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Most people make fresh resolutions on New Year's Eve – and the one that Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Timothy Yap decided on during the 2012 Marina Bay countdown changed the course of his life.

That evening, the 17-year-old shadowed Police officers as they patrolled the area and used closed-camera footage to scan for security threats while working with other government agencies to craft contingency plans to prevent overcrowding.

The second-year student at Hwa Chong Institution (Junior College) had signed up for the front-line attachment with the Singapore Police Force (SPF) as part of his pre-university career exploration.

It proved to be a life-changing experience for the aspiring lawyer.

"The scale of the operations was incredible," recalls DSP Yap, 30. "In other countries, having so many people packed into one place has resulted in incidents such as riots and stampedes.

"Experiencing first-hand what it takes to prevent such chaos, and to maintain law and order in Singapore, left a deep impression on me."

Over the course of the attachment, the young man also gained "an unvarnished view of how people's lives are affected by crime" and witnessed how those in distress often turn to the Police first for help.

"Police officers are the closest to those who suffer harm when the law is broken," he says.

"It convinced me to uphold the law from outside the courtroom."

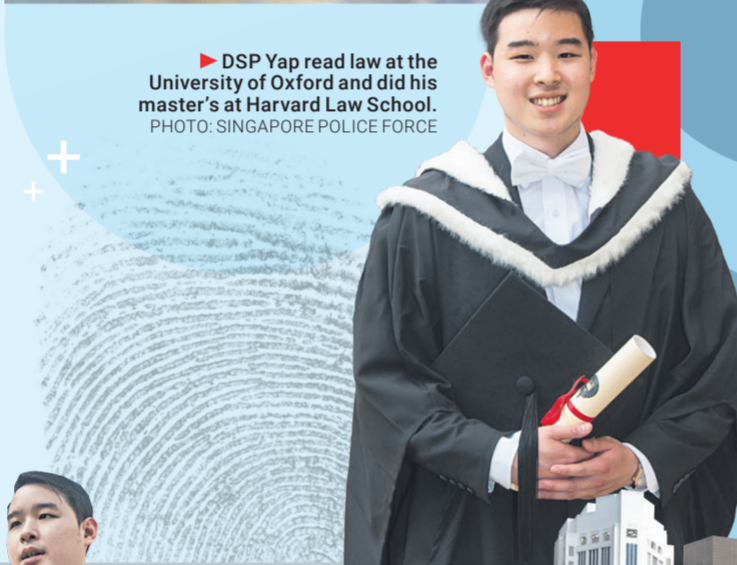
# Educated in LAW, keeping the ORDER

This SPF and President's Scholar fights crime and crafts policies that enhance public safety

▲ As Head of Investigation at the SPF's Bedok Division, DSP Yap leads a branch of more than 150 officers. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



► DSP Yap read law at the University of Oxford and did his master's at Harvard Law School. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE



▲ DSP Yap has been involved in policy and investigative work. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



▲ DSP Yap (second from left) at his scholarship presentation ceremony in 2013 with Senior Minister Teo Chee Hean and former Commissioner of Police Ng Joo Hee (third from left). PHOTO: ST FILE

## Legal insights on the front lines

DSP Yap's interest in a Police career led him to apply for and secure The Singapore Police Force Scholarship.

He was also one of five students, all holding Public Service Commission (PSC) scholarships, who were awarded the President's Scholarship in 2013.

Despite his new career path, he still chose to read law at the University of Oxford and pursue a master's at Harvard Law School, supported by his various scholarships.

"I believe that the law is an expression of society's shared values; they are the common rules that we abide by," he says.

As a law student, DSP Yap was also able to harness his legal knowledge to help Singapore. As an intern in the SPF's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) during the 2015 General Election, he was part of a team that conducted briefings about election legislation to Police officers who were deployed to voting sites.

Working with the Attorney-General's Chambers, the team explained to officers what constitutes criminal offences, the powers that Police officers are given to resolve situations, and when further investigations may be required.

"It was a fruitful experience applying my academic knowledge to help officers to carry out their duties well," he says.

I lead my officers to seek the truth and bring criminals to justice, so that they know that crime does not pay.

DSP Timothy Yap

Recipient of The Singapore Police Force Scholarship

## Solving crimes to serve justice

His groundwork exposure has also proved helpful in DSP Yap's current position as Head of Investigation at the SPF's Bedok Division, where he leads a branch of more than 150 officers to investigate crime and work with prosecutors to prove criminal charges in court.

One of his most memorable cases on the job was a high-profile chase of a serial housebreaker who targeted multiple landed houses in one day, including four in Pasir Ris.

