors officers like Mr Soh for relevant professional certifications such as the Chartered Accountant of Singapore and Certified Fraud Examiner to enhance their knowledge.

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Zulfaedi Bin Abdul Latiff,
Project Engineer, Rolling Stock Projects
LTA Undergraduate Scholarship
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(Mechanical Engineering)

"I decided to take up an LTA scholarship because it offered me the prospect of applying my technical knowledge and skills to make a tangible, positive impact on our community, especially since public transportation is such a large part of people's everyday lives."

Luo Siyun,
Senior Engineer, Civil & Structures
LTA Undergraduate Scholarship
Carnegie Mellon University
(Civil & Environmental Engineering)



Weaving a strong social fabric



Mr Zahin is looking forward to engaging with grassroots organisations and boosting social integration and cohesion. PHOTO: MUHAMMAD NAUFAL ZAHIN AZMI

PA scholar Muhammad Naufal Zahin Azmi wants to be a change-maker to strengthen communities and improve society

MICHELLE CHIN

MR MUHAMMAD Naufal Zahin Azmi, 21, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Politics at King's College London in the United Kingdom, looks forward to his summer semester vacations.

It is when the People's Association (PA) Scholar (Overseas) will return to Singapore and spend part of his vacation doing internships.

Each internship lasting at least six weeks, enables Mr Zahin to get first-hand experience working on community projects with grassroots and PA leaders.

The first-year undergraduate, who was awarded the scholarship last year, says: "These experiences are designed for me to learn and play a part in the planning and implementation phases of projects.

"They are important as I usually only get to see the end products of projects or events in our everyday lives, and sometimes discount or take for granted the thinking and amount of effort put into organising them."

The scholarship covers full tuition and compulsory fees, monthly maintenance allowance, and a one-off pre-studies allowance to cover expenses such as warm clothing and a computer and for settling in. It also includes sponsorship for an approved student exchange programme, return airfare, and medical or health insurance.

Mr Zahin's degree programme has a focus on political philosophies that he believes will help him in his career when he graduates and joins PA in 2020.

He believes that having a cohesive society is important and that PA is where he could make a career of helping to change people's lives for the better.

Mr Zahin is not new to charity work as he used to raise funds for a local orphanage as part of the Malay Cultural Society when he was still a student at Victoria Junior College.

Also, several of Mr Zahin's family members, including his uncles and cousin are in the

PA also helps to communicate government policies to residents so that they are able to make sense of the more complicated ones. I look forward to playing this important role and strengthening the bond among residents, collectively with my fellow peers in PA and the wider public service.

MR MUHAMMAD NAUFAL ZAHIN AZMI undergraduate King's College London

Home Team and he aspires to follow in their footsteps to pursue a meaningful career.

He says: "I want a career path that enables me to work directly with various communities. It intrigues me that there is so much that can be done to improve the cohesiveness of our social fabric in Singapore."

Caring for the society

He is looking forward to engaging with grassroots organisations and going for job placements in various strategic units.

He expects to work with a team to organise projects for a community when he joins PA.

While his aim is to improve and increase the areas for common spaces in Singapore, he also aspires to boost social integration and cohesion where everyone is free to pursue their passions and has the proper support networks to do so.

He says: "I think PA is a vital bridge between the Singapore government and residents, as it is able to get a sense of what society is thinking about and understand their myriad concerns.

"PA also helps to communicate government policies to residents so that they are able to make sense of the more complicated ones. I look forward to playing this important role and strengthening the bond among residents, collectively with my fellow peers in PA and the wider public service."

Despite the challenges ahead in an ever-changing society, his enthusiasm and optimism to be a positive change-maker remains.

Mr Zahin adds that he hopes to impact several areas of the community, listing social development, community leadership, active ageing, sports, as well as arts and culture as those that he plans to start on once he gets the opportunity.



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Finding her footing

Ms Acacia Neo Jia Wei's keen interest in podiatry helped her to clinch a Health Science & Nursing Scholarship from MOHH

TEO KUAN YEE

DURING her second year of biological sciences studies at the Nanyang Technological University, Ms Acacia Neo Jia Wei learnt that one of her friends had received a scholarship award.

While mulling over whether she should apply for a Health Science & Nursing Scholarship offered by MOH Holdings (MOHH), she came to know about podiatry.

She had no idea what the field was about, so she did a search online.

She was immediately hooked. Says Ms Neo, 28: "I knew I wanted to do something related to healthcare, and that I wanted to be equipped with a special skill set. Podiatry appealed to me as I did not know what it was about at the time.

"Not many people pay attention to their feet until there is a problem. Growing up, we are told to eat healthily and exercise regularly, but we are not often told to protect our feet by wearing proper shoes."

She is determined to change that.

Strong will

Ms Neo breezed through the scholarship interview process.

"The scholarship interviewers were friendly. Most of their questions revolved around why I chose podiatry.

"All I had to do was show the panel that I was sincere and passionate about pursuing a career in podiatry," she recalls.

Ms Neo was awarded the scholarship in 2010, after which she left for Brisbane, Australia to pursue podiatry studies at the Queensland University of Technology.

The scholarship covered tuition fees, living allowances, a settling-in fee and miscellaneous expenses, as well as funding for extra-curricular activities such as conferences and relevant courses.

I hope to extend the scope of podiatry towards primary healthcare in the near future by educating and empowering the public to care for their feet — especially those who are diabetic.

MS ACACIA NEO JIA WEI
podiatrist
Ng Teng Fong General Hospital

She appreciated the help from the approachable scholarship officers who visited occasionally to mingle with the scholars over a meal.

MOHH also took the initiative to organise hospital placements for the scholars during their vacations.

"This opportunity provided us with a snippet of our future workplace. As a result, I was able to integrate with my first podiatry team after graduation easily as I knew what to expect. Overall, the scholarship experience was pleasant and we were well taken of," she says.

Learning to adapt

Although she initially felt apprehensive about studying overseas, she soon settled into life in Brisbane. She got driving lessons from a housemate and even picked up some local Aussie slang.

"One of the best things about living overseas in a big country is that you get to travel. Every holiday presents an opportunity to travel and explore new places with your mates", says Ms Neo, who went on multiple road trips to Tasmania, Victoria, South and



Ms Neo wants to change people's attitudes towards foot care. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Western Australia, as well as New Zealand.

She also picked up a life skill or two: "I enjoy cooking and having small groups of friends over for a meal occasionally. After all, food always bonds Singaporeans together."

She enjoyed visiting supermarkets, weekend markets and hipster cafés.

"Coffee culture is big in Aus-

tralia. Everyone grabs a coffee before class and during breaks," she recalls.

Making strides

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Health Science (Podiatry) (Honours) in 2014, Ms Neo has been working with the podiatry department at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital.

"I am still trying to be a podia-

trist who is knowledgeable, kind, committed and empathetic towards my patients," says Ms Neo.

"I hope to extend the scope of podiatry towards primary healthcare in the near future by educating and empowering the public to care for their feet — especially those who are diabetic," she adds.

According to Ms Neo, the

public is not very aware of podiatry as the field is "relatively new compared to occupational therapy and physiotherapy".

She encourages aspiring podiatrists to consider taking the scholarship route: "Just do it. You will be learning what you are interested in. Free education, the chance to travel, a stipend and a guaranteed job is just the icing on the cake," she adds.

Looking to a brighter future

WHEN Mr Qiu Dejian first learnt about the Healthcare Merit Award (HMA) scholarship offered by MOH Holdings, he was excited that it allowed for degree conversion.

That was in 2013, when he was pursuing a Diploma in Diagnostic Radiography at Nanyang Polytechnic, under the sponsorship of Singapore General Hospital (SGH). He was then in his second year of studies.

Mr Qiu, 26, applied for the scholarship, as he believed it would be the stepping stone he needed to further his studies and deliver better quality healthcare to patients in future. It also would ease his parents' financial burden.

"As I was serving a bond with SGH, it was a natural choice to apply for the HMA scholarship," he adds.

For degree conversion in the MOHH scheme, a diploma holder joins and completes a related university undergraduate programme that builds on their diploma in Diagnostic Radiography/ Nursing/ Occupational Therapy/ Physiotherapy/ Radiation Therapy.

To prepare for his scholarship interview, Mr Qiu researched the latest developments in the local healthcare sector. It helped that he was familiar with its issues and challenges, and had experience accumulated from clinical attachments as part of his polytechnic studies.

After being awarded the HMA scholarship in 2015, he enrolled in Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, to pursue a Bachelor of Radiography and Medical Imaging.

The scholarship covered Mr Qiu's university tuition fees, and included an allowance that took care of his daily living expenses rent, as well as other expenses



Radiographers must have good people skills and qualities such as patience and compassion, says Mr Qiu. PHOTO: QIU DEJIAN

such as flight tickets and medical check-ups.

After graduating in 2016, he returned to Singapore and joined SGH as a radiographer specialising in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Overseas experience

While studying for his degree in Australia, Mr Qiu observed radiography practices overseas, and learnt how Singapore could continue to improve in this field.

"Moving to a foreign land alone made me more independent. The rigorous curriculum also challenged me to move out of my comfort zone," he says.

He also achieved a personal milestone by getting his academic paper published in a radiography journal during his time at Monash University. It was a review on the potential of an image reconstruction algorithm to help improve the image quality and reduce the radiation dose of Computed

Tomography (CT) scans. He was subsequently invited to present his paper at various conferences in Singapore.

Looking back, Mr Qiu says: "The HMA scholarship helped me widen my horizons, and gave me a global perspective when addressing the issues and challenges faced by our local public healthcare sector.

"My overseas clinical experience has also given me the opportunity to gain invaluable

knowledge and hands-on experience with a wide range of equipment, which has been useful as I am currently specialising in MRI."

He adds that he got to develop his portfolio further when he received invitations to speak at events promoting the radiography profession to prospective students and attended conferences to gain more knowledge and international exposure.

His advice to aspiring radiographers is to learn about the work

and challenges from people in the field. This will give them a clear idea of what they want to achieve in the sector in future, and better understand the motivation behind their scholarship application.

Mr Qiu adds that as radiography is a "people-centric profession", having good interpersonal skills and qualities such as patience and compassion will stand them in good stead.

MR QIU DEJIAN
radiographer
Singapore General Hospital

Journey of self-discovery

Yale-NUS College's liberal arts programme gave scholar May Tay the flexibility to explore what she wanted to do

MELISSA HENG

IN HER teenage years, Ms May Tay's career aspirations changed every few months. She wanted to be a poet, engineer and lawyer, to name a few.

"I knew I needed the flexibility and time to discover what I really wanted to do," says Ms Tay, 23.

Yale-NUS College gave her the perfect opportunity to fully explore her options.

The Global Merit Scholar says she was honoured to receive a full scholarship and was deeply inspired by the potential the college saw in her.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of a pioneering and bold project," says Ms Tay, who graduated last year as part of Yale-NUS's first batch of students.

A collaboration between Yale University and the National University of Singapore, Yale-NUS College is Singapore's first liberal arts college. It was established in 2011 and admitted its first intake in 2013.

All students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships upon application to Yale-NUS.

Its undergraduates typically enrol in a four-year programme that focuses on a broad-based multi-disciplinary learning approach in the arts, humanities and social and natural sciences.

All Yale-NUS College students take a compulsory common curriculum designed to give students in-depth exposure to a range of fields across academic disciplines, from science to the humanities.

In their first two years, undergraduates can also explore different courses from 14 major fields of study before deciding on a major by the end of their second year. Some majors include anthropology, global affairs, literature, physical sciences, psychology, urban studies and philosophy.

"I saw the scholarship as an opportunity to be more proactive about my undergraduate education," says Ms Tay.

Speaking about the benefits of the multi-disciplinary common curriculum, she says: "The idea behind it is incredibly powerful and important — that one's education should not be restricted to traditional academic silos or limited by whether one feels more like a 'science person' or an 'arts person'."

In her second year, Ms Tay chose to major in Environmental Studies after an introductory course left her thoroughly intrigued by the subject.

The scholar was "shopping around for good courses to take" in her sophomore year when she attended the first class of the Introduction to Environmental Studies module. Her interest was piqued by the professor's engaging teaching style.

She recalls: "He raised the dilemma of unlimited human consumption on a fundamentally finite planet."

"I realised I didn't have a clue what a more sustainable alternative future looked like — when our consumption levels are already reaching a tipping point. This spurred me to pursue this major and find out for myself."

Ms Tay says majoring in Environmental Studies enabled her to explore her love of hiking and her interest in the social sciences. The subject also sparked a desire in her to bring about meaningful change in the world.

The scholar appreciated the small discussion-based classes — comprising about 20 to 30 people — saying this enables students to form close relationships with their professors.

Diverse community

Ms Tay, who now works in Stockholm as a business controller trainee at fashion label H&M, says Yale-NUS also stands out because of its diverse community.

"Yale-NUS students, staff and faculty come from everywhere in the world. I had never been in a more international community in my life."

Ms Tay is glad the scholarship gave her financial and academic freedom.

"The fact that it was bond-free gave me the courage to explore various academic interests without having to worry about being 'stuck' to one major," she adds.

The scholar also appreciates that she was able to spend a

semester abroad at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

She shares that her time at Yale allowed her to experience life as part of a larger and older university community.

"I was also able to take graduate courses at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and its School of Management."

She was especially excited to pursue niche courses that covered both business and environmental studies. For example, she took a graduate-level class at the School of Management called Managing Sustainable Operations.

"We studied a business case for sustainability and I learnt a lot, especially from my older classmates, who shared differing views on corporate sustainability based on their years of experience working in both private and non-profit sectors."

Ms Tay says the real-life experiences that her classmates shared "thoroughly enriched" the classroom discussions.

"I was lucky to get into really good classes with great professors and classmates, as well as make a few friends with whom I still keep in touch."

Yale-NUS students, staff and faculty come from everywhere in the world. I had never been in a more international community in my life.

MS MAY TAY
business controller trainee
H&M
Stockholm



Yale-NUS College's multi-disciplinary common curriculum gave Ms Tay intellectual and creative freedom. PHOTO: MAY TAY

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For the love of animals

AVA scholar Charmaine Chng Wenya relishes the opportunity to contribute to veterinary public health in Singapore

JESSICA LEOW

Growing up, Dr Charmaine Chng Wenya was always fascinated by animals.

She kept hamsters, goldfish and fighting fish as pets in her HDB four-room flat, and would play with the cats and dogs in her neighbourhood.

Dr Chng, 29, says: "To this day, my favourite pastime is watching animal-related documentaries, especially those featuring broadcaster and naturalist David Attenborough.

"I like learning about the roles they play in ecosystems and the support they bring to humankind."

To pursue her interest, she applied for the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) Undergraduate Scholarship in 2006.

It was a natural step to take for Dr Chng, as it would give her the opportunity to pursue a degree in veterinary science.

"My family and close friends were excited about me embarking on this fairly unconventional route, and the opportunities that the scholarship could offer," she says.

Dr Chng, who graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from University of Edinburgh in 2012, says the course covered various animal species, including domesticated animals such as dogs, cats and horses, as well as farm animals such as cattle, sheep and pigs.

Hands-on experience

The passionate student spent

most of her vacations on a myriad of farms across the United Kingdom as part of the requirements of her five-year undergraduate degree programme.

She got to try her hand at a range of day-to-day farming duties — milking cows in the wee hours and camping out in the fields during the night to assist ewes with lambing.

She also met people from various farming backgrounds and experiences, who taught her a lot about animal husbandry and management systems.

In her second year of studies, Dr Chng spent three weeks in Essex on a farm with 3,000 sheep, where she helped to deliver about 100 lambs.

It was the first time she had encountered sheep, but she "dived right into the deep end" anyway.

"We had to look out for signs of difficult lambing. For example, if the ewe has been straining for over an hour and was still unable to expel the lamb, then we had to intervene by examining her," she says.

She also had to look after the runts of the litters and ensure that they were able to receive enough milk.

"Sometimes, it was even necessary to foster them onto other ewes or bottle-feed them," she adds.

During another attachment on the outskirts of Edinburgh, she milked the cows in the morning, and ensured that the calves, which are usually separated from their mothers within 24 hours of their birth, got enough feed and milk.

In addition, she had to keep an eye out for the occasional cow that fell sick so she could isolate it



During her five-year undergraduate programme, Dr Chng spent most of her vacations assisting on farms across the UK. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

and give it the required veterinary attention.

The scholar admits she struggled initially with the food, weather, culture and language, as well as homesickness, but says she soon learnt to embrace changes.

"I kept myself occupied with various activities organised by the university's clubs and societies, and forged friendships with students from different parts of the world."

By immersing herself in a completely different culture and interacting with other international students, she was introduced to new concepts, ideas and people, gaining

a broader perspective of the world.

"The experience has helped to shape my character and hone my skills as a veterinary professional," she says.

In August 2012, Dr Chng started working at AVA's licensing department. Her duties included overseeing the licensing of the veterinary profession, including private veterinarians and veterinary clinics.

"While working with the private veterinary sector, much of the focus was placed on forging effective partnerships and programmes to solidify the standing of the profession and enhance its

contribution to public good.

"Good communication and teamwork skills were key," she says of her four-year stint.

In her current role as deputy director, Regulatory Administration Group, Dr Chng oversees animal health policies that protect the health status of animals in Singapore and guard against exotic diseases.

She also develops and reviews emergency animal disease contingency plans, response protocol for notifiable diseases, and veterinary import conditions for animals and animal products.

The job has "a stronger focus on

While working with the private veterinary sector, much of the focus was placed on forging effective partnerships and programmes to solidify the standing of the profession and enhance its contribution to public good.

DR CHARMAINE CHNG WENYA
deputy director
Regulatory
Administration Group
Agri-Food and Veterinary
Authority of Singapore

veterinary sanitary measures, and working with various stakeholders to keep exotic diseases out of Singapore".

To truly make a difference, she engages other stakeholders — governmental agencies, the private sector and foreign competent authorities — on veterinary public health issues.

"I enjoy working with people from different backgrounds towards a common goal for the public good through themes ranging from One Health, antimicrobial resistance, and disease prevention and control," she says.

Dr Chng highlights AVA's strong support for its staff's ongoing learning and development.

"There are various opportunities, even for younger officers, to participate in conferences and events to improve their technical knowledge or be involved in regional and international discussions on veterinary public health matters.

"These learning opportunities have allowed me to sharpen my knowledge and insight in veterinary public health."



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It runs in the family

Plenty of real-life examples inspired Ms Khoo Ming Fern to take up teaching

NUR SYAHIDAH ZAINAL

BECOMING an educator was almost akin to joining the family business for Ms Khoo Ming Fern.

The 44-year-old, who began her career as an English teacher, was simply following in the footsteps of her mother and older brothers. Several other members of her extended family were also teachers and principals.

To ensure that her interest in the profession was no mere flash in the pan, Ms Khoo took on two relief teaching stints after her A-level examinations in 1991.

The then 18-year-old taught General Paper at the then-Outram Institute for a month, followed by History and English Language at the then-Westlake Secondary School for three months.

Ms Khoo says: "These experiences at the helm of a classroom were important in helping me, to bridge the gap between being a student at the back of the class and a teacher at the front.

"After the relief teaching stints, I could imagine myself as a teacher," she says, adding that several Westlake students kept in contact with her.

Multi-tasker

It came as no surprise to her supportive family when, after her positive experiences, Ms Khoo decided to take up the Public Service Commission's Overseas Merit Scholarship in 1992.

She graduated with a degree in English from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom in 1995, and went on to complete a postgraduate diploma in education at the National Institute of Education (NIE) the following year.

Ms Khoo says: "My mother recounts that I gave little consideration to applying for other scholarships, so I guess my leaning towards education was much stronger. The chance to study

overseas was also an adventure of a lifetime — studying English in the UK appealed to me greatly."

Upon graduating from NIE, Ms Khoo had the opportunity to take up different roles within the Ministry of Education (MOE), which allowed her to develop a broader mindset.

She started her career as a teacher at her alma mater, National Junior College, in 1996, before joining Tanjong Katong Girls' School (TKGS) in 2007, first as a subject head (SH), and then head of department (HOD) and vice-principal. She then moved on to Geylang Methodist School (Secondary) in 2013 as vice-principal.

In addition, she also had a three-year stint as a national education (NE) officer with MOE's National Education branch. During that time, she also headed the branch for six months.

Now a quality assessor with the school appraisal branch in MOE HQ, Ms Khoo leads teams on

Teaching requires commitment and emotional investment. In order not to burn out, you will need a strong base of support, and be able to recharge — with friends, family, hobbies, even drawing upon your spirituality.

MS KHOO MING FERN
quality assessor
School Appraisal Branch
School Division
Ministry of Education

school visits to learn more about how they have progressed and to support them in their growth.

She says: "We read reports and talk to staff, parents and students to find out more about programmes to develop students holistically and what the school hopes to achieve. Through this process, we arrive at a better understanding of what has

worked thus far and how the school can continue to grow."

Ms Khoo treasures how her current role allows her to tap her previous teaching experiences working in school settings.

She says: "I put myself in the shoes of those in school when trying to make sense of things, and hopefully offer useful perspectives."

Blast from the past

In going from school to school, she sometimes chances upon her former students.

She recalls how one of her former students from TKGS wanted to pursue English Literature as an additional O-level examination subject, purely out of interest.

Ms Khoo allowed her to do

so as the student was prepared to study the subject on her own with notes made available to her, and her teachers' help as and when it could be arranged.

During a recent school visit to a junior college, Ms Khoo ran into the same student once again.

"As I had left the school shortly after, I was glad to find out that she had done well for the subject at the O levels and was taking it at the A levels," Ms Khoo says.

True calling

Ms Khoo believes that teaching is a vocation and a calling, and that the education service has a lot to offer those "who have the heart to help others grow".

She says having to juggle the demands of her job, family and personal needs has made her more disciplined and resourceful.

Calling her family her moral support and anchor, she says: "I would not be able to focus on the work if I did not have the support and understanding of my family. Raising my own children have given me first-hand experiences as a parent and indelibly shaped my educational beliefs about how children learn."

She encourages those considering teaching as a career to try relief teaching first to get a better feel of the job; for a more realistic picture, teach in more than one school and for longer than a month.

Teaching requires commitment and emotional investment, she adds.