To identify the suspect, his team worked closely with witnesses, including two migrant domestic helpers who had bravely confronted the suspect and secured critical evidence.

The intense pursuit culminated in the perpetrator being arrested at the departure area of Changi Airport Terminal 4, just as he

was attempting to flee the country.

It was a scene DSP Yap would remember for the rest of his life.

"When we discovered the suspect was about to leave Singapore, there was a moment when I thought he might have gotten away with it. Yet, we managed to marshal the forces needed to stop him," he recounts.

It is this truth-seeking mission that gives his career its greater meaning, he says.

"By piecing together evidence to establish the facts, investigators provide closure to victims and ensure that those responsible are taken to task."

"I lead my officers to seek the truth and bring criminals to justice, so that they know that crime does not pay."

## Policies that protect the vulnerable

Police officers do more than fight crime. DSP Timothy Yap, for one, has been critical in helping shape policies that protect vulnerable victims since he enrolled in the SPF in 2017.

As an investigation officer in the Special Victims Unit of the SPF's Central Division, he worked with victims to arrest perpetrators of sexual crime. Later, he investigated homicides, firearms offences and kidnappings as a senior investigation officer in the CID.

These rotations gave DSP Yap more insight into what victims go through during the course of the case. This included managing emotionally distressed victims and working out safety plans as a sexual crime investigator. He was able to contribute his understanding of their experiences subsequently in 2021, when he worked on a review of case-handling processes for victims of family violence and sexual crime.

Efforts to improve these processes – such as enhancing support for victims and better training for investigators on victim care – were published in conjunction with the international Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April 2022.

"There is a saying that the measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members," says DSP Yap.

"I want to be able to shape the policies and practices that keep people safe."

## ABOUT THE SPF SCHOLARSHIP

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



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(SPF)

SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Passion for economics leads to rewarding career

Ensuring the safety and soundness of the nation's banks is all in a day's work for this MAS scholar

Trust is the primary currency of any banking system and banking supervisors like Mr Joshua Sim play an important role in safeguarding that trust.

"We have seen what happens in other countries when trust in the banking system breaks down. Customers lose faith and start to ask for their money back," says the 26-year-old.

"In the worst-case scenario, this lack of trust could cause banks to fail and collapse."

An associate with the Financial Supervision Group of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), his responsibilities range from evaluating the adequacy of banks' risk controls through on-site inspections or off-site reviews, to ensuring that banks are treating their customers fairly.

A typical workday for him would include engagements with various stakeholders, including the banks and regulators in jurisdictions in which the banks operate.

"We assess the bank's framework for risk management in various areas, such as credit and liquidity risk, to ensure that the bank's policies are robust and can weather macro-economic uncertainties," he explains.

As Singapore's central bank and integrated financial regulator, MAS oversees all financial institutions in the country, including banks, insurers, capital market intermediaries, financial advisers and stock exchanges.

"A financial supervisor is like a referee ensuring that all the players on the pitch – in this case, the banks

– are playing by the same rules that MAS has set out," he says.

Apart from compliance, Mr Sim underscores that his role at MAS is fundamentally about fostering public trust in Singapore's banking system.

"It's about ensuring that customers in Singapore trust the banks and that the financial institutions are doing right by their customers," he emphasises, citing ongoing efforts to combat money laundering and

scams as well as initiatives to promote digital inclusion.

While MAS' supervisory dealings with banks remain confidential, Mr Sim points to scam prevention as one hot-button area where he has been able to contribute.

"I find it very rewarding to be able to help protect the hard-earned savings of Singaporeans," he says.

## Using economics to solve problems

Mr Sim joined MAS as a graduate officer in 2021 after acquiring his economics degree from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom on the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship.

His love of economics began during his junior college days. During one of his lectures, he learnt how MAS manages monetary policy through the exchange rate and its impact on economic growth, inflation and unemployment.

"I realised that MAS' responsibility of calibrating exchange rate policy was an important one," he says.

Intrigued, he attended an MAS scholarship session where he learnt about the central bank's other responsibilities, such as financial supervision and reserves management, and how decisions made at MAS have a real-world impact.

He chose MAS over other government agencies because he wanted to use his knowledge of economics to contribute meaningfully to Singapore.

While his economics degree may not be directly linked to his current role, it provided him with "a strong foundation in analytical thinking and problem-solving", he says.

"Through my studies, I honed the ability to simplify complex problems, and to use scientific methods as well as empirical analyses to arrive at solutions.

"These skills have been invaluable in my current work, where I often need to analyse complex data and make informed recommendations based on that analysis."

Having undergone internships across various MAS departments, Mr Sim says the best thing about the organisation is its supportive work culture.

"The staff at MAS are incredibly smart and dedicated. They are also extremely kind and helpful," he says.

"There is a popular saying in my department: You can ask a single question and get 10 different responses because so many people are willing to help you."



Scan for more on the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship.



Mr Joshua Sim's work at MAS involves ensuring that banks comply with regulations. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

"I find it very rewarding to be able to help protect the hard-earned savings of Singaporeans."

the hard-earned savings of Singaporeans."

Mr Joshua Sim  
Recipient of the MAS Undergraduate Scholarship

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- Senior/ Executive, Clinical Services
- Senior/ Financial Analyst, Finance
- Senior/ Accountant, Finance
- Senior/ Executive (Data Science and Evaluative Analytics), Strategic Operations Research & Analytics
- Senior/ Executive (Patient Safety), Value & Safety Office
- Senior/ Executive, Corporate Communication (Contract)
- Senior/ Executive, Office of Clinical Informatics (Contract)
- Senior/ Executive, Inpatient Operations (Contract)
- Senior/ Executive (Housekeeping), Operations Support Services (Contract)
- Senior/ Engineer (IT infrastructure), Facilities Management (Contract)
- Senior/ Engineer (Plumbing & Sanitary), Facilities Management (Contract)
- Senior/ Engineering Assistant (Extra-low voltage), Facilities Management (Contract)
- Senior/ Engineering Assistant, Biomedical Engineering (Contract)
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- Resident Physician, Senior Resident Physician
- Hospital Clinician

## ADVERTORIAL

# On the front lines of change

Through research and insights gleaned from her work as a caregiver, this MOHH scholar hopes to improve policies to better serve patients



▲ A senior staff nurse at Woodlands Health, Ms Mavis Tan is as passionate about caring for her patients as she is about research and healthcare policies. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

When her grandmother was hospitalised in 2015 for a hip fracture, the calming presence of the nurses who spoke softly and patiently to her inspired Ms Mavis Tan to become a nurse.

"Observing the nurses reaffirmed the nature of work I thought best suited me, following a personal philosophy of 'doing small things, with great love,'" says the 27-year-old, who applied for and received the Healthcare Merit Award from MOH Holdings (MOHH) in 2015.

The scholarship paid for her studies at the Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies at the National University of Singapore. Currently a senior staff nurse at Woodlands Health, she performs and coordinates general and specialised nursing care in an acute general ward which includes patients of high acuity as well as those with complex needs.

### Gaining exposure to the field

During her scholarship, Ms Tan also had opportunities to network with scholars from fields such as allied health and pharmacy as well as engage with working healthcare professionals.

"One of the highlights of this scholarship

is having the privilege to meet like-minded individuals who are equally invested and passionate about our healthcare system," she says.

However, Ms Tan's first-year as a nurse was not easy. New to the job when the pandemic

hit in 2019, she struggled with the strains of front-line work, recalling bouts of anxiety and difficult interactions with frustrated patients. Now in her fourth year as a nurse, she makes sure to take care of her own mental health so that she can better care for others.

There have also been many rewarding moments that keep her going.

"It's fulfilling when patients affirm you for the oftentimes thankless work that we do, like when a patient told me how grateful she was that I was her nurse," she says.

Her plans for the future include being both a clinician and researcher so that she can actively drive research on issues

facing those who work on the ground, which would, in turn, help shape policy and effect changes from the top.

"My big goal is to be an agent of change and impact the healthcare sector at a policy level through research so that nurses and patients ultimately benefit," says Ms Tan.

"I follow a personal philosophy of 'doing small things, with great love'... My big goal is to be an agent of change and impact the healthcare sector at a policy level through research."

Ms Mavis Tan  
Recipient of the MOHH Healthcare Merit Award



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Scan for more on the MOHH Healthcare Merit Award.

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# Steering the course towards net-zero shipping

By championing cleaner energy sources, this MPA scholar hopes to help Singapore achieve its maritime sustainability goals

**W**alking into the London headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in December 2022, Mr Kenneth Pang passed media photographers snapping pictures of a big and boisterous crowd of climate change activists. They were demanding the United Nations agency wean shipping off fossil fuels faster.

Mr Pang, who was part of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) delegation discussing decarbonisation policies with the IMO, says it was eye-opening to see people fight openly for a cause they believe in.

That incident made him reflect on his own role to help achieve net-zero emissions in the maritime industry. As MPA is the agency at the forefront of maritime decarbonisation in Singapore, Mr Pang feels it is incumbent on him to find solutions.