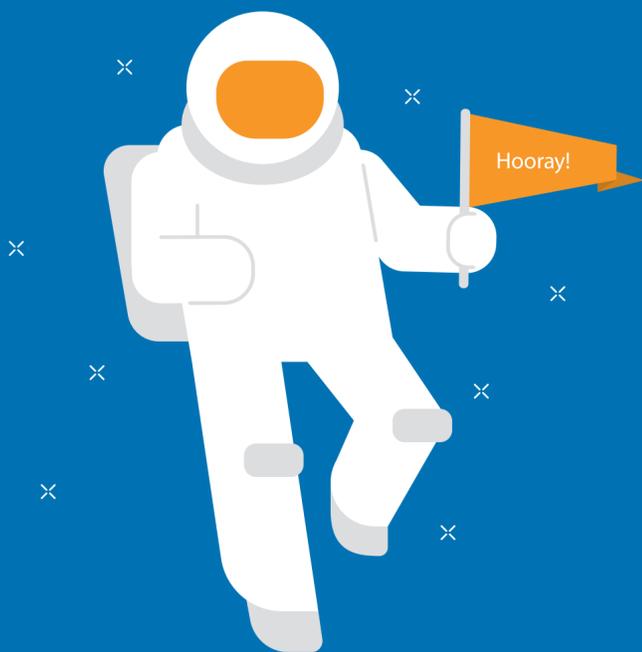
"In order not to burn out, you will need a strong base of support, and be able to recharge — with friends, family, hobbies, even drawing upon your spirituality," she says.

"Think about how the work of a teacher sits with your own beliefs and ideas about how you would like to live life."



Ms Khoo encourages aspiring educators to try relief teaching to get a better feel of the job. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

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Wind beneath their wings

Singapore Government Scholarship (Prisons) recipient Tan Weiren is determined to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of the offenders

HAZEL TAN

AFTER completing his A levels, Mr Tan Weiren wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life.

Recalls Mr Tan, now 27: "Unlike those who had 'dream jobs' or career aspirations from young, I struggled to decide on a course of study, and even considered delaying a career decision till after completing my studies. For me, applying for a scholarship meant committing to a career, not just deciding on a course of study."

He had considered a teaching scholarship as both his parents were teachers. But he eventually applied for the Singapore Government Scholarship (Prisons).

He says: "Thinking about my career after graduation, I saw some similarities: both involve considerable interactions with the goal of helping others to grow and learn to be better citizens in society. As I started to learn more about the Singapore Prison Service (SPS), the nature of the job drew me to it."

"The job involves a lot of human interaction, coupled with a powerful vision to restore lives through inspiring change in others in a more tangible way. These resonated with my personal values."

Before he was awarded the scholarship, candidates like Mr Tan who were found suitable for a career with SPS were also given a half-day preview at one of the prisons to give them an insight into what to expect on the job.

Far-reaching impact

The preview convinced Mr Tan that it was the career for him. He accepted the scholarship and went on to read economics and geography at the University College London (UCL) in the United Kingdom from 2011 to



Change is a process that starts within prisons and continues in the community, and prisons staff and community partners play a vital role in this change process, says Mr Tan. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

2014. His scholarship covered the full tuition fees, return airfare, living expenses inclusive of accommodation, travel, daily expenditure as well as opportunities for internships.

Upon graduating and completing training in 2015, Mr Tan joined the Reformatory Training Centre as a Housing Unit Officer. The centre houses younger offenders who have been sentenced to reformatory training.

"As a Housing Unit Officer, I led a team of officers in round-

the-clock operations of the housing unit, to ensure a safe and secure environment for all inmates.

Together with a team of correctional rehabilitation specialists and volunteers, we rehabilitate inmates and prepare them for their release," says Mr Tan.

In August 2016, he took up the Staff Officer (Programme Management) role in the Rehabilitation & Reintegration Division, assisting in the planning and provision of in-care and aftercare programmes, includ-

ing regime-based interventions such as reformatory training for young offenders, and schemes that facilitate the reintegration of offenders into the community such as the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme.

Introduced in 2014, the scheme provides for selected groups of ex-offenders who require greater reintegration support to undergo a structured aftercare regime for up to two years, through tighter supervision, progressive step-down arrangements and enhanced community support.

For example, these ex-offenders may be placed in a halfway house upon release for a period of time, then be placed on home supervision, followed by a community reintegration phase. They are subject to restrictions such as curfew hours and electronic monitoring, and have to undergo counselling and case management to assist in their reintegration journey.

Mr Tan, who works closely with relevant units within SPS and community partners such as halfway houses and external vendors in his role, says: "Unlike

my first posting at the prison institution where there was a more direct impact, as well as interactions with offenders, my current role has a more indirect but far-reaching impact as it involves policy implementations and fine-tuning of process workflows."

Ripple effect

Mr Tan says the work he does at SPS has a ripple effect.

"A small change can have an enormous impact for the better. When we do our job well, we will in turn impact the offenders, their families, employers, society and beyond," he adds.

We believe that change is a process that starts within prisons and continues in the community, and prisons staff and community partners play a vital role in this change process. However, even as we provide ex-offenders with the structure and support for rehabilitation, the most effective and lasting change occurs when offenders themselves commit to live crime- and drug-free lives."

Mr Tan likens the relationship between offenders and SPS officers to flying a kite.

"The 'string' represents the high standards of discipline that we enforce to ensure safe and secure custody. The 'wind' represents our purposeful engagement and rehabilitation efforts with offenders," he says.

"Both the string and the wind are equally important for the kite to fly."

"Without the string, the kite would be blown out of control and eventually fall to the ground. Without the wind, the kite would be unable to lift off the ground. Just like the kite, every offender has the potential to soar and excel, and become someone of worth, repute and respect in society."

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From strength to strength

MND EDGE scholar He Kangwei recounts his career journey and its highlights

JESSICA LEOW

Mr He Kangwei is currently in the Nanyang Fellows MBA programme at Nanyang Technological University, on the MND EDGE (Executive Development and Growth Exchange) Scholarship.

Previously the Deputy Director of Housing (Town Councils) at the Ministry of National Development (MND), he holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) with second class honours (upper division) from the National University of Singapore, and a Master of Science in Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) from the University of Michigan, in the United States.

The MND scholar, who will complete the MBA programme this June, has also had stints at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

What was your role in MND?

Mr He: Before I started my post-graduate studies last year, I was in the Housing Division at MND, where I headed a team of five officers overseeing the policies and legal framework governing town councils.

We looked at a wide spectrum of issues, ranging from the town councils' performance in estate cleanliness and maintenance to financial sustainability and corporate governance.

Besides administering the Town Councils Act, we also publish the annual Town Council Management Report (TCMR) to help residents better gauge the performance of their respective town councils, and administer the annual grants given to town councils.



Mr He cites his involvement in the review of the Town Councils Act, which culminated in the amendment Bill passed in Parliament last year, as a career highlight. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

This role required me to have a good understanding of the town councils' operational challenges. I came to appreciate the hard work that town councils put in behind the scenes.

What were the two biggest challenges you faced and how did you overcome them?

Mr He: First, there was a need to balance the competing needs of multiple stakeholders. We often had to tackle issues on the ground that involved town councils, HDB and other government agencies.

The various stakeholders had their own priorities and interests, which may not always be aligned. Depending on the complexity of the problem, it would sometimes take rounds of meetings and close coordination to find solutions.

For example, as part of the Government's effort to promote active mobility, the Land Transport Authority (LTA), HDB and town councils had to work closely to plan active mobility infrastructure within HDB estates; they also had to tackle the problem of indiscriminate bicycle parking within the estates.

There are no quick fixes to these problems, especially for some of our older HDB estates that have space and design constraints. The various agencies have to explore different proposals and exercise flexibility to find suitable solutions.

The other challenge is in avoiding policy myopia. In policy reviews, it is sometimes easy to fixate on solving the immediate problems but end up neglecting the long-term consequences.

Some of these quick fixes may lead to bigger problems in the future if the gaps are not identified and tackled early.

For instance, as part of our review of the town councils' financial sustainability, we worked closely with the respective town councils to analyse their financial situation not just over the next five to 10 years, but also the next 30 years.

This helps town councils to take a hard look at their financial demands beyond the immediate horizon and plan ahead as their estate matures.

What is an exciting project you have worked on?

Mr He: I was heavily involved in the review of the Town Councils Act, which culminated in the amendment Bill that was passed

in Parliament last year.

This was a detailed review of the legislative framework for town councils where we consulted various stakeholders including the town councils and members of public. The changes made to the Act will help ensure that town councils can better serve our residents and I am proud to have made my contributions towards that end.

What did you enjoy about your work?

Mr He: There was never a dull day. While there were challenges along the way, I was glad to be working alongside many equally committed and passionate colleagues and I enjoyed the camaraderie.

Furthermore, this portfolio is especially close to my heart. As an HDB resident, I have fond memories of growing up in an HDB estate. The town councils play an integral part in shaping our HDB estates for the better and I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute towards that.

Prior to MND, you were also in public service. How have the stints helped you in your work?

Mr He: Before I joined MND in 2014, I was in MHA and MOF.

At MHA, I oversaw police licensing policies for areas such as the private security industry, public entertainment outlets and massage establishments.

The portfolio was an eye-opener as it exposed me to the many facets of policy-making. I gained practical experience and knowledge about policy execution from working with my Singapore Police Force colleagues.

I also learnt about the various considerations in legislative drafting from working with the legal teams in MHA and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

At MOF, I headed a team overseeing the whole-of-government (WOG) performance reporting

framework. Unlike the operational role at MHA, this portfolio required me to see the bigger picture and adopt a more strategic perspective. I got to work with colleagues from across the various ministries; the network of relationships I gained has remained a useful resource.

While these have been tough postings, they have given me good exposure to the different dimensions of policy-making.

Tell us more about the MND EDGE Programme — how is this developing your capabilities?

Mr He: It is certainly one of the highlights that budding officers can look forward to.

The three-week course brings together promising officers from various agencies in the Infrastructure & Environment Sector to learn and share insights from Singapore's urban development journey.

We had very engaging seminars and dialogue sessions with current and former office-holders from the urban governance sector who shared their rich experiences.

We also had site visits to learn about urban development projects in Singapore such as the Punggol Waterway and the Rail Corridor.

The other highlight was the overseas study trip to Rotterdam and Copenhagen where we learnt about the efforts to make these cities more bicycle-friendly. The programme provided many useful insights that we could bring back to our respective agencies.

What advice do you have for aspiring undergraduate scholars?

Mr He: Have a positive attitude and keep learning. You may feel lost and even overwhelmed at first. Know that you are not alone. Be patient and take the time to gain a thorough understanding of your domain area from the start.

As the saying goes, you sometimes need to go slow to go fast.



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In the market for a better future



Trying new study techniques and asking more questions during lessons helped Mr Lim to adjust to the speed of learning at NTU.
PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

A scholarship from SgIS has prepared Mr Aylward Lim Yi De well for his role as a marketing executive

LATASHNI GOBI NATHAN

WHILE serving his national service after finishing his polytechnic studies in 2014, Mr Aylward Lim Yi De was in a quandary about what to do next. Should he start working full-time or further his education?

Says Mr Lim, 26: "I knew that university tuition fees were going to be high, and I did not want to burden my parents with the cost."

While researching online for ways to finance his university education, he chanced upon the Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS).

The scholarship was launched in 2012 by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in partnership with the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) and other government agencies as a talent development initiative. Singapore citizens can apply for SgIS local and overseas scholarships at different stages of their university education.

Each sponsoring organisation has its respective set of criteria and qualities when looking for a candidate. Applicants can select preferred sponsoring organisations when they submit their application online.

Commitment to excel

Mr Lim applied for and was awarded the SgIS scholarship in 2014. Sponsoring company M1 covered his tuition and hostel fees at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and also paid for a computer and living allowances.

As he had read Business Administration at Singapore

Polytechnic, he decided to further his studies in the same field.

Despite his knowledge of the industry, he had to adjust to the pace of learning at the university.

He says: "The speed, rigour, depth and breadth of the university curriculum were different from that of the polytechnic."

"I tried to overcome these challenges by trying different study techniques and asking more questions during lessons."

He also clarified his doubts with friends or group mates, sought his seniors' advice and

I kept an open mind and stayed humble so I could absorb as much as possible. The internship taught me to be quick, decisive and adaptable — crucial qualities needed in the telecommunications industry where technological disruption is changing the way we work.

MR AYLWARD LIM YI DE
marketing executive
M1

tested his knowledge by working on previous years' exam papers.

To ensure that their projects were on track, Mr Lim and his coursemates made it a point to understand the requirements of group projects and held discussions with their professors.

He says: "We rehearsed our presentations together to familiarise ourselves with each other's roles and ensure we did not exceed the time limit. We also tweaked our content and slides where necessary."

Apart from studying hard, Mr Lim was active in several committees and participated in the National HR Case Competition 2016, in which his group emerged as one of the six finalists.

As chief group leader of his freshmen orientation group, he organised dinners, gatherings, birthday celebrations and hall activities. He also helped to plan the following year's freshmen orientation camp.

He adds: "As I wanted to see what it feels like to be an entrepreneur, I joined my hall's production committee as a 'business manager'. Together with other 'business managers', we spearheaded numerous fund-raising activities for my hall's musical production that year."

These extra-curricular experiences gave him a taste of leadership and inspired him to do greater things in his career.

Valuable lessons

During his third year at NTU, Mr Lim spent 10 weeks as an intern with M1.

The scholar recalls: "I kept an open mind and stayed humble so I could absorb as much as possible. The internship taught me to be quick, decisive and adaptable — crucial qualities needed in the telecommunica-

tions industry where technological disruption is changing the way we work."

He joined M1 full-time in May last year as a marketing executive. As part of the fibre broadband and fixed services team, he conducts market research and prepares stock forecasts. He has also been involved in various IT shows.

The Singapore Garena Campus League (SGCL) tournament held last July, which saw teams from different schools challenging one another through the League of Legends (LoL) game, was a career highlight for Mr Lim.

As M1 was the main sponsor, Mr Lim had the opportunity to plan and execute on-ground engagement activities during the grand finals held at *SCAPE on Orchard Link.

He says: "It was my first time taking charge of such a large-scale event. In addition to marketing and running the event, I worked on activities to engage LoL fans such as an online word contest. I also set up an arcade booth at the tournament finals."

He was thrilled with the 600-strong turnout, which was twice the number of people expected.

Looking forward

Mr Lim has big dreams for his future and plans to learn more about the marketing field.

He says: "I will take the relevant courses so that I can contribute more to M1. Hopefully, these will help me develop creative and competitive marketing strategies."

He aspires to lead a team one day, so it is important for him to hone his leadership skills and become involved in cross-departmental projects.

Adds Mr Lim: "I hope to leverage these experiences to propose fresh and innovative ideas for the company."



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My work as a software engineer is meaningful because it has real impact on people's lives. I'm also glad that my job is not entirely deskbound. It fits well with my active personality.

MS SAMANTHA LEE
software engineer
ST Engineering

PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

The science of solving problems

ST Engineering scholar Samantha Lee develops software solutions that improve standards of living

VALERIE KOR

WHILE some pupils may have found it tough, software engineer Samantha Lee loved solving problem sums in primary school.

At home, she enjoyed dismantling broken electrical appliances with her father, an electrical engineer by profession. She was intrigued by how components came together to make things work.

Spurred by her passion for tackling problems, she took up a computer science degree at the renowned Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in 2012 on an ST Engineering Overseas Scholarship.

The scholarship includes tuition fees, maintenance and pre-studies allowance, return economy airfare as well as the possibility of sponsorship for exchange programmes and a master's degree. Scholars also are given attachment or internship opportunities in ST Engineering companies.

Ms Lee, 24, says: "It may sound contradictory, but I chose computer science because I enjoy human interaction and enabling people's lives."

"At its core, computer science is about solving very real and practical problems."

On choosing ST Engineering, Ms Lee says: "It is a global technology, defence and engineering group that aims to create world-class solutions to solve real-world problems. There are many areas where I can pursue my interests, such as the aerospace, electronics, land systems or marine sectors."

At CMU, she was challenged by the academic rigour. She says: "I loved that we were given practical, real-life problems. For instance, we learnt about web

applications by creating our own mini social network."

Says the scholar, who graduated in 2016: "I had a great time at CMU and forged meaningful friendships. Going to Carnegie Mellon would not have been possible without the ST Engineering Overseas Scholarship."

Mastering solutions

In her current role as a software engineer, Ms Lee is involved in developing solutions to address the needs of smart cities, such as those powered by the Internet of Things (IoT).

Her work puts her squarely in Singapore's ongoing push towards becoming a smart nation.

For instance, she is part of a research collaboration that taps data analytics to improve package delivery. Unlike most routing applications, which only take distance and traffic conditions into consideration, Ms Lee's research also considers risk factors and quality of delivery service.

Then, the programme uses the complex data to suggest the most desirable path and mode of delivery for a package to be delivered from point to point, saving time and cost.

Ms Lee also specialises in the area of public safety and security. Her work addresses the urgent need faced by global cities to increase vigilance and emergency preparedness in response to security threats.

Last year, she was tasked to improve public emergency response systems by integrating post-dispatch advice (PDA) protocols.

Says Ms Lee: "During an emergency, when time is of the essence, PDA protocols can pro-

vide call takers with information to provide timely constructive advice. For instance, they can advise people onsite to perform simple medical procedures to victims while emergency vehicles and personnel are en route."

As her client who requires this system is based in Hong Kong, Ms Lee travels there frequently to understand customers' requirements and record workflow details so she may work on them in Singapore.

The scholar, who joined ST Engineering on graduating, shares that the challenges of her job include having to pick up new technologies and skills quickly. She takes them on within a small and young development team, working under inspiring mentors who are eager to teach.

"My work as a software engineer is meaningful because it has a real impact on people's lives. I'm also glad that my job is not entirely deskbound. It fits well with my active personality," says Ms Lee, who enjoys running and working out in the gym.

As a scholar, Ms Lee will get opportunities for job rotation, overseas postings and intra-preneurship projects. She will also be sent for training to keep abreast of the industry's latest trends.

The passionate software engineer hopes to gain more technical experience to build a strong technical foundation before taking on management roles in the future.

With ST Engineering making strides in new business areas underpinned by advanced technology such as robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, she is primed for an exciting career.

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NLB Scholar
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Carleton College

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A heart for giving back

Ms Esther Chong plans to use her interdisciplinary skills to impact society for good

JOSHUA WONG

SPENDING over 14 hours a week volunteering while pursuing a full-time undergraduate degree is no easy feat.

Yet this is exactly what Ms Esther Chong, a recipient of the Singapore Management University (SMU) Global Impact Scholarship, does.

She volunteers at non-profit organisation Conjoint Consulting, which offers pro bono management consulting services to social enterprises and other non-profit organisations.

And she does this while pursuing a double degree — in Accountancy, and Politics, Law and Economics (PLE), which was introduced in 2016.

"I wanted a learning experience that would give me an understanding of the world we live in," she says. "The unique combination of politics, law and economics is a holistic educational experience that will prepare me for any job I undertake."

Studying accountancy on top of these subjects gives Ms Chong a grasp of the business world too, further equipping her with a multi-disciplinary skill set.

Her bond-free scholarship covers tuition fees and an annual living allowance, and finances international opportunities (such as exchange programmes or Overseas Community Service Projects). It also provides her with a one-time computer allowance.

Additionally, the scholarship



Ms Chong spends much of her free time volunteering to help others. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

funds an optional master's degree in SMU that the recipient can choose to begin within five years of graduation.

Says Ms Chong: "While my scholarship is bond-free, I believe that recipients have a tacit obligation to bring value to both our local and global community. I see SMU's fund-

ing of this scholarship as an anticipation that recipients will be future change-makers — something that I hope to be."

Dedicated professors

Some modules Ms Chong has taken so far include Introduction to Political and Policy Studies, Introductory Statistics, and

Research Methods in Sociology and Political Science.

She is enjoying her studies thus far, not least because of her professors' dedication to helping their students.

For instance, one of her professors stayed back after classes to explain a statistical concept that was not in the syllabus but

I wanted a learning experience that would give me an understanding of the world we live in. The unique combination of politics, law and economics is a holistic educational experience that will prepare me for any job I undertake.

MS ESTHER CHONG
undergraduate
Singapore Management
University

20-odd groups to help them with their presentations, and provided additional guidance for any student who struggled to understand class concepts.

"The number of hours he put in to nurture his students, and the sincerity with which he received and applied the feedback we gave him really moved me," she says.

Caring for the community

Just as her professors put their heart into teaching, so does Ms Chong into helping others by applying what she has learnt in school.

Over her semester break last December, Ms Chong assisted a professor in conducting research on food insecurity and poverty in Singapore. She and a coursemate interviewed residents of a rental flat in Tampines as part of the project.

"It was disheartening to hear the stories of how these people struggle to put food on the table for their families. It opened my eyes to the privileges I enjoy, and strengthened my desire to ease the burden of the less fortunate in society," she says.

Ms Chong will graduate in 2021, and plans to work before pursuing a Master of Tri-Sector Collaboration, which focuses on the intersection between government, businesses and civil society, with sponsorship from SMU.

For now, she is looking forward to working in social research — like her professor who researched food insecurity in Singapore — or social auditing, which involves assessing the impact of a company on society and suggesting ways for them to improve their corporate social responsibility.

She says: "It would be the ultimate blessing if I can create real value for whichever community I will be based in."



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"The MSF Scholarship has allowed me to be exposed to a variety of opportunities, moulding me into the positive individual that I am today. It is gratifying to be able to help alleviate someone's burden; even the simple act of connecting individuals to the assistance they need or offering them a listening ear to assure them that someone cares is rewarding. I wake up everyday knowing that I am making a tangible change to people's lives."

Siti Hanisah Bte Yahya
MSF Local Merit
Scholarship Recipient
On Secondment to Ministry
of Trade and Industry

Course of Study:
Bachelor of Social
Science (Economics),
National University
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"What drew me to MSF was its emphasis on addressing people's social needs. MSF supports the social service sector in assisting needy Singaporeans, while emphasizing the role of the family as the building block of society. These approaches resonate strongly with my personal values, and were what motivated me to take up the MSF scholarship."

Justin Sim
MSF Local Merit
Scholarship Recipient
Assistant Manager

Course of Study:
Bachelor of Social
Science (Sociology),
National University
of Singapore



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The BCA Local Undergraduate Scholarship gives young talents like Mr Ng exciting opportunities to play a role in Singapore's urban landscape. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Shaping the built environment

BCA scholar Calvin Ng Ziyu broadens his knowledge and gains experience to tackle multi-faceted challenges in the built-environment sector

HAZEL TAN

AS A child, Mr Calvin Ng Ziyu used to assemble Lego blocks into simple structures. As he got older, he marvelled at, and appreciated, how complicated buildings are constructed.

Given his passion for built-up spaces, it was only natural that the Local Undergraduate Scholarship by the Building & Construction Authority (BCA) captured his interest when he was considering applying for a scholarship.

He says: "The scholarship gives me an opportunity to be part of an organisation that oversees the built-environment industry."

"BCA plays a key role in the entire lifecycle of a building — from the project conceptualisation and construction, to its completion and maintenance."

"Its work has a far-reaching influence on the lives of Singaporeans."

Mr Ng, 28, graduated with a civil engineering degree with first class honours from the National University of Singapore in June 2015.

He is currently serving his four-year bond at BCA. The agency offers young talents like him exciting opportunities to shape a safe, high-quality, sustainable and friendly built environment for Singapore.

Hands-on experience

Mr Ng started out as an executive engineer in the strategic engineering projects department of BCA's Building Engineering (BE) Group. The department regulates structural design and construction works of building developments.

His primary job scope then included processing structural plan submissions and permit applications for structural works

and carrying out site inspections. He also had to handle feedback from the public, take enforcement actions and respond to construction incidents.

Last May, he was seconded to Arup Singapore, a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy firm. The attachment, which ends in April, has enabled him to gain first-hand experience on the ground and broaden his understanding of the built environment sector.

BCA plays a key role in the entire lifecycle of a building — from the project conceptualisation and construction, to its completion and maintenance. Its work has a far-reaching influence on the lives of Singaporeans.

MR CALVIN NG ZIYU
executive engineer
Building & Construction Authority

Apart from being involved in large-scale infrastructure projects, Mr Ng's duties include planning and reviewing ground investigations and instrumentation, conducting geotechnical analysis and design reviews, preparing design submissions, and monitoring ongoing construction projects.

He feels that being exposed to the integrated nature of project design enables him to better

appreciate the intricate considerations behind the successful execution of projects.

"The most interesting part of my attachment is having the opportunity to get exposure to overseas projects and getting a good overview of how civil engineering principles are applied," he says.

Challenging but fulfilling

Mr Ng has already taken on key projects at Arup Singapore, one of which was to oversee the successful demolition of a key development within the city centre.

Many considerations had to be ironed out with various stakeholders due to the building's close proximity to many adjacent structures, as well as underground utilities and services.

These include the impact of vibration arising from the proposed works, adequacy of precautionary measures and site supervision.

Such challenges may sound daunting, but Mr Ng takes them in his stride. He appreciates that his employer is supportive of his career ambitions.

"I aspire to widen and deepen the scope of my technical knowledge in the course of my work," he says.

"This will help me to better appreciate the multi-faceted challenges in the built environment sector, and become a competent and respected engineer."

For those who are interested in joining BCA to help shape the future of Singapore's built environment, Mr Ng says the scholarship can offer immense opportunities, as well as challenging but fulfilling work.

"Find out the nature and key aspects of BCA's work. Check if your personal career aspirations are aligned with the agency's core purpose and goals," he advises.



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Ian Lim
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What makes NUS so special for me is that there are many different experiences for students to delve into, be it in law school, hall or school-wide events like Welfare days. No matter where you go in school, you can find familiar faces, and I think that is a rare thing.

MS KARYN OOI
undergraduate
National University of
Singapore



Ms Ooi believes that a legal education will equip her to help others in a unique way. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



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Best of both worlds

Ms Karyn Ooi's double degree in business and law will widen her understanding

JOSHUA WONG

STUDYING law is an avenue to help others, says Ms Karyn Ooi, who is currently pursuing a Double Degree Programme in Business Administration and Law at National University of Singapore (NUS).

She says: "The best legal education would be one that incorporates another discipline to allow me to see law from a different perspective."

In fact, Ms Ooi, 20, chose a business and law combination as she felt it would grant her "an even wider understanding of the law", which she felt was important as "business is such a pervasive part of our society".

She applied for the NUS Global Merit Scholarship when deciding whether to pursue law in Singapore or overseas.

Ms Ooi, who began her studies at NUS last August, says: "I chose to study locally because I felt that NUS would provide me with the best legal education, including opportunities for learning, practice and making a difference."

Ms Ooi, who will graduate in 2022, says: "I feel blessed to receive the scholarship and am grateful for the opportunities it has provided," she adds.

The bond-free scholarship covers tuition and accommodation fees, as well as living and computer allowances. It also guarantees successful applicants a place in a semester-long Student Exchange Programme with one of NUS' overseas partner universities.

Holistic learning

Ms Ooi's learning journey has been enjoyable so far. Although she needs to prepare more before each lesson at university, she is able to learn at her own pace.

The combination of large lectures, mid-sized seminars and small-group tutorials enables her to not only acquire knowledge, but also engage fully with what she is learning.

"The teachers are caring and understanding. They check on how we are coping with the learning and also adjust their teaching styles to suit us," she says.

Her modules include Contract Law, Criminal Law and Tort Law. She particularly enjoys Legal Analysis, Research and Communication (LARC). This involves learning the practical skills that a lawyer needs, such as interpreting statutes, reading past cases and conducting legal research. She will begin studying business modules in her third year.

Ms Ooi's university life involves more than just studies. She is an active member of the Criminal Justice Club (a subset of the NUS Law Club), and has sat in on, and transcribed, criminal trials. The experience was sometimes distressing — she once had to attend a gang rape trial. Nevertheless, she was able to see the workings of criminal law first-hand and gain a better understanding of the process.

Although real-world law is less theatrical and glamorous than how it is depicted on television, she is impressed by how court rulings have the potential to greatly affect people's lives. Observing such proceedings has made her more determined to seek justice.

Lending a helping hand

Ms Ooi was already helping

others through law even before she matriculated at NUS.

She had a stint at the Pro Bono Services Office, a charity organisation under the Law Society of Singapore last year — just a few months before beginning her undergraduate studies.

During the two-week stint, she worked at legal clinics where people would go for free counsel from volunteer lawyers. She helped to register people who visited the clinic and occasionally did translation work.

Observing the intricacies of the legal system during these sessions drove home the point that a law degree is a powerful tool that would equip her to help people in a specialised way.

She adds that her pre-matriculation stint gave her valuable insights into the pro-bono legal services available in Singapore. She is currently helping out at legal clinics under the auspices of the NUS Pro Bono Club.

Ms Ooi's university life with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to create worksheets that educate primary school pupils on responsible pet ownership.

"Being able to do meaningful work while pursuing an education makes my time in university much more memorable," she says.

As a resident of Kent Ridge Hall, Ms Ooi is involved in various hall activities, from performing carols with the Kent Ridge Choir last Christmas, to being part of Hall's swimming team.

She adds: "What makes NUS so special for me is that there are many different experiences for students to delve into, be it in law school, hall or school-wide events like Welfare days."

"No matter where you go in school, you can find familiar faces and open arms, and I think that is a rare thing."

Serving with mind and heart

An MAS scholarship helped Ms Lee Su Fen pursue a career in public service

DAVID MENG

INTELLECTUAL flexibility shapes Ms Lee Su Fen's approach to life.

When the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) deputy director, data governance and architecture office, studied electrical engineering at Stanford from August 2001 to June 2005 on the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship, her choice was significantly influenced by the American university's philosophy of providing a broad-based education. She particularly enjoyed the electronics modules.

Ms Lee, 35, had enjoyed studying physics and mathematics at Raffles Junior College, from where she graduated in 2000.

At Stanford, Ms Lee was drawn to the undergraduate tutoring programme. She volunteered as a tutor, helping to run and coordinate the programme.

In addition to time spent in lecture rooms, Ms Lee wrote for the Stanford campus newspaper and organised and ran activities as part of her dormitory's senior staff committee.

During term breaks, she joined other students on road trips to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park and Los Angeles.

Harking back to that time of her life, she says her interest shifted from electrical engineering to the finance sector as she found the latter a "very exciting industry" and more dynamic.

Also, because the finance sector has far-reaching implications for the economy, she was "keen to be a part of it".

She chose the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship as she "wanted to pursue a career in public service".

The scholarship covers tuition fees, a pre-studies allowance that includes a one-time laptop allow-

ance, and a monthly stipend that includes accommodation.

Steep learning curve

Ms Lee recalls the steep learning curve when she joined MAS in 2005 as a banking supervisor, as she had to quickly pick up banking and finance concepts.

"It may not seem immediately obvious how electrical engineering would be directly relevant to a job at the central bank and financial regulator. But my technical training allowed me to understand and dissect issues in a systematic and logical way, and this was how I was able to contribute to the team," she says.

"As I moved through various other departments in MAS, my quantitative skills were put to more direct use."

For example, as a market risk inspector with the specialist risk department in 2009, she was required to understand the banks' risk models in order to critique them.

After that stint, she joined the macroprudential surveillance department, where she led the team that conducted the industry-wide stress test exercise.

Building and running quantitative models were necessary to validate stress test results submitted by financial institutions.

Ms Lee says that in her current role in the data governance and architecture office as part of the data analytics group, she has "found her ability to quickly understand technical concepts a helpful advantage".

"My team's job is to build the appropriate policies, frameworks and architecture to facilitate the use of data internally within MAS as well as externally by researchers and other industry players," she explains.

She says that it is increasingly difficult for anyone to specialise in a particular field, become immersed in the subject matter and then expect to rely solely on that for the rest of one's career.

This is especially applicable in a "diverse and all-encompassing" organisation like MAS.

"To be able to take on jobs in very different departments requires an open mind, a willingness to learn on the job and pick up new skills and subject matter knowledge," she says.

The scholar has continuously strived to ensure that she is equipped with the necessary

skills to succeed in her various roles at MAS.

To this end, she took up the MAS PhD scholarship, completing her PhD in finance from the EDHEC-Risk Institute in 2014.

Ms Lee is grateful that MAS is supportive of lifelong learning

and skills development.

She says: "The intellectual stimulation that I get from my job keeps me eager to come to work every day. I hope to continue to build my career in MAS, value-add to the organisation, and contribute to society to the best of my ability."



The intellectual stimulation that I get from my job keeps me eager to come to work every day. I hope to continue to build my career in MAS, value-add to the organisation, and contribute to society to the best of my ability.

MS LEE SU FEN
deputy director,
data governance and architecture office
Monetary Authority of Singapore

Working in a diverse and all-encompassing organisation like MAS requires an open mind and willingness to learn on the job, says Ms Lee. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

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Nurturing eco champions

Mr How Kwang Yi and Ms Natasha Saw Ann Lei intend to use PUB and NEA's NEW Scholarship to make Singapore a clean and green nation

HAZEL TAN

CIVIL engineer How Kwang Yi plays an important role in the Water Reclamation Network (WRN) Department at national water agency PUB. He helps to treat and recycle one of Singapore's most precious resources — used water.

"The aim is to safeguard public health and our water resources, and ensure every drop of used water is collected and fit for recycling," he says.

While studying environmental management and water technology at Singapore Polytechnic from 2009 to 2012, Mr How developed an interest in the environmental sector, in particular how engineering concepts and ideas could be applied in the industry.

He attended events organised by PUB, such as the biennial Singapore International Water Week, which gave him an insight into the water industry, and helped him to understand the functions and operations in PUB better. Over time, he began to consider a career related to this field.

In 2010, the 26-year-old did a six-week internship with the organisation's catchment and waterways department at the Marina Barrage. It was one of the requirements that came with the PUB diploma sponsorship, which he had received the year before.

Mr How recalls: "It was an eye-opening and fruitful experience. Through the operations and surveillance work at the Marina Catchment, I came to have a better understanding of what PUB does."

After graduating with a Diploma in Environmental Management and Water Technology, he applied for the National Environment and Water (NEW) Scholarship as he hoped to pursue a career in the water sector, which he was passionate about.

Applicable at local and overseas universities, the scholarship

covers tuition fees, accommodation and travel expenses, as well as maintenance, book and computer allowances.

NEW scholars can choose to pursue their preferred fields in engineering, science, applied sciences, economics or other courses relevant for a career in either PUB or the National Environment Agency (NEA). Upon graduation, they need to serve a bond period of four to six years.

Innovation meets theory

Mr How graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) degree from the National University of Singapore last year. He is currently serving a four-year bond in PUB.

He leads two units at PUB — operational needs and logistics, as well as the surveillance and enforcement of the private sewerage system.

Private sewers transport the used water from sanitary facilities in any premises to the public sewers.

What is most interesting is when he experiences engineering in its fusion form, between the development of theoretical analysis and monitoring of data using innovation and technology.

"We constantly seek ideas and leverage technology to improve our work," he says.

New methods of construction and rehabilitation are being utilised to protect sewers. For instance, a smart network with islandwide sensors is being used to improve efficiency.

But he concedes that engineers can only do so much. Households, food establishments, commercial buildings and industries estates have to do their part to adopt good practices to help protect and maintain Singapore's sewerage catchment and sewer system.

Only when everyone is committed to stepping up their eco-friendly efforts can the vision of a cleaner and greener nation be achieved.



Mr How applies engineering concepts and ideas to safeguard public health and Singapore's water resources.

PHOTOS: CHONG JUNLIANG

Aligned mission

For Ms Natasha Saw Ann Lei, NEA's mission of ensuring a clean and sustainable environment aligns with her passions.

Ms Saw, who is also a recipient of the NEW Scholarship, graduated with a degree in Microbiology from Imperial College London in the United Kingdom in 2016.

The 23-year-old is now serving a six-year bond as a senior executive at 3P Partnerships at NEA's Central Regional Office.

Part of her job involves working closely with grassroots leaders in the Whampoa and Toa Payoh Central constituencies on environmental projects and issues.

Recently, she had the opportunity to be part of the organising committee for the Clean & Green Singapore carnival, an experience that she found both meaningful and enriching.

"The carnival was a national-level multi-agency event that was successfully launched last November. I liaised with potential sponsors and helped to develop exhibition content for it," she says.

Ms Saw was also involved in the conceptualisation of EcoKnight SG, a new project with the Central Singapore Community District Council (CDC), which aims to encourage the community to lead a zero-waste lifestyle.

Under this programme, individuals who have made outstanding contributions towards a zero-waste Singapore are recognised as leaders in this area.

The programme uses various social media platforms to share tips on how to lead a zero-waste lifestyle.

Be guided by passion

Looking back, Ms Saw says she

was pleasantly surprised and excited to have been awarded the scholarship. She has reaped many benefits from it and appreciates the opportunities that she received as a scholar.

"The scholarship meant that someone had seen my potential. This helped me to boost my confidence and believe in my abilities," she adds.

While the benefits of a scholarship are many, those who wish to apply for one should first secure an internship, advises Ms Saw.

"An internship with either NEA or PUB will help them to find out more and get a taste of what it is like to work at the agencies," she says.

But at the end of the day, it all comes down to whether one has the passion for environmental work, like Mr How and Ms Saw — who wear the eco-warrior badge of honour with pride.

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NEA's mission of ensuring a clean and sustainable environment resonates with Ms Saw.

A will to serve

Healthcare Merit Award beneficiary Rachel Goon finds fulfilment in caring for the frail and elderly

TEO KUAN YEE

FOR staff nurse Rachel Goon Bao Xian, service comes from the heart, and the youngster is unfazed by the challenges of gerontology.

Attached to the geriatric hip fracture unit (HFU) at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) in her first posting, the 23-year-old nurse, a recipient of the Healthcare Merit Award, says: "I chose geriatric care because during my clinical attachment in my diploma days, the patients that I interacted were mostly above 65 years of age. It was through our interactions and chats that I developed my interest in geriatrics."

Nursing is not an easy job — it can be physically and emotionally demanding at times. But tough times don't last. A simple 'thank you' and a sweet smile from my patients when they go home give me a great sense of satisfaction and appreciation.

MS RACHEL GOON BAO XIAN
staff nurse
Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Ms Goon has vivid memories of her maternal grandparents being admitted to the hospital when she was six.

"Even today, I have this image of the gentle and caring nurses performing laryngectomy suctioning for my grandfather (who

had cancer) while trying to reduce his discomfort," she says.

In 2007, her paternal grandmother suffered a stroke; she was also diagnosed with dementia, which made caring for her tougher for the family and helper. Ms Goon witnessed how difficult it was for the nurses, several of whom were punched by the patient when she turned temperamental.

Ms Goon's childhood experience made her determined to pursue a career in nursing. She joined the St John Ambulance Brigade while studying at the former Chestnut Drive Secondary School, and graduated with a Diploma in Nursing from Nanyang Polytechnic in 2014.

"I really enjoyed my nursing school days, especially the pharmacology and pathophysiology modules," says Ms Goon. "They set me thinking, linking and rationalising the purpose of the investigations for the various medical conditions."

Sure of her choice of career, she applied for and was awarded the Healthcare Merit Award (HMA) scholarship in 2014.

The HMA scholarship covered her school fees and provided her with an overseas allowance and monthly stipend. In addition, MOHH has also provided her with leadership training and opportunities to serve the community such as delivering meals to the elderly who live alone.

At the Singapore Institute of Technology, Ms Goon pursued a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Practice with University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

For the Leadership in Action module, Ms Goon attended clinical attachment and programmes.

During a three-week stint at the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust hospital, she got to understand the differences in the culture and delivery of care between Singapore and the UK.

The elderly patients left a deep



Ms Goon says the satisfaction of nursing outweighs the heavy responsibilities. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

impression, including a challenging dementia patient she cared for for about two weeks.

"I felt a sense of achievement when I managed to convince her to eat and have a sponge bath. Sadly, she deteriorated a week later and passed away. I did not expect it, and broke down when I heard the news; my colleagues comforted me. A few days later, her son-in-law returned with chocolates and a thank-you card. We were touched that the family appreciated our care for their late mother, and glad they are coping well after her death," she says.

The HMA scholarship has also given her the opportunity to form a network with members of the healthcare industry, and

learn from their experience.

"Through this scholarship, I have made friends with fellow scholars who are physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers and nurses. We meet up regularly, sharing our work challenges and spiritually supporting one another," says Ms Goon, who graduated with honours in 2016.

Go with the flow

Ms Goon, who joined KTPH that same year, is soaking up her work experience in the HFU.

"The ward combines general geriatric medicine and orthopaedic surgical disciplines, helping geriatric patients with hip fractures. Being in HFU widens my exposure and knowledge to

manage the geriatric conditions such as delirium and dementia," she says.

One frequent challenge the passionate nurse faces is managing patients who turn delirious, or get restless, agitated or even violent.

In such situations, Ms Goon tries to calm the patients down before re-orienting them. She and her colleagues position themselves near the patients to prevent potential falls, and at the same time, refrain from aggravating them.

Ms Goon adds that she has also learnt that not all patients who present symptoms of delirium have dementia. Various factors can contribute to their delirium, including a change in environ-

ment, and electrolyte imbalance due to poor nutrition.

To aspiring scholars keen on following in her footsteps, Ms Goon says the satisfaction of nursing outweighs the heavy responsibilities.

"Nursing is not an easy job — it can be physically and emotionally demanding at times," she concedes.

"But tough times don't last. A simple 'thank you' and a sweet smile from my patients when they go home give me a great sense of satisfaction and appreciation."

She adds: "Life can be unpredictable. So, if you have a burning passion for nursing, follow your heart."

Mind over matter

MICHELLE CHIN

OCCUPATIONAL therapist Kwan Jia Hui wants to empower people with mental conditions to lead independent lives.

Ms Kwan, who joined the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) in 2014, is part of the Early Psychosis Intervention Programme (EPIP), which supports individuals with or at risk of developing psychosis.

Psychosis is a condition of the mind that involves a loss of contact with reality. People experiencing psychosis may exhibit personality changes and thought disorders.

To gain a better understanding of the patients, who are mostly youths and adults, she performs functional and cognitive assessments, which involve hands-on tasks simulating real life scenarios at home or at work.

She helps her patients to set goals and recommends psychosocial rehabilitation programmes to help them improve their performance at work, school or daily activities.

Ms Kwan also carries out psychosocial rehabilitation programmes that serve as an ongoing assessment and intervention platform for skill training in the following areas — social and communication skills, motor skills and processing skills and community living skills.

The programmes she facilitates include discussions, meal preparation sessions and groups that encourage creative expression.

Ms Kwan, 27, pursued a four-year Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) at The University of Queensland in Australia on a Healthcare Merit Scholarship, previously known as the Health Science Scholarship.

All Healthcare Scholarships are centrally awarded and man-



There is something remarkable about establishing therapeutic bonds with patients, says Ms Kwan. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Witnessing the subsequent subtle behavioural shifts is rewarding, particularly for young people who have a lot ahead for them. While progress may be slow, these are recovery milestones that are worth celebrating for patients and caregivers alike.

MS KWAN JIA HUI
occupational therapist
Institute of Mental Health

aged by MOH Holdings (MOHH), on behalf of the Singapore Public Healthcare Sector.

The Healthcare Merit Scholarship includes a lump sum settling-in allowance, a computer and warm clothing, tuition fees, monthly stipend, two return air tickets, including one for an observational attachment in IMH after the second year of undergraduate studies. It comes with a six-year bond for scholars who studied overseas.

Other perks include networking and tea sessions, a week-long Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) camp for personal and leadership development, as well as workshops to orientate returning scholars to the local health setting.

Before Ms Kwan applied for the scholarship in 2009, she had contemplated a possible future in the allied health profession. However, not knowing much about occupational therapy then, she went online to research her options, and arranged for observational attachments in a range of occupational therapy settings.

The early exposure to the field of occupational therapy impressed upon her how patients' needs were holistically addressed despite their varying medical conditions and circumstances.

In one of her volunteering stints, she came into contact with occupational therapists at Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS).

Ms Kwan says: "I realised I had taken for granted the significance of being able to complete self-care tasks independently. I began to understand what this commonly referred phrase in occupational therapy — 'enabling participation in meaningful human occupation' — was about.

"At that juncture, the assistance I could provide as a volunteer was limited and I was convinced that my work with the clients of MINDS and those with other conditions would be further enhanced if I had professional training to help patients gain independence."