“Sustainability is everyone’s responsibility. Since I have the opportunity, I need to do the best I can in my current role,” says the 28-year-old sustainability manager at MPA.

Mr Pang was awarded the MPA Mid-Term Scholarship in 2017 after his first year at the National University of Singapore. His undergraduate degree in chemical engineering covered some aspects of sustainability.

Three years later, after he completed his Master of Science in Business Analytics at Imperial College London under the MPA Overseas Scholarship, he started work at MPA. It quickly dawned on him just how much more he had to learn.

**Being a pioneer in this field... will allow me to leave a mark in the industry.**

**Mr Kenneth Pang**  
Recipient of the MPA Mid-Term and Overseas Scholarships

## Seeing the bigger picture

Mr Pang is currently responsible for working with maritime industry partners to develop policies that would replace fossil fuels with alternatives so that the industry can achieve its net-zero targets.

Being an MPA scholar has exposed him to opportunities he never imagined before, such as the meetings with the IMO in London and travelling to engage companies worldwide.

“I got to present MPA’s initiatives to various high-level government officials and private sector senior management from around the world,” says Mr Pang.

“Through participating in various projects and sub-committees at MPA, I was able to understand the organisation and industry better, and present myself more confidently in front of others.”

As a sustainability manager, he works closely with other government agencies, ammonia producers overseas, shipping lines, storage providers, emergency response teams, research institutes, bunker suppliers and traders to ensure ammonia can be imported into Singapore.

With MPA’s push towards net zero in shipping, he believes that knowledge and skills he has gained from his current role will put him in a good position to make a vital contribution towards achieving sustainability.

While he may not grab the media’s attention with loud protests and placards campaigning against fossil fuels, Mr Pang recognises the value of his work in the fight against climate change.

“Being a pioneer in this field and developing regulations and policies that will be used by the maritime industry in the years ahead will allow me to leave a mark in the industry,” he says.