Her studies and training have now enabled her to help patients gain insights into their conditions.

"There is something remarkable about establishing therapeutic bonds," says Ms Kwan.

"Witnessing the subsequent subtle behavioural shifts is rewarding, particularly for young people who have a lot ahead for them. While progress may be slow, these are recovery milestones that are worth celebrating for patients and caregivers alike."

Tech today for a better tomorrow

HDB systems analyst Lee Chen Tong is happiest when his solutions fulfil users' needs

NUR SYAHIDAH ZAINAL

AS A student, Mr Lee Chen Tong questioned what shape his career path would eventually take.

While he knew that he wanted to use technology to come up with creations that would excite users, he also wanted to see value and purpose in his work.

Inspiration came from his father, who previously worked with the Housing and Development Board (HDB).

He often spoke fondly of the organisation's meticulous and progressive attitude towards nation-building, which prompted Mr Lee to apply for the HDB Undergraduate Scholarship.

The 26-year-old is grateful for his family's support: "They are my pillars of strength and comfort, and they never fail to give me the reassurance that I am on the right track," he says.

Mr Lee studied information systems at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and graduated in 2015, before pursuing a one-year Master of Philosophy in Management at the University of Cambridge.

Reaching new heights

The scholar is a systems analyst at HDB's Information Services Group, a position he has held since August 2016.

He says: "There are not many jobs where your work affects the lives of more than 80 per cent of the Singapore population."

Mr Lee's responsibilities include research, prototyping, and developing and managing



Working with technology gives Mr Lee a sense of purpose. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

projects related to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and immersive technologies.

Such technologies are essential to his colleagues, especially planners and architects, allowing them to visualise spatial data and analyse them effectively.

This will provide the means for town plans to be envisioned and simulated before they are executed.

The systems analyst says: "The greater clarity is important to achieve a thorough understanding of the implications that are brought about by the plans, and crucial in improving the planning workflow of our organisation."

Mr Lee likens the role he and his team play to that of a bridge.

First, he has to understand business users' requirements and translate them into a viable system design for the development team.

He also monitors new trends in emerging technology, researching their applicability to HDB before piloting the ones that can help enhance the organisation's processes.

As part of GIS, his team also works with various application teams to fulfil segments requiring map services.

One of Mr Lee's current projects involves the use of virtual reality (VR) to facilitate the

Technological trends are mercurial and as practitioners of technology, we need to keep ourselves updated and relevant.

MR LEE CHEN TONG
systems analyst
Information Services Group
HDB

participatory design process of community spaces in HDB estates.

The project came about after a casual discussion he had with a colleague. Mr Lee was given full autonomy to develop its use cases, scope, and even see through its implementation.

The project culminated in a VR app that allows HDB residents to visually paint their design ideas and share them with their fellow residents instantaneously during engagement events.

Mr Lee says: "This helps to align the public's idea of what the proposed design will look like, and enables the design to be immediately submitted for

implementation by contractors. This shaves months of processing time from the workflow."

Keeness to learn

What Mr Lee enjoys the most about his job is its dynamic nature. He says: "Technological trends are mercurial and as practitioners of technology, we need to keep ourselves updated and relevant."

My job allows me to experiment with new technologies and even propose ideas unfamiliar to management.

"Such spaces for intellectual creativity provide a safe environment for innovation."

For Mr Lee, communicating effectively with users, while trying to understand their requirements and proposing solutions to them, is especially challenging.

He says: "Bridging the communication gap with users requires a repertoire of effective interview techniques, lots of patience, and above all, empathy. Many times, users are new to system development and unfamiliar with thinking about their work processes in a structured, organised manner."

"The key lies in looking at the issue from their perspective."

For those keen on becoming systems analysts, Mr Lee encourages the adoption of a growth mindset, and a willingness to pick up new skills — technical as well as presentation, relationship management and leadership skills.

He says: "The job prospects for information and communication technology (ICT) professionals have expanded tremendously over the last two decades, and now include analysts, consultants, project managers and even senior management."

"As ICT continues to extend its prevalence in our world, the ICT professional's role will only become increasingly varied."

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Playing a crucial role

MPA manager Catherine Lai is helping to strengthen Singapore's status in the international maritime arena

HAFIZ RASID

SINGAPORE'S maritime industry is on the cusp of change — new strategic plans laid out by the Sea Transport Industry Transformation Map (ITM) were launched on Jan 12.

By 2025, it aims to create over 5,000 jobs and grow the sector by \$4.5 billion.

Contributing to this growth in the bustling maritime industry is Ms Catherine Lai, 27, a manager in MPA's International division, where she has worked for the past three years.

She is a recipient of the MPA Overseas Scholarship, which covers tuition and accommodation fees and a maintenance allowance. The scholarship comes with a six-year bond period.

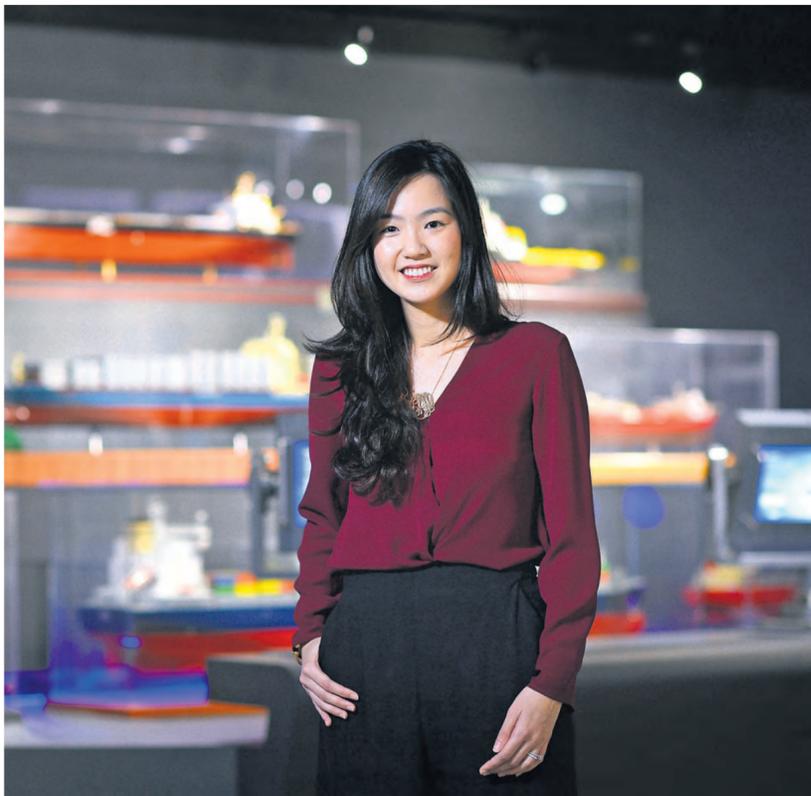
Ms Lai, who was awarded the scholarship in 2010, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business (Double Major in Finance and Marketing) from New York University in 2013, and a Master of Science in Strategic Marketing from Imperial College London in 2014.

The scholar is part of a team of 10 officers fronting this department, which ensures that Singapore maintains its status as an influential voice in the global maritime transport arena.

She plays a crucial role, managing relations with strategic partner countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia.

She says: "Just as in business, the nature of international relations work is dynamic and fast-paced. There is a need to adapt to changes quickly, and make assessments and decisions with limited information and high uncertainty."

Representing Singapore and MPA at international, regional



Ms Lai's scholarship has helped her to attain skills in stakeholder management that are crucial to her current role. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

and bilateral meetings where key maritime transport issues are discussed, Ms Lai is particularly involved in the coordination and oversight of MPA's presence in Tripartite Technical Experts Group and the Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Both are key platforms in dealing with safety issues in navigation and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Ms Lai's duties also include keeping a close watch on developments in the regional and international maritime

sphere. Through a careful analysis of these trends, she helps to develop strategies and policies to advance Singapore's strategic maritime interests.

Strengthening ties

MPA is the driving force behind building Singapore into a thriving international maritime centre. This achievement is a result of cooperating with various local and international stakeholders.

Singapore has about a 70 per cent share of the world's jack-up rig building market and 70 per cent of the global floating production storage and offloading

platforms market.

It is now the world's top bunkering port, ranking at number one in three categories: shipping, ports and logistics, according to an April 2017 report by Norwegian consultancy firm, Menon Economics.

In line with MPA's mission, Ms Lai active collaborates with other government agencies, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney-General's Chambers, to formulate strategies for Singapore's key maritime transport issues that are being discussed at international maritime forums.

She also helps to facilitate and participate in bilateral dialogues

with Indonesia and Malaysia to further cement relations between the two countries and Singapore.

Fostering cooperation

One of Ms Lai's most memorable projects was the Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (Co-operative Mechanism) in 2015.

It is a landmark framework that allows littoral states and users (or any other interested stakeholder) of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore to exchange views and collaborate on initiatives to maintain safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Straits, to keep it safe and open for navigation.

She oversaw a series of meetings under the Co-operative Mechanism, spanning seven days, in which about 200 delegates from over 40 countries and organisations participated.

She says: "It was a rewarding experience. Apart from functioning as the Secretariat for the meetings, I was also part of the team that oversaw the development of MPA's strategy and approach to the broad spectrum of issues discussed, and contributed to and represented MPA at discussions on regional frameworks that were being developed for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore."

She credits the various co-curricular activities that she was involved in during her studies, such as the NYU Stern Marketing Society and a consulting project for Virgin Media, in helping her prepare for this role.

"Through these experiences, I learnt how to critically examine and solve real-world problems. They were also lessons in stakeholder management. These are skills that continue to be relevant and which I continue to hone," she says.

Learning opportunities

Ms Lai shares that the scholarship provided her with first-hand experience of the inner workings of the maritime industry even before graduation.

Ms Lai was involved in various high-level meetings with senior foreign transport officials, helped out at the International Maritime Organization's council elections in London and took a three-month internship at the International Division of MPA, where she currently works.

The scholar says her internship and the network she cultivated through interactions with industry stakeholders and other public service officers helped her to prepare for her current role.

"The hands-on experience was an eye-opener to the myriad roles that MPA takes on. It was also my first taste of what I soon came to value most about MPA as an organisation — its diverse functions and its emphasis on grooming younger officers by providing them with the space, resources and opportunities to grow in their careers."

MPA also provided her with other learning opportunities.

She was selected to participate in the 11th IFLOS Summer Academy at the seat of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany, last year.

During the intensive programme, which covered international law of the sea and maritime law, she learned from a prestigious faculty comprising judges of the Tribunal and renowned experts in the maritime field.

She also interacted with professionals from diverse legal and cultural backgrounds who are involved in ocean governance and international maritime dispute settlement in their respective countries.

The road ahead

Ms Lai welcomes new initiatives and hopes to continually be at the heart of change in the coming years.

With the ITM in place, and the industry looking to drive human capital development, there will be opportunities to advance her career further.

She says: "I'm keen to gain exposure and contribute to the other functions of MPA. I'll be working closer with the industry to develop and progress Singapore's status as a vibrant International Maritime Centre."

In a quest for the truth

JOSHUA WONG

INDEPENDENCE, critical thinking and a healthy scepticism about convention and the established ways of doing things are key traits for success as a journalist, says Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) scholar Lim Xin Hui.

The 30-year-old applies these traits as a correspondent with SPH's Chinese Media Group News Hub, covering the political and housing beats.

Ms Lim, who has a penchant for the Chinese language and always wanted to study overseas, was awarded the SPH Journalism Scholarship in 2007. The scholarship covered Ms Lim's tuition fees, and included a monthly living allowance and yearly return flight to Singapore.

She pursued a double major in Chinese Language and Literature and International Relations at Peking University in Beijing from 2007 to 2011, followed by a Master of Science in Journalism (Digital Media) at Columbia University in New York (2011-2012), which was also sponsored by SPH.

"Living overseas helped me to see with greater clarity what I appreciate about Singapore, and also what we can improve on — there are many bright talents overseas, so Singaporeans cannot afford to become complacent," she says.

During her summer vacations in 2008 and 2009, Ms Lim returned to Singapore to hone her craft by interning at Lianhe Wanbao and the now-defunct website, omy.sg.

She spent the summer of 2010 at the New York Times Beijing bureau where she assisted correspondents to conduct interviews and gather data.

Story that touched lives

But Ms Lim's most memorable internship was before she clinched the scholarship.

In 2007, fresh out of Hwa

Chong Institution and trying out journalism for the first time, she interned with Shin Min Daily News as part of the selection process for the SPH scholarship.

During this stint, she was assigned to interview a middle-aged woman from Johor who came to Singapore to look for her long-lost sister, whom she had not met for decades. The woman could only offer an old photo and a few identifying details about her sister's adoptive parents.

While Ms Lim was sceptical about the probability of locating the sister, she did her best to write a good story.

The intern was surprised and elated when a reader called in a few days after the story was published, with information about the missing sister. Ms Lim then coordinated a reunion of the separated siblings.

"It was incredibly touching, and meant a lot to me as a 19-year-old," she says.

Having seen firsthand the positive impact that her stories can have, Ms Lim is motivated to keep going even when things get tough.

Digging for facts

Ms Lim's job gives her the opportunity to go to otherwise-inaccessible places and meet people whom she would not normally talk to.

The correspondent counts it a privilege to speak to people from different segments of society, listen to their stories and learn from them.

Good journalism is like good cooking, says Ms Lim.

"We are constantly looking out for fresh produce and unique flavours. Using our skills to bring them together, we can 'cook up' a sumptuous 'meal' that people will enjoy.

"People know when a meal is delicious. It's the same with a good story," she says.

Sometimes, however, getting

Be curious about things that happen around you, and don't be afraid to ask questions. One may think that one cannot conduct interviews or write news stories, but one should always give it a try.

MS LIM XIN HUI
journalist
Singapore Press Holding

story can be difficult.

Organisations can refuse to supply important information for a story, even when the information is not classified or sensitive; interviewees can be reticent and uncooperative, especially when the story does not feature them in a particularly positive light.

Ms Lim has to conduct rigorous fact-checking and ask multiple follow-up questions to ensure that she has the truth.

"Not all reporting is smooth," she admits. "You have to persevere and try different means to get stuff done. While you do succeed, there are many failed attempts too."

To those considering journalism as a career, Ms Lim advises reading widely and being curious. Journalists do not have to be experts in all subject areas, she says, but they do need to have a good base of general knowledge as journalism encompasses a wide range of fields.

She says: "Be curious about things that happen around you, and don't be afraid to ask questions. One may think that one cannot conduct interviews or write news stories, but one should always give it a try."



The positive impact that her stories can have motivates Ms Lim in her job as a correspondent. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (A*STAR)			
A*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship (AUS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomedical Sciences Physical Sciences & Engineering NTU, NUS including the Yale-NUS College, SUTD, SMU (School of Information Systems)	Successful candidates will be provided with financial support* for the duration of their undergraduate studies covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition fees • Hostel Fees • Monthly allowance Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR Research Institutes One overseas exchange programme during their undergraduate studies (up to 6 months) Mid-term AUS awardees will be offered the same terms of support as the direct AUS scholars from the point of the award, without retrospective payment. Continuation of the AUS is subject to scholars maintaining good academic standing. <i>*All rates/allowances are subject to A*STAR adjustments from time to time</i> Bond Duration: Nil AUS scholars are required to embark on a PhD programme in Science or Engineering disciplines after the completion of their undergraduate studies. AUS scholars may apply to the National Science Scholarship, A*STAR Graduate Scholarship or other scholarships in their final year of undergraduate studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates who have achieved excellent academic standing in the GCE 'A' Levels (preferably with 11 AUs), polytechnic diploma (preferably with Merit) or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate or NUS High School diploma) Candidates must be Singaporean; those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship Candidates should have been interested in science and research Candidates in undergraduate Year 2 and above must be Singaporean and should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed at least 2 terms of studies with graded results Obtained a term CAP/GPA and CAP/cumulative GPA of at least 4.50 in the latest academic term/year
National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomedical Sciences Physical Sciences & Engineering Top Global Universities	The National Science Scholarship (BS-PhD) supports up to 8 years of undergraduate and PhD studies. Successful NSS (BS) candidates will be given support for their undergraduate studies, comprising*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees • Monthly allowance • Annual return airfare • Pre-studies allowance Research attachment opportunities at A*STAR Research Institutes Further support for PhD studies will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of undergraduate studies and meeting NSS (PhD) requirements (e.g. 1-year research attachment at an A*STAR Research Institute). <i>*Rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates who have achieved excellent academic standing in the GCE 'A' Levels (preferably with 11 AUs), polytechnic diploma (preferably with Merit) or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate or NUS High School diploma) Candidates must be Singaporean; those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship Candidates should have been interested in science and research
A*STAR Graduate Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomedical Sciences Physical Sciences & Engineering Duke-NUS, NTU, NUS, SUTD, SMU (School of Information Systems)	Successful applicants will be given support for up to 4 years of academic pursuit. They will receive*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees • Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable) Other allowances including Book allowance / Computer allowance / Conference allowance / Thesis allowance Support for up to 12 months of overseas attachment <i>*All rates/allowances are subject to adjustments by A*STAR from time to time. AGS scholars are eligible for up to 2 years of post-doctoral fellowship under AGS (PDF).</i> Bond Duration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singaporeans (at point of award): No service commitment Non-Singaporeans (at point of award): 2 years in a Singapore-based organisation preferably in Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering AGS awardees who are subsequently awarded the AGS (PDF) for overseas post-doctoral training: 3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates must satisfy criteria for and seek admission into NTU, NUS, Duke-NUS, SMU (Information Systems) and SUTD PhD programme Candidates must have obtained at least a 2nd Upper Class Honours Degree or equivalent in relevant disciplines Candidates must be Singaporean; those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship Candidates should have strong interest in a research career Candidates may submit GRE scores (if available) to be included in the overall assessment of their scholarship application
National Science Scholarship (PhD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomedical Sciences Physical Sciences & Engineering Top global universities	Successful candidates will be given support for up to five years of PhD studies comprising*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable) Monthly overseas living allowance Annual return airfare Other allowances including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference allowance / Thesis allowance / Book allowance / Computer allowance / Warm clothing and settling-in allowance <i>*All rates/allowances vary according to country and university, and are subject to adjustments made by A*STAR</i> Bond Duration: 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates must have outstanding undergraduate results (preferably 1st Class Honours Degree or equivalent) in relevant disciplines. Candidates must be Singaporean; those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship Candidates should have strong interest in a research career Candidates should have gain admission into a PhD programme in biomedical sciences, physical sciences or engineering at a top global university Candidate must sit for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) prior to, or during the course of their application, and obtain minimum scores as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Verbal & Quantitative – 322 Analytical Writing – 4.5 Successful candidates are required to undergo a one-year research attachment at an A*STAR research institute prior to their PhD studies
National Science Scholarship (MD-PhD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomedical Sciences Duke-NUS Medical School (MS)	Successful candidates will receive support for up to 4 years of PhD studies at Duke-NUS MS comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Tuition Fees Monthly sustenance allowance, inclusive of CPF contribution (where applicable) Other allowances including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book allowance / Computer allowance / Conference allowance / Thesis allowance <i>*All rates/allowances are subject to adjustments made by A*STAR from time to time</i> Bond Duration: 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates must be Singaporean; those of other nationalities must intend to take up Singapore citizenship Candidates must have outstanding undergraduate results (preferably First Class Honours from UK universities, GPA of 3.8 and above from US universities or a CAP/GPA of 4.50 and above from local universities) in relevant disciplines. Candidates must sit for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) prior to, or during the course of their application, and obtain minimum score as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Verbal & Quantitative – 322 Analytical Writing – 4.5 Candidates should have a strong interest in both research and clinical career Candidates have gained admission into or completed the first year of the MD-PhD programme at Duke-NUS GMS
For more information on other scholarships such as National Science Scholarship (MBBS-PhD), please visit www.a-star.edu.sg The above eligibility criteria are not exhaustive. A*STAR may include additional selection criteria based on prevailing scholarship policies. These policies may be amended from time to time without notice.			
AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (AVA)			
AVA Undergraduate Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agribusiness • Agriculture Management • Analytics • Aquaculture Food Science/Food Technology • Horticultural Science/Botany/Plant Science Public Health • Science • Veterinary Science • Other related disciplines Local universities and approved overseas universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition fees and other compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance Pre-studies allowance • Return airfare Bond Duration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local university: 4 years upon completion of studies Overseas university: 6 years upon completion of studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents Strong academic and CCA records Applicants for mid-term scholarship should also have excellent university results
AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE (AGO)			
AGO Auditing Service Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountancy NUS, NTU, SMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory fees Maintenance Allowance Hostel Allowance Pre-studies Allowance Bond Duration: 4 Years	Undergraduate Scholarship: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident intending to take up Singapore Citizenship Demonstrated strong leadership qualities with active participation in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA). Good GCE 'A' level results (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with merit) or equivalent. Mid-Term Scholarship: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident intending to take up Singapore Citizenship Demonstrated strong leadership qualities with active participation in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA). Open to outstanding undergraduates who are currently pursuing an Accountancy degree at the local universities (i.e. NUS/NTU/SMU) and have completed at least one semester of undergraduates studies. Applicants should be on track for at least a Second Upper Class Honours.
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (BCA)			
BCA Undergraduate Scholarship (Overseas / Local/ Mid-Term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture Architecture & Sustainable Design Civil Engineering Coastal Engineering Economics Electrical Engineering Environmental Engineering Mechanical Engineering Project & Facilities Management Smart-City Management & Technology Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Building Services) Structural Engineering Local Universities and Reputable Overseas Universities Singapore & Overseas Countries (e.g. UK, USA)	Overseas Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition fees and other approved charges Allowance (maintenance, book, clothing, settling-in) One return Economy-Class airfare One return Economy-Class airfare (for industrial attachment at BCA) Sponsorship for summer school programme Local Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual allowance Tuition and compulsory fees Book, computer and hostel allowance Sponsorship for student exchange programme Mid-Term Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual allowance Tuition and compulsory fees Book, computer and hostel allowance Sponsorship for student exchange programme Reimbursement of tuition fees, book allowance and annual allowance for completed years of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents Excellent GCE 'O' and 'A' Level / IB results Excellent Diploma results (Polytechnic students) Excellent CCA records
BCA-Industry Built Environment Undergraduate Scholarship/ Sponsorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture • Civil Engineering • Construction Management • Electrical Engineering Environmental Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Project & Facilities Management Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Building Services) • Real Estate NUS, NTU, SIT, SUTD, and undergraduate courses conducted by the BCA Academy (BCAA) Country of study: Singapore	Undergraduate Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum S\$18,000 per year for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents Minimum S\$14,000 per year for all other nationalities in relevant engineering courses Undergraduate Sponsorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum S\$10,000 per year for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident Foreigners taking relevant engineering courses may also apply for the scholarship but are not eligible for sponsorship Be a GCE 'A' level, Polytechnic or BCA Academy graduate or NUS, NTU, SIT, SUTD or BCA Academy Have outstanding academic results Have excellent CCA records Male applicants must have completed or be exempted from full-time National Service (NS). ORD personnel accepted for admission in 2018 can also apply.
BCA -Industry Built Environment Diploma Scholarship / Sponsorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture • Architecture (Technology) • Civil Engineering with Business Clean Energy • Clean Energy Management • Construction Engineering Construction Information Technology • Design (Interior & Landscape) Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Electrical Engineering & Clean Energy Electrical Engineering • Electrical Engineering with Eco-Design Energy Systems and Management • Environment Design Environmental & Water Technology • Facilities Management Green Building & Sustainability • Green Building Energy Management Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management • Integrated Events & Project Management Integrated Facility Management • Interior Architecture & Design • Interior Design Landscape Architecture • Mechanical Engineering Mechanical Engineering (Green Building Technology) • Quantity Surveying Real Estate Business • Space & Interior Design • Spatial Design Sustainable Architectural Design • Sustainable Urban Design & Engineering Polytechnics NP, NYP, RP, SP, TP and diploma courses conducted by the BCA Academy (BCAA) Country of study: Singapore	Diploma Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum S\$15,000 per year for Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents and other nationalities Diploma Sponsorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum S\$7,000 per year for Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident Foreigners may apply for the scholarship but are not eligible for sponsorship Be a GCE 'O' level or GCEN level or ITE graduate, or student pursuing in tenable diploma courses at NP, NYP, RP, TP, SP and BCA Academy. Have outstanding academic results Have excellent CCA records
CHANGI AIRPORT GROUP (CAG)			
Changi Airport Group Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines except Medicine and Dentistry Top local or overseas universities	Local: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance Pre-Studies allowance, including settling-in and computer allowance (one-off) Hostel fees Opportunities for sponsorship of student exchange or summer programmes Postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management Internships with the diverse business areas within Changi Airport Group Overseas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tuition and compulsory fees Monthly maintenance allowance (including accommodation) Pre-Studies allowance, including warm clothing, settling-in and computer allowance (one-off) Return economy airfare Opportunities for sponsorship of student exchange or summer programmes Postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management Internships with the diverse business areas within Changi Airport Group Bond Duration: Local: 3 years Overseas: 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent 'A' Level results or equivalent (including International Baccalaureate and NUS High Diploma) Outstanding CCA/NS records or community activities and demonstrating strong leadership qualities Passion to make a difference in CAG through the diverse business areas of managing and operating Changi Airport (e.g. airport operations, retail management, engineering, business development etc.), as well as developing and managing airports overseas
Changi Airport Group Mid-Term Scholarship	All disciplines except Medicine and Dentistry Top local universities	Grant quantum of S\$20,000 Bond Duration: 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penultimate-year students with excellent academic results, expecting to graduate with at least second-upper honours, or equivalent Outstanding CCA records or community activities, demonstrating strong leadership qualities To complete the CAG Talent Internship Programme which is offered from May to July every year with good performance Passion to make a difference in CAG through the diverse business areas of managing and operating Changi Airport (e.g. airport operations, retail management, engineering, business development), as well as developing and managing airports overseas
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (CAAS)			
CAAS Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines of study except Medicine and Dentistry from renowned overseas universities. Note: Scholars may pursue a Law degree but will not be employed as practising lawyers during their service with CAAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory fees • Allowance (covering pre-studies, computer and maintenance) Additional sponsorships will be given for student exchange and summer studies programme Full postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management Compulsory internships are provided to allow scholars to gain insights into the civil aviation industry Return airfares for Overseas Scholars returning for internships with CAAS Bond Duration: 6 years or 5.5 years (if completed NS) Note: Bond period will be pro-rated for first, second and third year university undergraduate applicants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent GCE 'A' Level results or equivalent, including International Baccalaureate, NUS High Diploma and Polytechnic (Diploma with Merit); university results. Outstanding CCA records and proven leadership and high achiever qualities. Current undergraduates with excellent results, on track to graduate with at least Second-Upper Class Honours or equivalent will also be considered.
CAAS Local Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines of study except Medicine and Dentistry from NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD, SUSS and SIT leading to a good Honours degree. Note: Scholars may pursue a Law degree but will not be employed as practising lawyers during their service with CAAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory fees • Allowance (covering computer and maintenance) Additional sponsorships will be given for student exchange and summer studies programme Full postgraduate sponsorship upon approval by management Compulsory internships are provided to allow scholars to gain insights into the civil aviation industry Bond Duration: 4 years Note: Bond period will be pro-rated for first, second and third year university undergraduate applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent GCE 'A' Level results or equivalent, including International Baccalaureate, NUS High Diploma and Polytechnic (Diploma with Merit); university results. Outstanding CCA records and proven leadership and high achiever qualities. Current undergraduates with excellent results, on track to graduate with at least Second-Upper Class Honours or equivalent will also be considered.

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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BOARD (CPF)			
CPF Board Full-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship CPF Board Mid-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship	All undergraduate courses except Medicine and Dentistry and Pharmacy at any Singapore's local universities (NUS, NTU, SUTD, SMU)	Value of Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All approved tuition and compulsory fees, including overseas exchange programme where relevant Book allowance and hostel fee Competitive monthly allowance Engaging internship opportunities Exposure to meaningful work in CPF Board Bond Obligation: 1 year of bond period for every year of sponsorship	Eligibility for CPF Board Full-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens or PRs on the date of application Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma or IB Diploma Good track record and active participation in CCAs Demonstrates strong leadership and interpersonal skills Strong desire for a meaningful career with CPF Board Eligibility for CPF Board Mid-Term Local Undergraduate Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens or PRs on the date of application Current undergraduates with excellent results, on track to graduate with at least Second-Upper Class Honours or equivalent Have completed at least 1 academic semester in local university and have not embarked on final year year of study at point of application Good track record and active participation in CCAs Demonstrate strong leadership and interpersonal skills Strong desire for a meaningful career with CPF Board
GIC PRIVATE LIMITED			
GIC Private Limited Scholarship	A wide range of courses including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberal Arts Business Law Economics Philosophy History Engineering Science Mathematics and others - Reputable Universities (Local or Overseas)	Full Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return airfare (for overseas studies) Tuition and other related fees Living allowance Pre-studies allowance Sponsorship of a range of learning opportunities (including but not limited to): Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School / Finance-related seminars / Third language study (subject to conditions) Sponsorship of Master's degree (subject to approval) Internship during penultimate year of undergraduate studies Bond Duration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local: 4 years Overseas: 5 years (Non-English speaking countries); 6 years (UK/US) 	We look for passionate individuals who are excited about a career with us. We welcome applications from individuals who are consistent achievers in both the academic and co-curricular sphere, and have a strong interest in fund management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good academic results in GCE 'A' Level or equivalent examinations (including International Baccalaureate and NUS High Diploma) Good CCA records Strong leadership qualities Students of all nationalities are welcome to apply. Non-Singapore Citizens are required to take up Singapore citizenship upon commencing work with GIC
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BOARD (HDB)			
HDB Undergraduate Scholarship - Overseas / Local - Mid-Term	Disciplines relevant to HDB including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture/ Landscape Architecture Urban Planning/ Geography Engineering (Civil/ Electrical/ Mechanical) Economics Sociology/ Data Analytics/ Statistics Building/ Real Estate Computer Engineering/ Computer Science/ Information Systems Communications & New Media - Reputable local or overseas universities	Value of Overseas Scholarship Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and other compulsory fees Overseas allowance (maintenance, warm clothing, book and settling-in allowance) Return economy airfare Vacation attachment with HDB (including return airfare for attachment) Opportunity for sponsorship for approved student exchange programme Bond of Overseas Scholarship Award: 6 years Value of Local Scholarship Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and other compulsory fees Maintenance, book and hostel allowance Vacation attachment with HDB Opportunity for sponsorship for approved student exchange programme Bond of Local Scholarship Award: 4 years For the HDB Mid-Term Scholarship, the bond duration will be commensurate with the remaining duration of study.	Singaporeans and Permanent Residents with excellent academic results and CCA records
HDB Specialist Scholarship - Local - Local Mid-Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture / Landscape Architecture Engineering (Civil/Mechanical/Electrical) Computer Engineering / Computer Science/ Information Systems - Reputable local universities	An allowance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture - \$17,000 Engineering - \$16,500 Computer Engineering / Computer Science/ Information Systems - \$16,500 Bond of Local Scholarship Award: 4 years For the HDB Mid-Term Specialist Scholarship, the bond duration will be commensurate with the remaining duration of study.	Singaporeans and Permanent Residents with excellent academic results and CCA records
INLAND REVENUE AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (IRAS)			
IRAS Overseas/Merit Undergraduate Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountancy Business Economics Information Technology Real Estate Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and related compulsory fees Maintenance allowance Computer allowance Hostel allowance Miscellaneous allowance Sponsorship of approved overseas exchange and Master's programmes (if applicable) Mentoring by a member of the Senior Management Bond Duration: 4 years (Merit)/ 6 years (Overseas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding GCE 'A' Level, Polytechnic results or equivalent. Outstanding CCA records and leadership qualities. Passion to serve and take on a challenging career in tax. Those currently serving NS are eligible to apply.
IRAS Mid-Term Undergraduate Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountancy Business Economics Information Technology Real Estate Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and related compulsory fees Maintenance allowance Computer allowance Hostel allowance Miscellaneous allowance Sponsorship of approved overseas exchange and Master's programmes (if applicable) Mentoring by a member of the Senior Management Fees inclusive of back-payment, if applicable. Bond Duration: 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding academic results, expecting to graduate with at least a 2nd Upper Honours or equivalent (for current undergraduates). Outstanding CCA records and leadership qualities. Passion to serve and take on a challenging career in tax.

Riding the digital wave

URA scholar Goh Siow Chong shares how his team has stayed at the forefront of digitalisation over the years

MEREDITH WOO

THE Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) has always been up to speed with technological advancements.

It started the first Geospatial Information System in Singapore with the Integrated Land Use Planning System in the 1990s. At the time, it was also one of the few agencies to have an Internet portal called URA Online, says URA scholar Goh Siow Chong, who joined the agency in 1995 as a systems analyst.

He adds that URA Online was also responsible for introducing the first real estate portal, Realis to the public.

Clear choice

Mr Goh, 46, recalls that he did not have to deliberate much over which scholarship to apply for more than two decades ago.

This was because URA was the only agency at the time that offered a Computer Science scholarship — which was what he wanted.

“Computers and technology form the backbone of most businesses, and I believed then that with strong information technology (IT) skills, I would be able to get exposure to different business domains,” he says.

Mr Goh took up the URA Scholarship (Overseas) and pursued a Bachelor of Engineering (Computing) degree at Imperial College London in the United Kingdom.



Working closely with research institutes and meeting other experts to exchange ideas is something Mr Goh enjoys in his role at URA. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

He says that the UK education system gave him a solid theoretical foundation in computing science. “For computer science, most of the knowledge gained is still relevant to my work now — for example, in the areas of agent-based simulation, data analytics and machine learning,” he notes.

Continuous learning

After graduating in 1995 with first class honours, Mr Goh began his tenure at URA in the Information Systems Group. But his learning journey did not stop there.

In 1997, he pursued a Master of Technology (Software Engineer-

ing) degree at the National University of Singapore. He graduated from the part-time course, which he paid for, in two years.

In 2004, he decided to attain certification for a Six Sigma Black Belt, which was sponsored by URA. Six Sigma is a set of techniques and tools for process improvement.

Mr Goh also self-funded a specialist diploma course in counselling at Nanyang Polytechnic in 2006 so he could motivate his team members better.

He finds that the course enabled him to coach his staff and help them cope with difficulties

they faced at work.

His hard work and penchant for learning did not go unnoticed as he worked his way up to become the deputy director (Information Systems, Applications) in 2009. Last April, he assumed the position of chief information officer.

In his latest role, Mr Goh spearheads the use of technology to enhance business processes, especially the use of analytics and advanced geospatial or 3D technology for urban planning and design.

He also oversees URA's Digital Planning Lab, which promotes the

use of data and advanced digital planning tools, and collaborates with various research institutes and technology leaders.

Staying ahead

Mr Goh is particularly proud to have worked on two special projects — the Urban System Dashboard (USys) and Geographic Information System-Enabled Mapping, Modelling and Analysis (GEMMA).

“These projects transform the way URA carries out its concept plan and master plan coordination,” he says.

Both applications harness rich

Computers and technology form the backbone of most businesses, and I believed then that with strong information technology skills, I would be able to get exposure to different business domains.”

MR GOH SIOW CHONG
chief information officer
Urban Redevelopment
Authority

datasets for various agencies to access via a common platform, and enable them to visualise and work on complex planning issues collaboratively.

“We adopted the Agile development methodology, advance geospatial technology and open source technology to perform new planning analytics and develop new planning functions,” he adds.

To stay ahead of the technological curve, URA works closely with research institutes to conduct planning-related research, and regularly meets up with experts, researchers and top city planners to exchange new ideas. These are the parts of the job that Mr Goh enjoys immensely.

He says: “The environment here encourages experimentation and promotes strong teamwork.”

“Applying geospatial technology for urban planning is a specialised field. IT professionals in URA are required to know more than those working with typical enterprise systems.”

“For that, we have to constantly experiment and be innovative.”

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD SCHOLARSHIP

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Because we are the ones who shape the built environment where everyone lives, works and plays. At BCA, I help to ensure that structures all over Singapore are built safely.

Kwa Chin Soon
Senior Engineer
Foundation Engineering
Department

BCA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (LOCAL / OVERSEAS)

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) is an agency under the Ministry of National Development, championing the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore.

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For more information about our BCA Scholarships / Sponsorships, visit www.buildingcareers.gov.sg



We shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment.

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IMDA)			
National Infocomm Scholarship (NIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business and IT (eg. Business Information Technology, Business Analytics, Computational Finance, Computational Biology, etc) Computer Engineering Computer Science Computing Digital Media Electronic Commerce Electrical and Electronic Engineering Financial IT/Informatics Information Security Information Systems Economics / Law etc. (applicable for candidates who intend to be placed with IMDA only) Other infocomm-related courses Infocomm-related undergraduate studies in local autonomous universities and/or renowned overseas universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition & other compulsory university fees Living allowance One-time computer allowance Up to 6 months of local/overseas work attachment in an infocomm related role (as approved by IMDA) Funding support for courses and certifications for scholars to upgrade themselves with industry-relevant skills Hostel fees Airfare Warm clothing allowance Medical insurance and visa fees, etc. <p>4 types of scholarships under NIS, with the following bond period:</p> <p>a. Full Overseas scholarship – 5 years bond b. Fast Track Bachelors-Masters scholarship – 4 years bond c. Full Local scholarship – 3 years bond d. Mid-term Local/Overseas scholarship – 1 to 4 years bond dependent on the duration of sponsorship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Singapore citizen Have good CCA records / Portfolio etc. Possess strong interest in an infocomm career For Full Local/Overseas/Fast Track Bachelors-Masters Scholarship - 'A' Level, IP/IB, or Polytechnic results For Mid-Term Local/ Overseas Scholarship - be an undergraduate in an infocomm-related degree at a local autonomous university or renowned overseas university
National Cybersecurity Postgraduate Scholarship (NCPS)	The scholarships are tenable at National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore University of Technology and Design or overseas universities (for PhD scholarships only) renowned for cyber security such as (but not restricted to): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> University of California at Berkeley, USA Stanford University, USA Carnegie Mellon University, USA George Mason University, USA Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA UK Academic Centre of Excellence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> University of Cambridge, UK Imperial College London, UK University College London, UK UK Centre for Doctoral Training in cybersecurity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Holloway, University of London, UK University of Oxford, UK 	<p>Full-time Masters by Coursework (1-year bond) / Masters by Research (2-year bond):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees - Stipend CPF contribution (only applicable for Singaporeans pursuing Full-time Masters by Research) Pre-studies allowance - Hostel fees - Local/Overseas attachment expenses (up to 6 months) Airfare and visa fees - Attachment allowance - One-time setting in - Warm clothing Courses and certifications - Other admin fees <p>Full-time Local (No bond) / Overseas PhD (5-year bond):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees - Stipend - CPF contribution (only applicable for Singaporeans) Living allowance (only applicable for Overseas PhD) - Pre-studies allowance Conference allowance - Travel allowance - Thesis allowance - Other admin fees <p>Part-time Masters by Coursework / Masters by Research / Local PhD (only applicable for Singaporeans) (No bond):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Singapore citizen or Permanent Resident. Applicants for part-time studies and overseas PhD must be Singapore citizens; Possess a strong interest in infocomm/cybersecurity as a career; and Applicants must satisfy criteria for and seek admission into a full-time/part-time postgraduate cyber security related course in a reputable Singapore or overseas university (for PhD studies only).
Infocomm Polytechnic Scholarship (IPOLY)	The scholarship is only available for Singapore's 5 local Polytechnics : Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic.	<p>Full Time Polytechnic Studies (No Bond):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tuition fees and compulsory polytechnic fees; One-time laptop allowance; Courses and certifications sponsorship support; Overseas work attachment expenses (up to 6 months) covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy class return airfare Monthly attachment allowances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Singapore citizen; Possess good 'O' level results Have excellent Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records; Possess a strong interest in infocomm industry; and Matriculate into an approved infocomm-related course* offered at any of the five local polytechnics
Media Education Scholarship (MES)	Media or film related undergraduate or postgraduate studies, and courses specified by MES sponsoring media companies in reputable local or overseas universities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition & other compulsory university fees (including compulsory health insurance) Annual living allowance from sponsoring media company (does not apply to MES (Film) scholars); \$7,000 per year for Asian countries (including Singapore, but excluding Japan and Korea); \$12,000 per year for Europe, Australia, Japan and Korea; and \$14,000 for the United States of America Full and mid-term overseas and local scholarships. <p>Bond Period is based on Total Scholarship Value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to S\$60,000 - 3 years Above S\$60,000 and up to S\$150,000 - 4 years Above S\$150,000 - 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Singapore citizen Possess good academic results Have a strong portfolio if applying for a creative or film-related course Have a good CCA record Possess a strong interest for a career in the media industry
LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (LTA)			
LTA Local/Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Engineering Electrical & Electronic Engineering Mechanical Engineering Systems Engineering Environmental Engineering Computer Engineering Social Sciences (Economics / Geography / Mass Communications) Science (Computer Science / IT Security Communications / Data Analytics / Materials Science) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and Compulsory Fees Maintenance Allowances (includes Book Allowances) Hostel Fees (for local Students) Sponsorship of one approved student exchange programme/summer school <p>Bond Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 to 6 years bond for full term sponsorship 1 year bond and 1.5 year bond for every year of sponsorship for local and overseas mid-term awards respectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding GCE 'O' & 'A' Level / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) / Diploma Results Outstanding University results (for current undergraduates) Good track record of co-curricular activities Singaporean or Singapore Permanent Resident
LTA Local/Overseas Undergraduate Scholarship (non-English Speaking Countries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Engineering Electrical & Electronic Engineering Mechanical Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and Compulsory Fees Maintenance Allowances (includes Book Allowances) Hostel Fees (for local Students) Sponsorship of one approved student exchange programme/summer school Foreign language support programme <p>Bond Duration: 5 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding GCE 'O' & 'A' Level / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) / Diploma Results Outstanding University results (for current undergraduates) Good track record of co-curricular activities Singaporean or Singapore Permanent Resident
LTA Local Study Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Engineering Electrical & Electronic Engineering Mechanical Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and Compulsory Fees Maintenance Allowances (includes Book Allowances) Hostel Fees (for local Students) <p>Bond Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 years bond for full term sponsorship 1 year bond for every year of sponsorship for mid-term awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good GCE 'O' & 'A' Level / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) / Diploma Results Good University results (for current undergraduates) Good track record of co-curricular activities Singaporean or Singapore Permanent Resident
Land Transport Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material Science and Engineering Civil / Structural Engineering Road / Highway Engineering Transportation Engineering Transportation Systems & Management Road Safety Engineering Construction Management - Project Management Asset Management - System Engineering Software Engineering - Bridge Engineering Fire Engineering - Engineering Geology Geotechnical Engineering - Tunnel Engineering Railway Systems - Construction Law Public Policy - Urban Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and Compulsory Fees Maintenance Allowances (includes Book Allowances) Hostel Fees (for local Students) <p>Bond Duration: 2 - 4 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding GCE 'O' & 'A' Level / NUS High / International Baccalaureate (IB) / Diploma Results Outstanding University results (for current undergraduates) At least 2nd Class Upper Honours degree. Students who are in their final year of study may also apply but award will be subject to class of degree obtained Good track record of co-curricular activities Candidates with work experience are welcomed to apply Singaporean or Singapore Permanent Resident
THE LOKE CHENG-KIM FOUNDATION			
The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation Scholarships	Invites students who have applied for admission to courses leading to first degrees conferred by established local and overseas universities in the 2018/2019 academic year to apply for scholarship awards. Looking particularly for applications in the fields of Pure Sciences, Natural and Environmental Sciences (including Ecology, Conservation Biology and Horticulture) and the Humanities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees and book allowances Initial clothing allowance Maintenance allowance One-time return economy class airfare 	Singapore citizens or permanent residents with a strong record of academic and co-curricular achievements, and particular consideration will be given to those who can demonstrate a capacity for independent thought, together with a real passion for and deep and genuine commitment to their respective chosen fields and should not be current holders of other scholarship awards or grants.
MONETARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (MAS)			
MAS Undergraduate Scholarship	All disciplines, except Medicine, Dentistry and Architecture, at local and reputable overseas universities	<p>Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and other approved fees - Maintenance allowance - Pre-studies allowance Hostel allowance - Sponsorship of Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School (if requirements are met) - Sponsorship of Masters degree (if requirements are met) - 8-week internship during second year of U/G studies <p>Overseas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return airfare - Tuition and other approved fees - Maintenance allowance - Pre-studies allowance Sponsorship of Exchange Programme / Study Abroad Programme / Summer School (if requirements are met) - Sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) 8-week internship during second year of U/G studies 	The scholarship is open to Singapore Citizens, and Singapore Permanent Residents and foreigners who will undertake to obtain Singapore citizenship GCE 'A' Level (11 units); International Baccalaureate (36 points); or Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) Outstanding academic achievements and co-curricular activities, and strong leadership qualities
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE (MPA)			
Maritime And Port Authority Of Singapore	Most disciplines (except Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law and Architecture). Some examples of courses that are of direct relevance to MPA's work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Engineering Computer Engineering Computer Science Data Analytics Economics Statistics Information Systems International Relations Marine Engineering Maritime Business Mathematics Naval Architecture Political Science Any other related courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and other compulsory fees Monthly maintenance allowance Other allowance e.g. computer and book allowance Opportunity for sponsorship of approved student exchange/summer school programme Internship opportunities before and during studies for exposure to the culture of and work in MPA as well as gain insights into the maritime industry <p>Bond Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas: 6 years Local: 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents (PRs) Excellent results for GCE 'A' Levels, International Baccalaureate (IB) or equivalent, or Polytechnic Diploma with Merit Good CCA track records Undergraduates with good university results may also apply
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE			
The SAF Scholarship	Most disciplines* with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc. Course Category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountancy / Business / Finance Arts / Humanities / Social Sciences Economics / Philosophy / Politics Engineering Law* Science Technology *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.	<p>Overseas Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full salary for the duration of studies (including bonuses) - Full Tuition fees and other approved academic charges - Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer - Return economy airfare - One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme - Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable <p>Local Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Salary for the duration of studies (including bonuses) - Full Tuition fees and other approved academic charges - Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer - Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) - One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme - Sponsorship for up to 5 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable <p>Bond Duration: 6 years</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records Strong leadership qualities Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) Possess a strong interest in a military career
PSC Scholarship Engineering (Defence and Security)	Engineering / Science such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aeronautical Engineering Architecture Chemistry Civil Engineering Cognitive Science Computer Science / Engineering Electrical & Electronic Engineering Engineering Science Marine Engineering Materials Science / Engineering Mathematics Mechanical Engineering Naval Architecture Physics The list is not exhaustive.	<p>Overseas Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition fees and other approved academic charges Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer - Return economy airfare One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable <p>Local Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition fees and other approved academic charges - Local Maintenance Allowance Book allowance - Computer allowance - Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme Sponsorship for up to 5 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable <p>Bond Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Speaking Countries: 6 years Non-English Speaking Countries: 5 years Singapore: 4 years (with/without Master's; Double Degrees) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records
SAF Merit Scholarship	Most disciplines* with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc. Course Category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountancy / Business / Finance Arts / Humanities / Social Sciences Economics / Philosophy / Politics Engineering Law* Science Technology *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.	<p>Overseas Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly salary for the duration of studies - Tuition fees and other approved academic charges Return economy airfare - Book allowance - Computer allowance One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable <p>Local Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly salary for the duration of studies - Tuition fees and other approved academic charges Book Allowance - Computer Allowance - Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable <p>Bond Duration: 6 years</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records Strong leadership qualities Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) Possess a strong interest in a military career