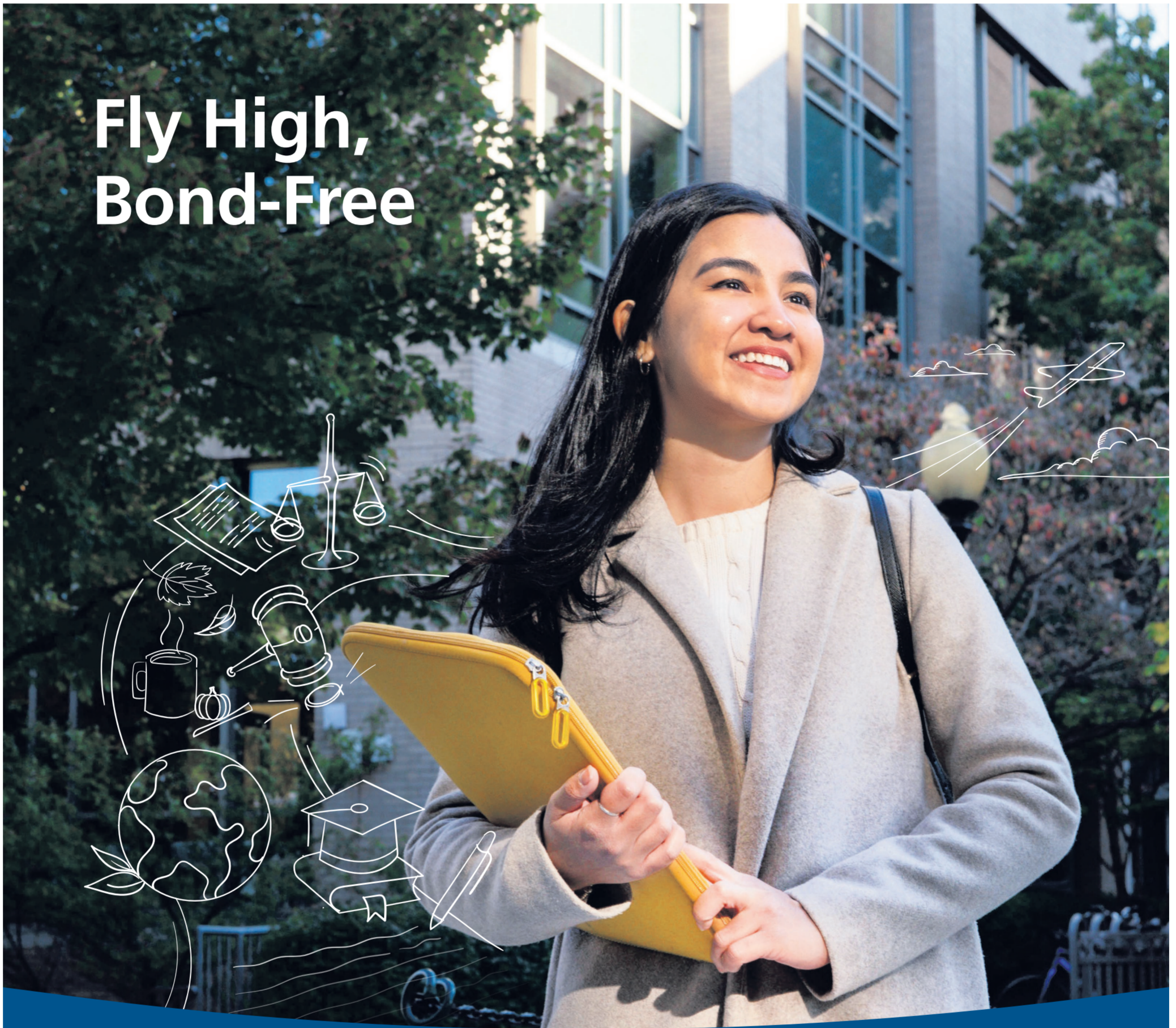


Scan for more on the MPA Scholarships.



Mr Kenneth Pang’s work at MPA involves developing policies for alternative fuels in the journey towards net zero in shipping.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

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**Eliora Joseph**

**Year 3, NUS Faculty of Law  
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An NUS Merit Scholar, Eliora Joseph is pursuing her bachelor’s degree at the NUS Faculty of Law. Her passion for advocacy and sterling training at NUS Law paved the way for her to clinch the championship at the WongPartnership International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2023.

With the scholarship, Eliora also had the opportunity to go abroad for an exchange programme at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington DC, where she volunteered at legal clinics to assist refugees seeking asylum. Aspiring to be a force for good, Eliora is committed to advocate for causes such as climate action, mental wellness, and the empowerment of marginalised communities.

**Applications open on 1 February 2024.**

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024



Mr Joshua Wong co-founded generative AI platform Hypotenuse AI in 2020. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Tech innovator runs AI start-up while serving bond

Singapore Digital scholar Joshua Wong runs his dream business while leveraging opportunities through IMDA's network

Artificial intelligence (AI) is here to stay, but its presence does not have to spell doom for those worried about being replaced by technology, says Mr Joshua Wong.

One can stay relevant by "sticking as close to the frontiers of this technology as possible," advises co-founder and chief executive officer of generative AI platform Hypotenuse AI.

The 29-year-old founded Hypotenuse AI in 2020 to create marketing material such as product descriptions, blog articles and social media posts in a

way that matches a company's brand's voice. The platform is able to generate these within seconds using their proprietary AI.

So far, Mr Wong has not had a customer tell him they intend to do away with their marketing or copywriting team in favour of his product. In fact, Hypotenuse AI's mission is to address pain points for companies with limited resources that are struggling to create content.

"We offer a tool to amplify efficiency for existing teams," explains Mr Wong. "Businesses can accelerate workflow, manage

content on a single platform and produce a higher volume of quality content."

Today, Hypotenuse AI has over 500,000 users worldwide, including Fortune 500 companies. Last year, Forbes added Mr Wong to its annual 30 Under 30 Asia 2023 list.

Mr Wong may not have predicted his success, but he knew from an early age that he had a keen interest in tech. When he was 11, he was motivated to learn programming and coding after being scammed in an online game.

"I wanted to retaliate by hacking into the scammer's account," he says. "I bought myself a C++ book and learnt how to program. As I delved deeper, I started to build desktop applications to help with personal productivity instead."

Later, he also did a stint with ShopBack when it was in its early years.

To further his studies, Mr Wong sought a scholarship that would support his tech entrepreneurship dreams without restricting his ambitions.

In 2015, he was offered the Singapore Digital (SG Digital) Scholarship by Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) to pursue a computer science degree specialising in AI and machine learning at the University of Cambridge.

"The experience I gained overseas was priceless," says Mr Wong.

"I hope the technology we built will unlock a new level of productivity in a way that benefits everyone."

Mr Joshua Wong  
Recipient of the Infocomm Media Development Authority's Singapore Digital Scholarship

When he received a job offer from Amazon after graduation, IMDA encouraged him to accept it instead of asking him to come back to Singapore immediately to serve his bond.