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
SAF Engineering Scholarship	Engineering / Science such as: • Aeronautical Engineering • Aerospace Engineering • Chemical Engineering • Chemistry • Computational Biology • Computer Engineering • Computing Science • Electrical Engineering • Electronics Engineering • Environmental Engineering • Information Engineering & Media • Information Technology & Business • Marine Engineering • Mathematics • Mechanical Engineering • Mechatronics • Naval Architecture • Offshore Engineering • Physics • Statistics	Overseas Studies: • Monthly salary for the duration of studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Return economy airfare • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies: • Monthly salary for the duration of studies • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: 6 years	1) Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. 2) Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent 3) Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records 4) Strong leadership qualities 5) Qualify for and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) 6) Possess a strong interest in a military engineering career
Defence Merit Scholarship	Most disciplines* with the exception of professional courses such as architecture, medicine, dentistry, etc. Course Category: Accountancy / Business / Finance Arts / Humanities / Social Sciences Economics / Philosophy / Politics Engineering Law* Science Technology *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar while serving in the SAF.	Overseas Studies: • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Overseas Maintenance and other allowances e.g. books, computer • Return economy airfare • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Local Studies: • Tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Book allowance • Computer allowance • Hostel fees, if any (based on twin-sharing rates) • One-time sponsorship for summer exchange programme • Sponsorship for up to 4 years of studies, inclusive of Master's if applicable Bond Duration: • Overseas: 6 years • Local: 4 years	1) Singapore citizens or permanent residents intending to take up citizenship. 2) Good GCE 'A' Levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) results, Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent 3) Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records
For more information on other scholarships and awards, please visit scholar.mindef.gov.sg			
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MND)			
MND EDGE Scholarship	• Engineering • Urban Studies • Urban Planning & Design • Environmental Science • Real Estate • Sociology • Economics • Geography And any other related disciplines Countries and universities of study approved by MND (Local / Overseas)	• Tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and other allowances • Internship attachment with MND (including return airfare for overseas scholars) • Return airfare (for overseas scholars) • Sponsorship of approved student exchange/ summer programmes Bond Duration: For undergraduate study in Overseas universities: 6 years For undergraduate study in Singapore: 4 years	• Be a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident who is willing to take up Singapore Citizenship • Have strong leadership qualities and potential • Have good academic and Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) records • Have GCE A Levels, polytechnic diploma with merit or equivalent qualifications e.g. International Baccalaureate or high school diploma • Have a strong interest in a career with the MND Family and the Public Service
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE)			
Public Service Commission Scholarship (Teaching Service) - PSC(T)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE	• Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowance • Return economy airfare • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Opportunities to participate in HQ internship and overseas school attachment • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • English speaking countries: 6 years • Non-English speaking countries: 5 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens, or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Excellent Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • GCE 'A' Levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
Education Merit Scholarship (EMS)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE	• Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowance • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Opportunities to participate in HQ internship and overseas school attachment • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • English speaking countries: 6 years • Non-English speaking countries: 5 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens, or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Good character, strong leadership qualities and keen passion for education • Strong Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • GCE 'A' Levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
MOE Teaching Scholarship (MOETS)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable overseas universities, local autonomous universities, or NTU-NIE	• Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowance • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • English speaking countries: 6 years • Non-English speaking countries: 5 years • Local: 4 years	• Singapore Citizens, or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills • GCE 'A' Levels (with minimum 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High Diploma or equivalent
MOE Teaching Award (MOE TA)	• Languages • Humanities • Art and Music • Physical Education and Sports Science • Social Sciences • Sciences • Mathematics Reputable local autonomous universities or NTU-NIE	'A' level or equivalent/ Polytechnic Diploma Holders, Year 1 and Year 2 undergraduates: • Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance allowance • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Sponsorship of approved student exchange programmes, summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Year 3 undergraduates (for those proceeding to Honours with at least two academic semesters left at the point of application): • Sponsorship of tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance allowance • Developmental programmes during undergraduate studies (e.g. school attachment) • Sponsorship of approved summer programmes and CCAs • Possibility of sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • \$6000 paid in 2 tranches (if the undergraduate is proceeding for his/her Honours year of study in the following semester at the point of award) • Be enrolled into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) teacher preparation programme at the National Institute of Education (NIE) as a salaried employee, after completion of first degree Bond Duration: • Local: 4 years	'A' Level or equivalent/ Polytechnic Diploma Holders: • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Good interpersonal and communication skills • Good 'A' Level or equivalent/Polytechnic results or equivalent (e.g. International Baccalaureate, NUS High Diploma) • 'A' level candidates should offer at least 10 academic units • Qualify for entry into a local autonomous university Year 1 or Year 2 undergraduates pursuing courses in the local autonomous universities: • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Good interpersonal and communication skills • Good university results • Reading relevant teaching subjects at university Year 3 undergraduates pursuing courses in the local autonomous universities: • Good character, keen passion for teaching • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Good interpersonal and communication skills • Good university results • Reading relevant teaching subjects at university and proceeding to Honours with at least two academic semesters left at the point of application
Ministry of Education-Autonomous University (MOE-AU) Scholarship	The MOE-AU Scholarship is applicable for all courses/fields of study, subject to the Scholarship Board's approval and agreement by the AUs. The MOE-AU Scholarship is also applicable for undergraduate studies at any reputable local and overseas institutions, subject to the Scholarship Board's approval.	The MOE-AU undergraduate scholarship covers full sponsorship for undergraduate courses of any field and at any reputable local or overseas university, subject to the Scholarship Board's approval. The value of a full-term scholarship would include: 1) All tuition and compulsory fees; 2) Acceptance fees paid to the institution of study; 3) A monthly allowance to cover accommodation and sustenance costs; 4) A one-off pre-studies allowance; 5) Visa application and immigration-related fees (if applicable); 6) Economy airfare (for scholars pursuing studies overseas), based on the paired AUs travel guidelines, in the combination of a one-way ticket for commencement of undergraduate studies and a one-way ticket after graduation from undergraduate studies; 7) Sponsorship for overseas field trips, immersion programmes, or summer school courses approved by MOE and the paired AU; and 8) Sponsorship for one overseas exchange programme (for scholars studying at a local institution).	Applicants must be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents who take up Singapore Citizenship before the awarding of the MOE-AU Scholarship. They should have a strong interest in pursuing an academic career at one of the local Autonomous Universities, and demonstrate high achievement and aptitude for the academic field or subject that they wish to specialise in. For full-term applicants, they should be in their final year of pre-university studies or already in possession of pre-university qualifications. Applicants with GCE 'A' Levels, International Baccalaureate (IB), NUS High School, Polytechnic Diploma, or equivalent qualifications are welcome to apply. For full-term applicants, they should be in their final year of pre-university studies or already in possession of pre-university qualifications. Applicants with GCE 'A' Levels, International Baccalaureate (IB), NUS High School, Polytechnic Diploma, or equivalent qualifications are welcome to apply.
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA)			
The Singapore Police Force Scholarship (SPFS)	Most disciplines except medicine, Dentistry and Architecture *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar Renowned Overseas or Local Universities	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for Masters and exchange programmes (if requirements are met) • Full salary for the duration of study • National Service Disruption Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE 'A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Display strong leadership qualities and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Keen interest in a career with the SPF
Singapore Merit Scholarship (SMS)	Most disciplines except medicine, Dentistry and Architecture *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar Renowned Overseas or Local Universities	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for Masters and exchange programmes (if requirements are met) • Full salary for the duration of study • National Service Disruptions Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • GCE 'A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Display strong leadership qualities and excel in Officer Cadet School (OCS) • Keen interest in a career with the Home Team
Singapore Government Scholarship (SGS)	Most disciplines except medicine, Dentistry and Architecture *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar Renowned Overseas or Local Universities	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for exchange programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE 'A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the Home Team
Home Team Science And Technology Scholarship	Science and Engineering disciplines Science disciplines: Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Computer Science & Physics Engineering disciplines: Computer Science & Engineering and Electrical, Electrical & Electronics Engineering Renowned Overseas or Local Universities	• Tuition and other approved fees • Monthly overseas or local maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. settling-in, warm clothing, computer • Return airfare for attachment programme • Sponsorship for exchange programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: • 6 years bond (English speaking countries) • 5 years bond (Non-English speaking countries)	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE 'A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the Singapore Police Force career with deep specialisation in science, technology and engineering
Local Merit Scholarship (LMS)	Most disciplines except medicine, Dentistry and Architecture *Applicants intending to pursue a degree in Law will not be called to the Bar Local Universities	• Tuition and other approved fees • Maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. computer • Hostel allowance • Sponsorship for exchange programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: 4 years bond	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Excellent results in GCE 'A' Levels, Polytechnic Diploma with Merit or equivalent qualification (e.g. International Baccalaureate) • GCE 'A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma (with Merit) or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the Home Team
Home Team Local Study Award (HTLSA)	Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Technology, Criminology or Security. Local Universities	• Tuition and other approved fees • Maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance e.g. computer • Vacation and attachment developmental programmes (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: 4 years bond	• Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents intending to take up Singapore Citizenship • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) records and Physical Fitness (PES A or B) • GCE 'A' Levels (with at least 10 academic units), International Baccalaureate (IB), Polytechnic Diploma or equivalent • Good performance in National Service • Keen interest in a career with the Home Team
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (MSF)			
Local Merit Scholarship	Most disciplines will be considered as we need a wide variety of talent in the Ministry. Examples of courses you may pursue: Specialist Track: • Social Work • Psychology General Track (This list is not exhaustive): • Data Analytics • Computer Science • Psychology • Sociology • Communication Studies • Economics • Engineering • International Relations • Political Science • Others courses approved by ministry Pursue undergraduate studies at local universities such as: • National University of Singapore (NUS) • Nanyang Technological University (NTU) • Singapore Management University (SMU) • Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) • Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) • Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) • Universities approved by ministry	• Full tuition fees and other approved charges • Hostel fees • Maintenance and other allowances • Sponsorship for PSC Developmental programmes, approved student exchange programme/summer programmes and CCA • Sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: Undergraduate Study in Singapore: 4 years Undergraduate study in non English-speaking countries: 5 years Undergraduate study in English-speaking countries: 6 years	Applicants must be: • Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents intending to take up citizenship • Excellent results in GCE 'A' Levels, Polytechnic Diploma with Merit or equivalent qualification (e.g. International Baccalaureate) • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Strong leadership qualities and potential • An interest in a career with MSF Current undergraduates who desire a career with MSF, and have performed well academically and in other areas, can apply for MSF's mid-term scholarships. Mid-term scholarship applicants should have completed at least one semester in their undergraduate studies, and are not in their final year of studies.
Singapore Government Scholarship	Most disciplines will be considered as we need a wide variety of talent in the Ministry. Examples of courses you may pursue: Specialist Track: • Social Work • Psychology General Track (This list is not exhaustive): • Data Analytics • Computer Science • Psychology • Sociology • Communication Studies • Economics • Engineering • International Relations • Political Science • Others courses approved by ministry Pursue undergraduate studies locally, or at overseas universities in countries such as: • Asia & Oceania – China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand • Americas – Canada, United States • Europe – France, Germany, United Kingdom • Other countries approved by ministry	• Full tuition fees and other approved charges • Return economy class airfare (if applicable) • Maintenance and other allowances • Sponsorship for PSC Developmental programmes, approved student exchange programme/summer programmes and CCA • Sponsorship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) Bond Duration: Undergraduate Study in Singapore: 4 years Undergraduate study in non English-speaking countries: 5 years Undergraduate study in English-speaking countries: 6 years	Applicants must be: • Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents intending to take up citizenship • Excellent results in GCE 'A' Levels, Polytechnic Diploma with Merit or equivalent qualification (e.g. International Baccalaureate) • Good Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) records • Strong leadership qualities and potential • An interest in a career with MSF Current undergraduates who desire a career with MSF, and have performed well academically and in other areas, can apply for MSF's mid-term scholarships. Mid-term scholarship applicants should have completed at least one semester in their undergraduate studies, and are not in their final year of studies.

For the greater good

PSC scholar Chua Jun Yang wants to make tangible contributions that create maximum benefits for others

BRYANT CHAN

GROWING up, he wanted to make a difference in society — which was how Mr Chua Jun Yang knew he would need to choose a career that would enable him to do that.

When he was the head prefect at Raffles Institution and vice-president of the Student Council in Raffles Junior College, the terms of service for both duties played a major role in his decision to go into the public service.

"A lot of it involved running events and introducing initiatives to benefit the rest of the student population," he recalls. "It was almost like a precursor to policymaking," says the 28-year-old.

After junior college, Mr Chua — who has an inclination for applied sciences and mathematics — knew he wanted to be an engineer, but was not sure which field to pursue.

After consulting some seniors and attending various university fairs, he decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in Operations Research and Engineering at Cornell University in the United States.

He says: "I was looking for a degree that would equip me with the practical skills that would allow me to make tangible contributions to society."

"So this field of engineering naturally appealed to me for its broad applicability and relevance in a wide range of



The quantitative skills that Mr Chua acquired from his engineering course have helped him perform cost-benefit analyses for initiatives and projects. PHOTO: CHONG JUNLIANG

industries.

"After all, engineering is fundamentally about applying science- and math-based models to solve real-life problems for the benefit of society."

New experiences abroad

Mr Chua decided to apply for the PSC Scholarship as it was an established programme that offered the most diverse range of possible career options.

He was one of 41 students to receive the Overseas Merit Scholarship from the Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2009.

As his heart was set on expanding his horizons, diversity was his primary concern.

So he left the bustling city-state of Singapore for the quiet town of Ithaca, New York.

"I chose Cornell for its rural setting and proximity to nature," he says. "I wanted to experience

something completely different from what I would at a Singapore university."

But he also had no shortage of opportunities to explore the world.

In his first summer in Cornell, he had a six-week summer school programme at Ecole Centrale Paris in France, with funding from the PSC Scholarship.

There, he experienced a different education system as

After all, engineering is fundamentally about applying science- and math-based models to solve real-life problems for the benefit of society.

MR CHUA JUN YANG
senior assistant director
Energy Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry

he interacted with engineering students from all over the world. "The engineering programme at Cornell definitely exceeded my expectations," he recalls.

"Aside from a strong emphasis on project-based learning, the university also encouraged students to enrol in courses across a wide range of other fields."

His coursemates took classes pertaining to food science, animal physiology, archaeology and astronomy. As for Mr Chua, he took an introductory course on plant pathology, and also tried his hand at snowboarding and golf.

These electives were typically out of place for an engineer to pursue. But it was this eclectic mix that made Cornell such a vibrant environment to work and study in.

Mr Chua took to life in the Ivy League like a fish to water, even attaining membership in the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honors Society at Cornell, eligible only to the top 20 per cent of engineering majors.

He graduated in 2013 with a master's degree in Operations Research and Information Engineering. His postgraduate studies

were also sponsored by PSC.

Keeping the balance

Today, Mr Chua is the senior assistant director of the Energy Division in the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

On first glance, the applicability of an engineering degree to his line of work may not be immediately evident. But Mr Chua's work also involves designing initiatives and schemes.

"The thought processes are very similar to the approaches that we would take in college for our engineering projects on resource optimisation," he says.

For instance, he and his team are currently working with the Energy Market Authority to implement the Open Electricity Market in Jurong in April.

As part of the preparations involves ensuring that the backend systems are ready for the launch, Mr Chua needs to have a good technical understanding of how the electricity system and market work.

He says: "We need to strike a balance between protecting consumers and facilitating business innovation when designing our consumer protection measures and public education campaign."

Some of the greatest challenges he encounters stem from the fact that he almost always has to make trade-offs in his work.

"As a policymaker, it can be challenging because it is not always easy to explain why we have to make these trade-offs," he says.

But ultimately, Mr Chua knows that what he does is always for the greater good.

"At the end of the day, I am proud to have done my best to make life better for as many fellow Singaporeans as I could have," he adds.