Mr Wong worked with Amazon as a software engineer and AI researcher for two years. It was during this time - when he was helping to churn out large volumes of product descriptions - that he explored AI models to help speed up the process.

This led him to start Hypotenuse AI when he returned to Singapore, where he is currently serving his five-year bond.

**Tech-ing it to the next level**  
IMDA empowers its SG Digital scholars to chart their own tech- or media-related path and serve their bond in any organisation and industry in Singapore.

Mr Wong says taking up the scholarship was the start of his exciting journey into AI.

At Cambridge, senior scholars advised him to focus on courses that would impart practical skills.

Connections he forged with peers and professors later proved pivotal for Hypotenuse AI's fund-raising and recruitment.

Today, Mr Wong and his team are paying it forward by grooming the next generation of software engineers through Hypotenuse AI's own internship programme.

"I hope the technology we built will unlock a new level of creativity and productivity in a way that benefits everyone."

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# On a journey of infinite possibilities

This LTA scholar enjoys diverse rotations and gaining dynamic insights into the public transport sector

Growing up without a family car, Mr Muhamad Zaki Hamzah Lee relied on public transport.

Over the years of taking different train and bus routes, he slowly came to realise how seamless his rides were despite the complexity of the system.

His fascination grew when the Marymount MRT station opened during his time at Raffles Junior College.

"It felt really special to be one of the first people to take a Circle Line train," he recalls.

That was also around the time he was considering which scholarship to take up. Driven by a keen interest in the transport system, Mr Zaki gravitated towards the one offered by the Land Transport Authority (LTA).

After completing his studies at the National University of Singapore, he joined LTA in 2017. What the mechanical engineering graduate had not foreseen was the different ways his skills would evolve to contribute to the expansion of Singapore's world-class transport network.

To date, Mr Zaki's career has expanded beyond engineering to include legal knowledge, data analytics and geopolitics.

to explore different interests and directions in my career."

Public transportation's rapid evolution requires a multifaceted set of skills, he notes. Developing various perspectives and skills is vital because public transportation is fast evolving as society and technologies keep progressing.

"At work, new challenges arise which no one has the answers to yet," he says. "It is up to us as engineers to break them down."

Having completed his four-year scholarship bond two years ago, Mr Zaki is eager to continue making strides in LTA. "I am proud to be a part of a valued pool of talent," he says.



Scan for more on the LTA Undergraduate Scholarship.



LTA scholar Muhamad Zaki Hamzah Lee began his career in engineering, but he has since broadened his expertise.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

**In the work that we do, new challenges arise which no one has the answers to yet. It is up to us as engineers to break them down.**

**Mr Muhamad Zaki Hamzah Lee**  
Recipient of the LTA Undergraduate Scholarship

The LTA scholar's first assignment as an intern involved commissioning new trains for the Downtown Line.

"To help me understand the complexity of LTA's work, my mentor handed me a very thick book of contractual documents," recalls the 31-year-old.

That experience served him well in his first work posting four years later, where he was tasked to prepare specifications for new trains for the Jurong Region Line.

Working closely with the LTA legal team, he became adept at reading and drafting legalese. This legal acumen complemented his engineering duties, ensuring the smooth procurement of new trains.

#### Ensuring driverless train safety

Mr Zaki's journey with LTA included a rotation as a data scientist in the Information Technology, Cybersecurity & Digital Services Group, where he analysed MRT ridership data and developed performance dashboards.

His role has also extended to geopolitics, participating in discussions for the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System Link.

Currently, as a senior engineer in the Systems Assurance department, Mr Zaki works with the Downtown Line's signalling system, ensuring that the driverless trains run safely.

He values his diverse roles at LTA, stating: "The best part about the LTA Scholarship is how it has propelled my growth by allowing me to do rotations

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SCHOLARS' CHOICE 2024

# Scaling new heights in workplace safety

This NEA-Industry scholar wants to help improve the working conditions of environmental services workers who clean up after us

Many cleaners work long hours on their feet across different sites in their day-to-day work. This is just one of the challenges that cleaners face.

"In Singapore, children are raised to have a negative view of the environmental services industry," says Ms Enrica Ng. "Parents would tell their kids to study hard or else they could 'end up as a road sweeper'."

The 20-year-old is one of the first scholars awarded the National Environment Agency (NEA)-Industry Scholarship when it was first launched in February 2020. Through her work, she hopes to tackle the stigma faced by the workers who provide valuable services to the places we frequent: offices, factories, eateries and even our residences.

While many of her peers have pursued corporate careers in the comfort of air-conditioned offices, she has chosen a job that is unconventional but deeply meaningful to her.