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 2018/2019 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 particularly for applications in the fields of Pure Sciences, Natural and Environmental Sciences (including Ecology, Conservation Biology and Horticulture) and the Humanities.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should ideally have a strong record of academic and co-curricular achievements, and particular consideration will be given to those who can demonstrate a capacity for independent thought, together with a real passion for and deep and genuine commitment to their respective chosen fields. Candidates will be asked to submit with their prescribed application form a personal statement (maximum 300 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 clothing 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) or obtainable from:-

The Secretary
The Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation
c/o Tricor Singapore Pte Ltd
80 Robinson Road #02-00
Singapore 068898

CLOSING DATE

16 March 2018

Applicants shortlisted for interview will be notified by 30 April 2018



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ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
MOH HOLDINGS (MOHH) SINGAPORE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SECTOR: - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - NATIONAL HEALTHCARE GROUP - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM - SINGAPORE HEALTH SERVICES All Healthcare Scholarships are centrally awarded and managed by MOH Holdings (MOHH) on behalf of the Singapore Public Healthcare Sector.			
Healthcare Merit Award (HMA) Healthcare Merit Scholarship (HMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic Radiography • Dietetics • Medical Social Work • Nursing • Occupational Therapy • Orthoptics • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Podiatry • Prosthetics and Orthotics • Radiation Therapy • Respiratory Therapy • Speech Therapy <p>Overseas: MOHH-approved overseas universities in Australia, UK (for selected disciplines) and US (for Respiratory Therapy only)</p> <p>Local: National University of Singapore (for Pharmacy, Nursing and Social Work) Singapore Institute of Technology (for Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Diagnostic Radiography, Radiation Therapy and Nursing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly allowances • Pre-study allowance Return economy airfare (for overseas study only) Clinical placement allowance (for overseas study only) Sponsorship for approved development programmes • Commencement award Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) <p>Bond Duration: Overseas Studies: 6 years Local Studies: 4 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens or Permanent Resident who will take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on his/her studies Have excellent A level results or relevant diploma results or equivalent qualifications Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities Have a passion for public healthcare and possess excellent communication skills
Mid-Term Healthcare Scholarship* <small>*Awarded in the form of a Healthcare Merit Scholarship or Healthcare Merit Award</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic Radiography • Dietetics • Medical Social Work • Nursing • Occupational Therapy • Orthoptics • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Podiatry • Prosthetics and Orthotics • Radiation Therapy • Respiratory Therapy • Speech Therapy <p>Overseas: MOHH-approved overseas universities in Australia, UK (for selected disciplines) and US (for Respiratory Therapy only)</p> <p>Local: National University of Singapore (for Pharmacy, Nursing and Social Work) Singapore Institute of Technology (for Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Diagnostic Radiography, Radiation Therapy and Nursing) Local Polytechnics (for Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Diagnostic Radiography and Radiation Therapy)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory fees (back payment from year one of study) Monthly allowances (from the point of award onwards) Sponsorship for approved development programmes (from the point of award onwards) Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) <p>Bond Duration: Overseas Studies: 6 years Local Studies: 4 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents who will take up Singapore citizenship before the award is confirmed Achieve outstanding academic results and on track to graduate with at least a diploma with merit/distinction (for current diploma students), or at least Second Class (Upper) Honour or equivalent (for current undergraduates) Have completed at least one semester of studies in health science disciplines at local polytechnics, local universities or MOHH-approved overseas universities Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities Have a passion for public healthcare and excellent communication skills
Degree Conversion Healthcare Scholarship* <small>*Awarded in the form of a Healthcare Merit Scholarship or Healthcare Merit Award</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic Radiography • Nursing • Occupational Therapy • Physiotherapy • Radiation Therapy <p>Overseas: Offered to outstanding third-year diploma holders or recent diploma graduates in the relevant healthcare disciplines who are keen to pursue a degree conversion course at MOHH-approved overseas universities</p> <p>Local: Offered to outstanding third-year diploma holders or recent diploma graduates in the relevant healthcare disciplines who are keen to pursue a degree conversion course at Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly allowance • Pre-study allowance Return economy airfare (for overseas study only) • Clinical placement allowance (for overseas study only) Sponsorship for approved development programmes • Commencement award Distinction award (for scholars who graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) <p>Bond Duration: For HMS: Local: 4 years (for 1 year / 2 years of study) Overseas: 6 years (for 1 year / 2 years of study) For HMA: Local: 2 years (for 1 year of study), 3 years (for 2 years of study) Local: 3 years (for 1 year of study), 4 years (for 2 years of study)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident who will take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on studies Achieve outstanding academic results, expecting to graduate with at least a diploma with merit/distinction Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities Have a passion for public healthcare and excellent communication skills Must not be under any existing sponsorship bond with any of the public healthcare institutions
Healthcare Administration Scholarship (HAS)	All disciplines such as Business, Accountancy, Economics except for Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare related disciplines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nanyang Technological University (NTU) National University of Singapore (NUS) Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) Singapore Management University (SMU) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) Overseas Universities (only applicable for Sg5 mid-term applicants) 	<p>Full-Term Scholarship Tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly allowance • Pre-study allowance</p> <p>Mid-Term Scholarship One-time grant as partial coverage for university-related expenses</p> <p>Bond Duration: Full-Term Scholarship 3 years bond for studies at SIT • 4 years bond for studies at NUS/NTU/SMU/SUTD Mid-Term Scholarship 2 years bond for local studies • 3 years bond for overseas studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizen Have excellent A level results or relevant diploma results or equivalent qualifications Current undergraduates should have outstanding academic results, expecting to graduate with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent Have good co-curricular activities record and strong leadership qualities Have a passion for public healthcare and excellent communication skills
Community Nursing Scholarship (CNS)* <small>*CNS will cover nursing diploma and/or degree studies in local educational institutions, as well as local post-registration nursing degree studies.</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursing Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Alice Lee Centre for Nursing under National University of Singapore (NUS) applicable only for 4 year nursing course Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) 19 month nursing post registration studies MOHH approved overseas universities 1 year nursing post registration studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition and compulsory charges • Monthly allowance* • Pre-studies allowance* Salaries for nurses undertaking post-registration degree studies with more than one year of experience Return economy airfare (for overseas studies only) Sponsorship for approved developmental activities • Commencement award Distinction award (for those who graduated with at least Second Class (Upper) Honours or equivalent) <p>*Existing nursing students receiving the CNS will receive full funding support, which includes tuition fees and maintenance allowance from the point of award, as well as a back payment of tuition fees (excluding maintenance allowance) from the first year of study. Pre-studies allowance and commencement award are not applicable. Bond computation for these mid-term scholarship recipients is the same as that for full-term</p> <p>Bond Duration: For O' Level Graduates Diploma (NYP/NP) + Local Degree (SIT): 3 years bond OR Diploma (NYP/NP) + MOHH-approved Overseas Post-Registration Degree: 3 years bond A Level Graduates or Polytechnic Diploma Holders or equivalent qualifications (eg. International Baccalaureate (IB) or high school diploma) Local Degree (NUS): 4 years bond Existing Nurses seeking Degree Conversion Local Degree (SIT): 3 years bond MOHH-approved Overseas Post-Registration Degree: 3 years bond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident who will take up Singapore citizenship before embarking on his/her studies Possess good academic results, co-curricular activities record and communication skills Be applying to take up nursing studies in local educational institutions (NYP, NP, NUS or SIT) or a post-registration nursing degree programme in MOHH-approved local or overseas universities; or Be a current nursing student in local educational institution (NYP, NP, NUS or SIT) Have a strong interest to serve in the community and possess leadership qualities
For more information on our post-grad scholarships such as - Healthcare Graduate Studies Award, Healthcare Graduate Studies Award Nursing and Integrated Nursing Scholarship, please visit http://54.70.125.177/scholarships/			
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (NTU)			
Nanyang Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme. The scholarship will cover the years of study^A at NTU. <p>^A For the Biomedical Sciences & Chinese Medicine programme, the Scholarship will cover only the first three years of study in NTU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant) • Living allowance of \$56,000 per academic year • Book allowance of \$5500 per academic year • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only) • Travel grant of \$55,000 for an overseas programme (one-off) • Computer allowance of \$51,500 (one-off) • Settling-in allowance of \$5250 (one-off) • Priority for Overseas Programme Participation in Scholars Orientation Programme, Scholars Award Ceremony, Outreach Programmes and Eminent Speaker Series <p>Bond Duration: No bond attached, apart from the three-year bond applicable to all Singapore PRs and international students under the MOE Tuition Grant Scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all nationalities Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications Excellent co-curricular records Strong leadership qualities and potential
College Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme. The scholarship will cover the years of study^A at NTU. <p>^A For the Biomedical Sciences & Chinese Medicine programme, the Scholarship will cover only the first three years of study in NTU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant) • Living allowance of \$53,600 per academic year <p>Bond Duration: No bond attached, apart from the three-year bond applicable to all Singapore PRs and international students under the MOE Tuition Grant Scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all nationalities Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications Good co-curricular records Good leadership qualities and potential
Renaissance Engineering Programme Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant) • Living allowance of \$56,000 per academic year for all years except in year 3. Allowances for year 3 will be determined by REP Office • Book allowance of \$5500 per academic year • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only) • Computer allowance of \$51,500 (one-off) • Settling-in allowance of \$5250 (one-off) • Overseas benefits for Year 3 students: enrolment and tuition fees at the partner university, overseas accommodation and meals/meal allowance at the partner university and official duration of the industrial orientation/ internship, return airfare <p>Bond Duration: No bond attached, apart from the three-year bond applicable to all Singapore PRs and international students under the MOE Tuition Grant Scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all nationalities Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications Excellent co-curricular records Strong leadership qualities and potential
NTU-University Scholars Programme (NTU-USP) Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate degree programme and be on the NTU-University Scholars Programme (NTU-USP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant) • Living allowance of \$56,000 per academic year for all semesters except in the semester of the NTU-USP Study Abroad Programme • Book allowance of \$5500 per academic year • Accommodation allowance of up to \$52,000 per academic year (applicable to scholarship holders who reside in NTU hostels only) • Computer allowance of \$51,500 (one-off) • Settling-in allowance of \$5250 (one-off) • Travel Grant of \$55,000 for an overseas study/attachment programme (one-off) subject to terms and conditions in the Travel Grant form • Overseas benefits in the semester of the NTU-USP Study Abroad Programme (structured exchange programme): enrolment and tuition fees at partner university, return airfare and transportation to/from partner university (one-off), overseas accommodation and living allowance at partner university, visa and health insurance costs <p>Bond Duration: No bond attached, apart from the three-year bond applicable to all Singapore PRs and international students under the MOE Tuition Grant Scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all nationalities Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Diploma awarded by a polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications Excellent co-curricular records Strong leadership qualities and potential
LKCMedicine Scholarship	Successful awardees should read a full-time undergraduate Medicine Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of subsidised tuition fees (after tuition grant) • Living allowance of \$56,000 per academic year • Book allowance of \$5500 per academic year • Computer allowance of \$51,500 (one-off) <p>Bond Duration: No bond attached, apart from the five-year bond with the Ministry of Health upon completing the undergraduate programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to Singapore Citizens • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level, Diploma awarded by a Polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma or IB Diploma qualifications Outstanding contributions or attributes in other areas such as community service, student leadership, or sporting excellence
For more information on other scholarships such as Toh Kian Chui Scholarship, Earth Observatory of Singapore Undergraduate Scholarship, Wee Cho Yaw Future Leaders Award, Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund Undergraduate Scholarship, E.W. Barker Scholarship, LKW-STEP Award, University Engineering Scholarship, ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship, NTU Science and Engineering Undergraduate Scholarship, please visit http://admissions.ntu.edu.sg/UndergraduateAdmissions/Pages/Scholarships.aspx			
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (NCSS)			
Social Service Scholarship	Scholars will be supported to pursue full-time undergraduate or postgraduate studies in the following areas: • Social Work • Psychology (postgraduate study only) • Occupational Therapy • Physiotherapy • Speech Therapy For Degree and Post-graduate courses, only local/overseas universities recognised by the respective professional accreditation bodies will be supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Tuition & compulsory fees • Maintenance Allowance • Once-off pre-studies Allowance Approved Overseas Exchange Programme • Hostel Allowance (for local studies only) Airfare (for overseas studies only) <p>Bond Duration: Undergrad Local: 4 years • Undergrad Overseas: 6 years Postgrad Local: 3 years • Postgrad Overseas: 4 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident Possess excellent GCE 'A' Level, IB, Diploma and/or University results Have applied to a University or gained admission into a recognised Social Work, Psychology, Occupational, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy programme Displays strong leadership qualities Has strong interest to work in the social service sector
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NEA) & PUB, SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL WATER AGENCY			
National Environment & Water (NEW) Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Engineering* • Mechanical Engineering* • Electrical Engineering* Environmental Engineering* • Chemical Engineering • Systems Engineering Environmental Science • Physics • Chemistry • Mathematics Business Analytics / Statistics • Microbiology • Biostatistics • Atmospheric Science Epidemiology • Public Health • Environmental Ecology • Behavioural Sciences Entomology • Geospatial Analytics <p>Other courses relevant to NEA or PUB. *Preferred discipline for PUB.</p>	<p>Local: Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, computer and book allowance and hostel fees where applicable</p> <p>Overseas: Maintenance allowance, tuition and compulsory fees, return airfare, plus allowance for computer, books, settling-in and warm clothing where applicable • Sponsorship for approved enrichment/ exchange programmes Possibility of pursuing postgraduate degrees</p> <p>Bond Duration: Local: 4 years Overseas: 6 years Overseas in non-english speaking countries: 5 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore citizens or permanent residents Outstanding results in GCE 'O' and 'A' Levels 'A' Level, International Baccalaureate, Polytechnic, NUS High Students, Undergraduates may apply Noteworthy CCA record <p>Note: For Permanent Residents, confirmation of award will be based on the successful application for Singapore Citizenship</p>
NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD (NHB)			
National Heritage Board Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curatorial Studies Conservation Archaeology Museums History (e.g. Singapore and Southeast Asia) Cultural and Heritage Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full scholarship (capped at \$250,000) Partial scholarship (capped at \$120,000) <p>Bond Duration: 3 years (Local or partial overseas scholarship) 6 years (Full overseas scholarship)</p>	Singapore Citizens, non-NHB employees
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (NIE)			
NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP)	The NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP) is one of NTU's Premier Scholars' Programme (PSP). It is a prestigious award for outstanding scholars with a passion and calling to be professional leaders in education. TSP aims to produce graduates with intellectual rigour, strong leadership, and relevant global perspective to make significant contributions to education. TSP is a 4-year programme that includes an exciting multi-disciplinary curriculum that supplements the core curriculum in the Bachelor of Arts (Education) / Bachelor of Science (Education) programme. The programme features a carefully designed curriculum comprising a wide selection of electives, seminars by distinguished professors, industry luminaries, as well as personal guidance by top faculty members. The TSP also offers in-depth content specialisation, research opportunities, leadership programmes, international practicum and semester exchanges that promise to broaden students' perspectives and enable them to be leaders of educational change.	Applicants must apply to the Ministry of Education for a scholarship or award to be eligible for this programme. The value is tied to the scholarship/award given by MOE. Bond: Tied to the scholarship or award conditions stipulated by MOE.	Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Diploma awarded by a polytechnic in Singapore, NUS High School Diploma, IB Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. Excellent co-curricular records. Strong leadership qualities and potential. Requirements as stipulated by MOE scholarship/award.
NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD (NLB)			
NLB Undergraduate Scholarship	Undergraduate studies in fields to advance library development and to grow domain expertise: Library Science, Information Science, Southeast Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, History, English, Chinese, Literature, Geography, Contemporary China, etc. Scholars can choose to study locally or at renowned universities overseas.	The NLB Undergraduate Scholarship is a fully-funded programme that covers tuition and other compulsory fees, return airfare (for overseas scholarship), maintenance and other allowances (where applicable). Bond Duration: Local universities: 4 years Non-English speaking countries (e.g. China): 5 years English-speaking countries (e.g. US, UK and Australia): 6 years	Students/graduates or equivalent who meet the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singaporean Citizen or Permanent Resident who must attain Singapore Citizenship before the award of scholarship Have excellent academic results Possess GCE A Levels (minimum of 11 academic units); International Baccalaureate; Polytechnic Diploma Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal skills and have a passion for learning and service Have a good co-curricular (CCA) record
NLB Postgraduate Scholarship	Postgraduate studies in fields to advance library development and to grow domain expertise: Library Science, Information Science, Southeast Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, History, English, Chinese, Literature, Geography, Contemporary China, etc. Scholars can choose to study locally or at renowned universities overseas.	The NLB Postgraduate Scholarship is a fully-funded programme that covers tuition and other compulsory fees, return airfare (for overseas scholarship), maintenance and other allowances (where applicable). Bond Duration: Local universities: 2 years Overseas universities: 3 years	University graduates or equivalent who meet the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singaporean Citizen or Permanent Resident who must attain Singapore Citizenship before the award of scholarship Have excellent academic results Possess at least 2nd Class Upper Honours degree Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal skills and have a passion for learning and service Have a good co-curricular (CCA) record

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD (NParks)			
National Parks Board (NParks) Undergraduate Scholarship	Horticulture, Forestry, Botany, Environmental Science / Management, Ecology, Geography, Zoology and Sociology. We also welcome applicants who are interested to study History, Social Science and Human Geography Universities: Singapore - National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University Australia - Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales USA - University of California, Berkeley, Cornell University United Kingdom - Imperial College London Country of Study: Australia, Canada, UK, USA	• All approved tuition and compulsory fees • Return economy airfare, maintenance and other allowance eg. Settling-in Bond Duration: • Overseas studies – 6 years bond • Local studies – 4 years bond	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents, with outstanding academic achievements, demonstrated leadership capabilities and active participation in co-curricular and community/voluntary activities, to apply for the prestigious NParks Undergraduate Scholarships.
National Parks Board (NParks) Overseas Merit Award	Horticulture, Plant Science, Forestry and Environmental Science Universities: Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales Country of Study: Australia	• All approved tuition and compulsory fees • Return economy airfare, maintenance and other allowance eg. Settling-in Bond Duration: Depends on the course duration – up to 4 years	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents with outstanding academic achievements, proven leadership capabilities and a stellar record in co-curricular and community/voluntary activities are invited to apply for the NParks Overseas Merit Award.
National Parks Board (NParks) Postgraduate Scholarships	Plant Taxonomy, Plant Breeding, Plant Physiology, Plant Protection, Soil Science, Horticulture, Arboriculture, Urban Ecology, Urban Planning Universities: Singapore - National University of Singapore USA - Cornell University, Yale University, University of Edinburgh United Kingdom - Imperial College London, University of Aberdeen Country of Study: US, UK or Australia	• All approved tuition and compulsory fees • Return economy airfare, maintenance and other allowance eg. Settling-in Bond Duration: Overseas studies • For course duration not exceeding 1 year – 3 years bond • For course duration exceeding 1 year – 6 years bond Local studies: 2.5 years bond	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents with outstanding academic achievements, proven leadership capabilities and a stellar record in co-curricular and community/voluntary activities are invited to apply for the NParks Postgraduate Scholarships.
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS)			
NUS Global Merit Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Dentistry, Medicine, Music and Yale-NUS College National University of Singapore	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • \$52,730 annual accommodation allowance if scholar is staying on campus • \$52,835 if scholar is staying in Ridge View Residential College, or \$54,340 if scholar is staying in one of the University Town Residential Colleges • One-time computer allowance of \$52,000 • \$57,500 Student Exchange Programme/NUS Overseas Colleges allowance per semester for non-Asian countries and Japan, and \$55,000 per semester for other Asian countries • Eligibility to enrol in the University Scholars Programme (USP) or University Town College Programme (UTCP) • Eligibility for the NUS Scholar Enrichment Grant (to co-sponsor enrichment activities) up to \$56,000 • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for overseas Student Exchange Programme • Eligibility for free tickets to selected NUS arts performances No Bond	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
NUS Merit Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Dentistry, Medicine, Music and Yale-NUS College National University of Singapore	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • One-time computer allowance of \$52,000 • Eligibility for the NUS Scholar Enrichment Grant (to co-sponsor enrichment activities) up to \$56,000 • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for overseas Student Exchange Programme • Eligibility for free tickets to selected NUS arts performances No Bond	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
NUS Sports Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Music and Yale-NUS College National University of Singapore	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • \$52,730 annual accommodation allowance if scholar is staying on campus • Eligibility for the NUS Scholar Enrichment Grant (to co-sponsor enrichment activities) up to \$56,000 • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for overseas Student Exchange Programme • Eligibility for free tickets to selected NUS arts performances No Bond	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Good co-curricular activities record, particularly in sports • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
NUS Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship	Any full-time undergraduate course leading to a first degree, except Music and Yale-NUS College National University of Singapore	• Full subsidy for tuition fees (after MOE Tuition Grant subsidy) • Annual living allowance of \$56,000 • \$52,730 annual accommodation allowance if scholar is staying on campus • Eligibility for the NUS Scholar Enrichment Grant (to co-sponsor enrichment activities) up to \$56,000 • Guaranteed offer of on-campus accommodation (excluding University Town) for first two years of undergraduate studies • Guaranteed placement for overseas Student Exchange Programme • Eligibility for free tickets to selected NUS arts performances No Bond	• Singaporean Citizens • Strong leadership qualities and potential • Excellent GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in performing and/or visual arts • Offered GCE 'A' Levels, Diploma from a polytechnic in Singapore or equivalent qualifications (e.g. International Baccalaureate/ NUS High School Diploma)
For more information on the Lee Kuan Yew Scholarship to Encourage Upgrading (LKY-STEP) Award and University Engineering Scholarship (UES), please visit http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/scholarships/freshmen/scp/scholarship-scp-lky-step.html and http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/scholarships/freshmen/scp/scholarship-scp-university-engineering.html			
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (PA)			
People's Association (PA) Scholarship	Any course of study that has relevance to the different areas of work at PA. The recommended choice of study includes: • Community Development • Human Resource Management / Human Resource Development • Organisational Learning / Organisational Development • Mass Communication • Project Management • Public Policy Studies • Psychology • Social Work • Business Administration • Accountancy • Marketing • Sociology • Gerontology • Political Science • Mathematics • Statistics NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD, SIT and renowned overseas universities	• Full tuition and compulsory fees • Monthly maintenance allowance • Pre-studies allowance • Sponsorship for approved student exchange programme • Scholarship of Master's degree (if requirements are met) • Return airfare (for overseas universities) • Medical/Health insurance (where required by the university)	• Singapore Citizens • Excellent GCE 'A' Levels, International Baccalaureate, Polytechnic Diploma, Undergraduate or equivalent results • Possess leadership qualities displayed through active participation in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) and/or community volunteer service, especially in leadership positions • Have a Passion to work with people
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SINGAPORE (PSC)			
• The Singapore Armed Forces Scholarship • The Singapore Police Force Scholarship • PSC Scholarship: - For careers in Public Administration or 'tied' to Legal Service, Foreign Service or Teaching Service - Medicine/Dentistry ¹ - Engineering ² - Public Finance ³ • PSC Master's Scholarship⁴	A wide range of courses including (but not limited to) Liberal Arts, Business, Law, Economics, Philosophy, History, Engineering, Accountancy, Science, Mathematics and others.	• Tuition fee, maintenance allowances and other approved charges/allowances • Required and approved airfares • Sponsorship for summer and exchange programmes, as well as Master's degree subject to conditions Bond (Based on country of study) • Singapore: 4 years • Singapore (Med/Den): 6 years • Non-English speaking countries (e.g. China, France, Japan, Germany): 5 years • USA/UK: 6 years	• Strong leadership qualities and interest in a public service career • GCE 'A' levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, Polytechnic Diploma or other equivalent qualifications. • Good co-curricular activities (CCA) record • Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents who will take up Singapore citizenship before commencement of study
¹ Mid-Term Scholarships for careers in the Public Healthcare sector, tenable only at local universities. ² Undergraduate and Mid-Term Scholarships for Engineering careers in the Public Service. ³ Undergraduate and Mid-Term Scholarships for a specialised finance career in the Auditing and Accounting Service. ⁴ Scholarship to pursue a Master's degree (apart from MBA) upon graduation, or with no more than 3 years of working experience in the private/non-government sector.			
SINGAPORE AIRLINES LIMITED			
Singapore Airlines Open Overseas Scholarship	All courses from top universities overseas are considered except Architecture, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy.	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • One-off pre-studies allowance • Air passage at beginning and end of course • Annual trip to any point on Singapore Airlines' global network • Reimbursement of fees for university applications and entrance tests • Vacation attachments to a Singapore Airlines office Bond Duration: 6 years	• Strong academic records in Secondary School and Junior College/International Baccalaureate (IB)/Polytechnic • Strong leadership qualities as demonstrated in CCA and National Service (if applicable)
Singapore Airlines - Mendaki Scholarship	All courses from top universities overseas are considered except Architecture, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy.	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • One-off pre-studies allowance • Air passage at beginning and end of course • Annual trip to any point on Singapore Airlines' global network • Reimbursement of fees for university applications and entrance tests • Vacation attachments to a Singapore Airlines office Bond Duration: 6 years	• Applicant must be a Muslim Singapore Citizen • Strong academic records in Secondary School and Junior College/International Baccalaureate (IB)/Polytechnic • Strong leadership qualities as demonstrated in CCA or National Service (if applicable)
Singapore Airlines - SINDA Scholarship	All courses from top universities overseas are considered except Architecture, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy.	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance allowance • One-off pre-studies allowance • Air passage at beginning and end of course • Annual trip to any point on Singapore Airlines' global network • Reimbursement of fees for university applications and entrance tests • Vacation attachments to a Singapore Airlines office Bond Duration: 6 years	• Applicant or any one parent of applicant, must be a Singapore Citizen belonging to an Indian sub ethnic group • Strong academic records in Secondary School and Junior College/ International Baccalaureate (IB)/Polytechnic • Strong leadership qualities as demonstrated in CCA or National Service (if applicable)
SINGAPORE-INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP (SgIS)			
SgIS Full-Term	Dependent on sponsoring organisations' requirements. Visit www.singaporeindustry.com.sg for the list of sponsored courses of study. • Nanyang Technological University (NTU) • National University of Singapore (NUS) • Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) • Singapore Management University (SMU) • Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) • Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)	• Full tuition fees and other approved academic charges • Maintenance and other allowances • Hostel allowance • Overseas exchange allowance Bond: • 3 years with Sponsoring Organisation (for SIT graduates) • 4 years with Sponsoring Organisation (for NTU, NUS, SMU, SUSS and SUTD)	• Singapore Citizens • Recent graduates with good GCE 'A' Level results, International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, NUS High School Diploma or Polytechnic Diploma • Good Co-curricular Activities (CCA) records • Passion to contribute to strategic sectors in Singapore • Seeking admission or have been accepted for admission to the following institutions across all disciplines (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare-related disciplines): Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
SgIS Mid-Term Overseas	Dependent on sponsoring organisations' requirements. Visit www.singaporeindustry.com.sg for the list of sponsored courses of study. • Good reputable universities overseas.	Scholarship will be given in the form of a one-time grant as partial coverage for university related expenses. ii) Applicants with 1 to 2 academic years remaining in university at point of application - SGD 40,000 one-time grant and a 2-year bond with the Sponsoring Organisation i) Applicants with more than 2 academic years remaining in university at point of application - SGD 60,000 one-time grant and a 3-year bond with the Sponsoring Organisation	• Singapore Citizens • Have completed at least 1 academic semester in overseas university and have not embarked on final year of study at point of application • Good undergraduate results across all disciplines (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare-related disciplines) from overseas universities • Good Co-curricular Activities (CCA) records • Passion to contribute to strategic sectors in Singapore.
SgIS Mid-Term Local	Dependent on sponsoring organisations' requirements. Visit www.singaporeindustry.com.sg for the list of sponsored courses of study. • Nanyang Technological University (NTU) • National University of Singapore (NUS) • Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) • Singapore Management University (SMU) • Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) • Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD)	Scholarship will be given in the form of a one-time grant as partial coverage for university related expenses. i) Applicants with 1 to 2 academic years remaining in university at point of application - SGD 30,000 one-time grant and a 2-year bond with the Sponsoring Organisation ii) Applicants with more than 2 academic years remaining in university at point of application - SGD 50,000 one-time grant and a 3-year bond with the Sponsoring Organisation	• Singapore Citizens • Have completed at least 1 academic semester in a local university (as per SgIS Full-Term) and have not embarked on final year of study at point of application • Good undergraduate results across all disciplines (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and other healthcare-related disciplines) • Good Co-curricular Activities (CCA) records • Passion to contribute to strategic sectors in Singapore.
SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY (SMU)			
Lee Kong Chian Scholars' Programme	Accountancy, Economics, Information Systems, Law or Social Science and Business Management.	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • An Overseas Student Exchange / Summer Programme Grant, \$512,000 • A Study Trip Grant, \$53,000 (one-off) • An Overseas Community Service Project, \$51,000 (one-off) • Laptop Allowance, \$51,800 (one-off) Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Scholarship is bond-free	• Full-time SMU first year undergraduate student of any nationality pursuing a double degree programme, with Business Management as one of the two degrees • Outstanding academic results • Demonstrates leadership and communications skills • Substantial record of co-curricular activity and/or community service involvement
SMU Global Impact Scholarship Award	All programmes	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • An Overseas Student Exchange / Summer Programme Grant, \$512,000 • A Study Trip Grant, \$53,000 (one-off) • An Overseas Community Service Project, \$51,000 (one-off) • Laptop Allowance, \$51,800 (one-off) Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Scholarship is bond-free	• Be Singapore Citizens • Possess outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, local Polytechnic Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma, NUS High School Diploma or equivalent qualifications • Demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and potential • Possess excellent record in co-curricular and/or community activities • Be applying for admission to a full-time undergraduate degree programme at SMU
SMU Merit Scholarship Programme	All programmes	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • Growth opportunities allowance of \$512,000 to fund part or combination of the following: Overseas Community Service Projects (compulsory), Global Exposure opportunities that include Overseas Student Exchanges / Summer Programmes, School Study Missions, Case Competitions, Presentations at Conferences Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Scholarship is bond-free	• Be Singapore Citizens • Possess outstanding academic results • Demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and potential • Possess excellent records in co-curricular and/or community activities • Be applying for admission to a full-time undergraduate degree programme at SMU
Yip Pin Xiu Scholarship	All programmes	• Tuition fee waiver (after MOE tuition grant subsidy) • Growth opportunities allowance of \$512,000 to fund part or combination of the following: Overseas Community Service Projects (compulsory), Global Exposure opportunities that include Overseas Student Exchanges / Summer Programmes, School Study Missions, Case Competitions, Presentations at Conferences Participation in development opportunities offered by the Centre for Scholars' Development Scholarship is bond-free	• Be Singapore Citizens • Possess good academic results • Demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and potential • Be outstanding athletes who have excelled in sports at the international level and with the potential and plans to continue to represent Singapore and achieve further glory. These include those who have been awarded a medal at the SEA Games and/or are projected (by their respective National Sports Association) to have a podium finish, minimally at the SEA Games and/or at the other Major Games or equivalent competition • Have gained admission to a full-time undergraduate degree programme at SMU
SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS (SPH)			
Singapore Press Holdings Ltd	Any discipline except Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Architecture & Law Universities both Local & Overseas	Overseas: • Approved tuition fees and compulsory fees • Maintenance, clothing, book, settling-in & computer allowance • Return airfare Local: • Approved tuition and compulsory fees • Maintenance, book & computer allowances	• Passion for Journalism • Outstanding GCE 'O' and 'A' level/ IP/ IB results • Excellent CCA records • Interest in Current Affairs • Good Command of English or Chinese Language
ST ENGINEERING			
ST Engineering Overseas and Local Scholarship	• Engineering courses • Double Degree programme with one degree in Engineering • Other courses that are relevant to the businesses of ST Engineering such as Computer Science, Information Systems Management, Naval Architecture and etc Local & reputable overseas universities.	• Tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowances • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies) • Attachment/internship opportunities in ST Engineering companies • Possibility of sponsorship for exchange programme and Master's degree (within stipulated sponsorship period) Bond Duration: 4 to 6 years depending on the duration/value of the scholarship awarded.	• Singapore citizens • Excellent GCE 'A' Level results or equivalent qualifications e.g. NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate or Polytechnic Diploma • Outstanding CCA record with achievements demonstrating strong leadership qualities • Passion for Engineering and Technology
ST Engineering Overseas Scholarship (China)	• Engineering courses • Double Degree programme with one degree in Engineering • Other courses that are relevant to the businesses of ST Engineering such as Computer Science, Information Systems Management, Naval Architecture and etc Top universities in China.	• Tuition fees and other approved charges • Maintenance and pre-studies allowances • Return economy airfare (for overseas studies) • Attachment/internship opportunities in ST Engineering companies • Possibility of sponsorship for exchange programme and Master's degree (within stipulated sponsorship period) Bond Duration: 4 to 6 years depending on the duration/value of the scholarship awarded.	• Singapore citizens • Excellent GCE 'A' Level results or equivalent qualifications e.g. NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate or Polytechnic Diploma • Outstanding CCA record with achievements demonstrating strong leadership qualities • Passion for Engineering and Technology