As part of the NEA-Industry Scholarship, she currently works as a management associate in the Singapore branch of cleaning and facilities management company OCS Group.

A major part of her responsibilities revolves around developing processes to ensure that employees, including cleaners, are equipped to perform their duties safely.

Ms Ng believes her job places her in a good position to champion the causes of environmental services workers and improve their working conditions.

"Their supervisors may be constantly changing, or they may not have a proper escalation contact they can bring their concerns to," observes the scholar, who joined OCS Group in May 2023.

As part of an external inspection and auditing team, Ms Ng regularly carries the feedback of these workers to the relevant stakeholders so that action can be taken.

A typical workday for Ms Ng involves visiting three to four work sites, out of a total of around 350 sites managed by OCS Group. They include shopping malls, semiconductor factories and even condominiums.

"I go all around Singapore – one site could be at Gul Circle in Tuas and another in Changi," she says.

At each site, she takes note of safety concerns or any lapses and sometimes conducts safety training for employees.

Ms Ng likes that her job is far from being desk-bound. During her studies at Singapore Polytechnic (SP), she was part of the SP Adventurers, an outdoor activities club which revelled in rock-climbing, abseiling and kayaking. Now, her active work life suits her outdoorsy, adventurous personality.

"I enjoy walking around a lot and

having different views every day," says Ms Ng, who rock-climbs after work to unwind.

On top of that, she also finds her work purposeful.

"I talk to hundreds of staff and help to ensure that they have a safe, clean and conducive place to work and rest," she says.

## Keeping workers safe

The importance of her work is clear to Ms Ng. "With safety inspections, audits and risk assessments, companies will be able to ensure that the staff are working in a proper manner and given adequate resources," she explains.

Ms Ng shares that part of her work includes checking if the work sites have chemical trays to prevent spillage, first-aid kits and other measures to keep the workplace safe for workers.

Another aspect of her work involves explaining to workers the importance of having safety protocols.

Her preferred method is to explain the reasoning behind the policy instead of being confrontational.

"Some people need more persistence, empathy and understanding to work out a consensus that will benefit them," says Ms Ng.



Scan for more on the NEA-Industry Scholarship.



## What you need to know about the NEA-Industry Scholarship

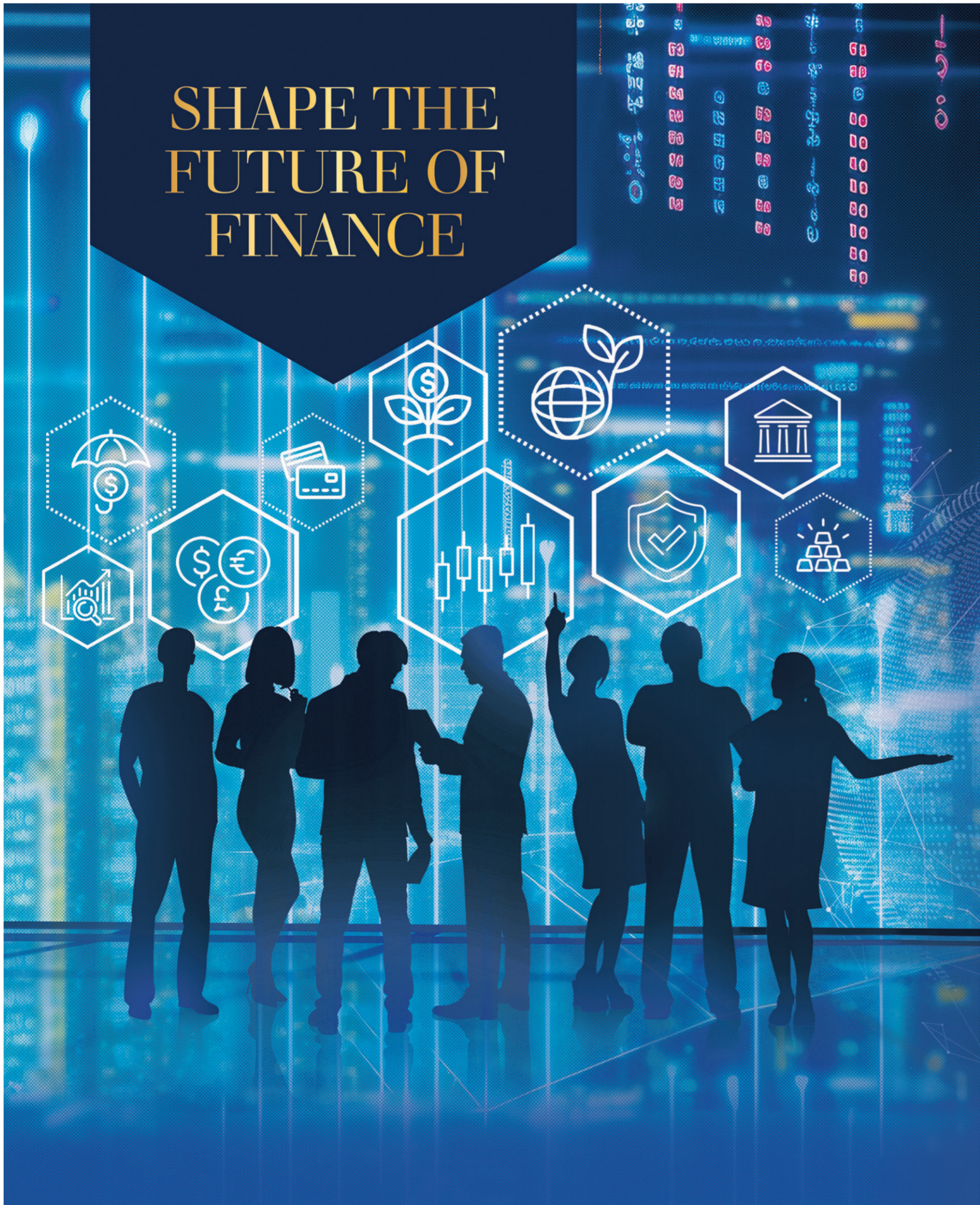
This scholarship is for young talents who are keen to build their careers in the environmental services industry.