The big picture

MES scholar Sheryl Tan Weilin wants to share compelling stories that take viewers on an emotional journey

HAZEL TAN

BEFORE she started her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communication degree at the School of Art, Design and Media at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Ms Sheryl Tan Weilin already had an impressive body of work under her belt.

While studying for a diploma in communications and media management at Temasek Polytechnic, Ms Tan interned for six months in the branding and promotions department at Mediacorp.

After graduating in 2013, she participated in an inaugural film production course by J Team Academy, run by director Jack Neo's outfit J Team Productions. Her team produced a short thriller film, *The Note*, for which she received two awards for Best Director and Best Editor.

Following that, she joined J Team Productions' social media channel as a video editor for four months before starting her undergraduate studies at NTU the same year.

During her first year at NTU, Ms Tan freelanced as a producer with record and entertainment company Hype Records so she could pay her tuition fees. There, she worked with local artiste Taufik Batisah to create his music video #AwakKatMane, which has garnered more than seven million YouTube views to date.

She also designed the singer's compact disc album *Fique*, as well as promotional posters and television commercials for music concerts held in Singapore.

"I have always been fascinated with the media and entertainment industry. I knew from the start that I wanted to be part of this exciting journey," says Ms Tan, 24.

With her diploma and media work experience, she applied for the Media Education Scholarship (MES) awarded by the Infocommunications Media Development Authority (IMDA). She was awarded the scholarship in August 2014.

The MES scholarship, which came with a three-year bond with the co-sponsoring company of her choice, was a launching pad for her career.

"The scholarship opened doors for me in terms of educational and employment opportunities," says Ms Tan.

She joined mm2 Entertainment, which co-sponsored the scholarship with IMDA, as an associate producer when she graduated last June.

The company handles the financing, production and distribution of films, and helps to secure advertising and sponsorships for them.

Conquering the digital space

According to IMDA's website, the MES scholarship was launched in 2003 to build and nurture industry leaders in the media industry.

Since its inception, more than 200 scholars have become part of the local media talent pool. These include film and television directors, game developers and visual effects artists.

The scholarship was revised in 2012 to include industry collaborations by matching scholars to companies directly.

While the MES covers tuition fees and other compulsory university fees, the sponsoring media company gives an annual allowance and offers a job to the scholar. The latter will then be developed as a media professional or groomed for a leadership role during the bond period.

All MES scholars will also be offered training, internship and career opportunities in editorial, interactive media, journalism, television production and new media engineering.

Currently, Ms Tan is leading a new start-up to help produce bite-sized content that expands mm2's reach in the digital space.

She says: "I am passionate about creating content for the masses. Over the years, people are consuming more media content than ever and the way they do so is also changing."

"While mm2 continues to produce content for big, medium and small screens, we are constantly exploring more ways to bring new and exciting content to viewers."

Life in pictures

Ms Tan's visual expertise and penchant for telling stories are evident in the various accolades she has garnered so far.

Last October, her final-year project for a visual communication module won the main prize at the Bio Art Contest (The 5th Theme: Virtual Life) organised by Gwaechon National Science Museum, South Korea.

Entitled Snap Nation, the idea was inspired by her interest in media and technology, and Singaporeans' fixation with mobile photography.

She explains that the project is a data visualisation series on the growing cultural phenomenon of ephemeral photography in the digital age. It was produced after a year's worth of research, design and execution.

Ms Tan recorded a total of 5,056 video clips from 25 Snapchat and Instagram Stories users over three months. The clips were then compiled chronologically into 45 videos to reveal the underlying trends, sub-trends and behavioural traits of its users.

"It is through recapturing what is gone that ultimately provides tangible evidence to better illustrate society's cultural obsession



The MES scholarship opened doors for Ms Tan, who has always wanted to work in the media and entertainment industry. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

with capturing the everyday, and how social media users are drawn to creating content in the moment," she says.

As part of Asean's 50th founding anniversary last December, Ms Tan represented Singapore in a four-day Dream Asean Youth

camp held in Thailand. There, she shared her ideas and hopes on media literacy and Asean with like-minded individuals from 10 Asean countries.

All stories need a beginning, middle and end, but to Ms Tan, the crux of a good story lies in

its originality and authenticity, as well as its ability to grab one's attention while allowing one to live vicariously through the characters' experiences.

"A good story should also bring viewers on an intense emotional journey," she adds.

GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, log on to www.scholarschoice.com.sg

ORGANISATION	COURSE/ UNIVERSITIES/ COUNTRY OF STUDY	VALUE OF AWARD AND BOND	REQUIREMENTS
SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN (SUTD)			
SUTD Technology Entrepreneurship Programme Scholarship	Students go through an integrated bachelor and master degree programme that provides experiential learning in Technology Entrepreneurship and Venture. Students will graduate with both a SUTD bachelor degree with a major in one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) and a Master of Science in Technology Entrepreneurship. Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	• Subsidised tuition fees for the entire duration of study (up to 10 academic terms) for the bachelor's and master's degree programme. • Full study-related expenses incurred during the one year's immersion in an overseas entrepreneurship programme in the world's most entrepreneurial regions – USA (such as San Francisco Bay Area) and China (such as Hangzhou). No bond.	• Open to all Singapore Citizens. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma or International Baccalaureate Diploma. • Demonstrate strong communication skills and leadership potential. • Strong interest in technology and entrepreneurship. • Entrepreneurial, innovative, dynamic, resilient, energetic, risk-taker and responsive.
SUTD-SMU Dual Degree Programme Scholarship	Students take courses in both SUTD and SMU over 12 terms. Students will graduate with both a Bachelor of Business Management from SMU, and a Bachelor of Engineering from SUTD with a major in one of the three pillars: • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore Singapore Management University (SMU)/Singapore	Covers the subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of study (up to 12 academic terms) and/or an allowance for overseas internship, overseas opportunities, laptop, books and stipend. No bond. However, based on the value of the Scholarship awarded, students will be obliged to work in a Singapore-registered company for a period up to 2.5 years upon graduation.	• Open to all Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma or International Baccalaureate Diploma. • Passion for technology, design and business.
SUTD Global Leadership Programme Scholarship	All SUTD students go through a common freshman year (Terms 1 to 3) before selecting one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	• Subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of study (up to 8 academic terms) for the bachelor degree programme • Full study-related expenses for the Global Leadership Programme at either Stanford University (Stanford Summer International Honors Program), University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley Summer Sessions), Columbia University (Columbia Summer School), Technischen Universität Berlin or Zhejiang University • Preferential consideration to participate in an overseas internship during the second summer • Living allowance of \$55,000 every 2 academic terms • Leadership development through participation as a University Ambassador No bond.	• Open to all Singapore Citizens. • Outstanding Singapore Permanent Residents or International Students are also eligible. However, the scholarship will only cover the tuition fees at the rate payable by Singapore Citizens, with the recipient having to pay the difference. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Passion for technology and design.
SUTD Asian Leadership Programme Scholarship	All SUTD students go through a common freshman year (Terms 1 to 3) before selecting one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	• Subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of study (up to 8 academic terms) for the bachelor degree programme. • Full study-related expenses for the Asian Leadership Programme at Zhejiang University. • Leadership development through participation as a University Ambassador. No bond.	• Open to all Singapore Citizens. • Outstanding Singapore Permanent Residents or International Students are also eligible. However, the scholarship will only cover the tuition fees at the rate payable by Singapore Citizens, with the recipient having to pay the difference. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Passion for technology and design.
SUTD Undergraduate Merit Scholarship	All SUTD students go through a common freshman year (Terms 1 to 3) before selecting one of the four pillars: • Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) • Engineering Product Development (EPD) • Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) • Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)/Singapore	Covers the subsidised tuition fees for the normal duration of study (up to 8 academic terms) for the bachelor degree programme. No bond.	• Open to all Singapore Citizens. • Outstanding Singapore Permanent Residents or International Students are also eligible. However, the scholarship will only cover the tuition fees at the rate payable by Singapore Citizens, with the recipient having to pay the difference. • Outstanding Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' level, Local Polytechnic Diploma, NUS High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Diploma or Year 12 equivalent qualifications. • Passion for technology and design.
For more information on SUTD Undergraduate Scholarship, pls visit https://sutd.edu.sg/Admissions/Undergraduate/Scholarship/Application-for-scholarships/SUTD-Undergraduate-Scholarship			
YALE-NUS COLLEGE			
Yale-NUS Global Leader Scholarship	Open to all nationalities. Period of award: 4 years University: Yale-NUS College Country of study: Singapore	• 100% subsidised tuition fees • 100% residential college fees • \$53,500 per year living and book allowance • One-time \$52,000 computer allowance • One-time \$510,000 overseas student exchange programme fund Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Simply apply to Yale-NUS College and you will automatically be considered for the merit-based scholarships. • No additional materials or interviews required. Applicants will be assessed in our holistic admission review.
Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship	Open to all nationalities. Period of award: 4 years University: Yale-NUS College Country of study: Singapore	\$519,500 per year towards subsidised tuition fees, regardless of nationality Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Simply apply to Yale-NUS College and you will automatically be considered for the merit-based scholarships. • No additional materials or interviews required. Applicants will be assessed in our holistic admission review.
Yale-NUS Dean Scholarship	Open to all nationalities. Period of award: 4 years University: Yale-NUS College Country of study: Singapore	\$57,980 per year to cover full residential college fees Bond Duration: No bond	• Open to all nationalities. • Simply apply to Yale-NUS College and you will automatically be considered for the merit-based scholarships. • No additional materials or interviews required. Applicants will be assessed in our holistic admission review.
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (URA)			
URA Undergraduate Scholarship	• Architecture / Urban Design • Landscape Architecture • Town / Urban Planning • Civil / Environmental Engineering • Economics • Geography • Real Estate • Environmental Studies • Mathematics / Statistics • Computer / Data Science Local and overseas universities in US, UK, Australia and China	• Tuition and other compulsory fees • Maintenance and other allowances • Support for student exchange programme and return airfare (where applicable) • Local study bond: 4 years • Overseas study bond: 6 years (5 years for China Scholarship)	• Candidates must have good academic results and CCA records • Existing undergraduates can apply for our mid-term scholarship

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Saving lives in multiple roles

MHA Local Merit Scholarship recipient Wong Xiang Yi gets to serve Singapore and the public in different capacities with the Singapore Civil Defence Force

HAZEL TAN

Singapore Civil Defence Force's (SCDF) mission to save and protect lives and properties appealed to Ms Wong Xiang Yi, so she applied for the Local Merit Scholarship offered by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

"I joined the Force to serve the public in a meaningful way," says Ms Wong, who was awarded the scholarship in 2009.

The MHA Local Merit Scholarship funds undergraduate education at a local university, and includes tuition fees, maintenance allowances, hostel allowances, and sponsorship for overseas exchange programmes during the course of study.

Upon the completion of their studies, scholars can start work as a Home Team Officer in one of the Home Team departments: SCDF, Singapore Police Force, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, Singapore Prison Service or Central Narcotics Bureau.

Ms Wong graduated with a degree in life sciences from National University of Singapore in 2013 and joined SCDF as a Rota Commander at Alexandra Fire Station, which is responsible for responding to fire calls and providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The 27-year-old was drawn to the variety of work opportunities available in SCDF. She says scholars can expect "reasonably frequent job rotations that will

expose one to various aspects of SCDF's and the Home Team's operations".

Saving and protecting lives and properties

In 2015, after one-and-a-half years with Alexandra Fire Station, Ms Wong joined the HazMat department as a senior staff officer (chemical threat).

In her new role, she helped to review and ensure that SCDF's HazMat response plans were scientifically and operationally sound, with a focus on chemical risks and threats.

The scholar has been able to put her scientific knowledge to good use in this department. In one instance, she helped to review SCDF's operating procedures on how to respond to the discovery of a clandestine drug laboratory.

"The operating procedures subsequently provided guidance to our ground crew, who responded to an incident involving suspected manufacturing of synthetic cannabis at an industrial building in Yishun," she says.

Occasionally, she joined the HazMat Emergency Response Team (HEART) in the field, responding to HazMat incidents and helping to identify and monitor unknown hazardous materials in the environment.

Ms Wong is unfazed by the high-risk nature of her job.

"We are very well-trained to manage these risks.

"In fact, we are probably the most well-protected people at the incident site after we don on our personal protective equipment," she says.

SCDF also provided her training prior to undertaking operational roles.

The dynamic nature of her job sharpens her mind and keeps Ms Wong on her toes.

"SCDF constantly has to grapple with new challenges. So, not only do I have to learn to be comfortable with uncertainty, but also be sufficiently flexible and creative to



Being exposed to the wide spectrum of SCDF's operations has helped Ms Wong's personal growth and development. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

tackle these myriad challenges.

"The ever-changing landscape in which SCDF operates provides me with ample opportunities to exercise my critical thinking and problem-solving skills," she says.

Being exposed to the wide spectrum of SCDF's operations, the officer has also picked up soft and hard skills that have contributed to her personal growth and development.

Continuous learning

In July last year, Ms Wong took a break from work to study for a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree at Duke-NUS Medical School,

with sponsorship by SCDF.

"My exposure to EMS at Alexandra Fire Station in my first posting piqued my interest in healthcare and medicine. My subsequent posting as a staff officer at SCDF headquarters made me acutely aware of the rising trend

in the number of ambulance calls we receive, and the need to constantly enhance our EMS to manage the challenges that come with an ageing population," says Ms Wong, who will complete her studies in four years.

She hopes to serve in SCDF's

EMS as a medical doctor after completing her residency training.

"I hope to shape the future of SCDF's operations by identifying opportunities to further synergise fire and rescue operations as well as emergency medical services," she says.

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It isn't just about responding to change. It's about making change that matters.

For most people who come to Lombok, it's the pristine beaches that bring them there. For a group of Singapore Management University students that came in the summer of 2016, it was for something far more dire. Once a bountiful paradise of biodiversity, today, the fishing industry is threatening entire shark species, and the ecological balance of the island as a whole. Our scholars were there to help organisations that provide local fishermen with alternative sustainable livelihoods, and in the process, experience an important world issue first hand by helping reverse the tide of overfishing.

SMU's scholarship programmes are made to nurture abilities and talents of remarkable young individuals like these, and to empower them to make a meaningful impact in the world. We give our scholars the kind of global exposure opportunities that enable them to develop a unique world view, including grants to participate in overseas community service projects and student exchange programmes with some of the very best universities in the world.

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