After graduation, scholars are matched with companies in the industry and go through their respective hiring processes before securing a job with a suitable company.

Scholars will fulfil a bond period equal to the length of their study in their current course. Successful Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and polytechnic candidates receive an annual award of \$8,000 and \$15,000 respectively.

Having a role that is far from desk-bound appeals to Ms Enrica Ng, an avid rock-climber. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

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# From nervous intern to award-winning journo

He gets to ask important questions to put together stories that create awareness about urban development in Singapore

On his very first assignment as an intern at The Straits Times (ST), Mr Ng Keng Gene did not expect to interview a chief executive officer.

He was supposed to be shadowing a senior reporter at a workplace health and safety event, but she had left early for a lunch meeting, leaving him to conduct the doorstep interview alone.

"It was very nerve-racking being in a doorstep interview for the first time, holding up your phone to record, thinking through how you're going to phrase the questions," recalls Mr Ng, 28. "It was scary. I was shaking."

While he did not end up writing a story on the event, some quotes he got there were later used in another article he wrote on the accidental death of a worker at a construction site.

The event gave him his first taste of how journalism puts one in a position to ask important questions and weave together stories to show the bigger picture.

In 2016, he was awarded a Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) Scholarship (now known as SPH Media Journalism Scholarship) to study at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He joined ST full time in 2020 and won the SPH Young Journalist of the Year award in 2023.

Mr Ng stumbled into journalism by chance. Seeking a writing job between his time in national service and starting university, he applied for an internship at ST. Yet, he was invited to apply for the scholarship instead, where the internship served as a component of the selection process.

**"I appreciate the freedom to explore stories that I am interested in and not be confined to a job that is repetitive every day."**

**Mr Ng Keng Gene**  
Recipient of the SPH Media Journalism Scholarship

Having scored Bs and a C for his A levels at Anderson Junior College, he did not consider himself scholarship material. But his supervisors thought otherwise.

"I think the newsroom appreciates your skills more than your grades," he says.

His internship happened to coincide with the 2016 Bukit Batok by-election, and he eagerly jumped at the chance to cover.

Mr Ng, who majored in political science at NUS, found it exciting to attend rallies and follow the candidates on the campaign trail.

"I was grateful for such opportunities which factored into my decision to pursue journalism as a career," he says.

#### Marching to his own beat

In his current role at ST, Mr Ng reports on land use and urban development in Singapore. While his work also straddles other beats such as transport, housing, environment and heritage, he regards them through a spatial lens.

"Because of how land-scarce Singapore is, we always

have to carefully consider the decisions we make when we want to develop and recognise the inevitable trade-offs. It is imperative for people to learn to have conversations about these decisions," he says.

He believes aspiring journalists must have three qualities: an inquisitive mind, a thick skin and the ability to build trust.

"I appreciate the freedom to explore stories that I am

interested in and not be confined to a job that is repetitive every day," he says.

"It was only during the internship that I figured out what the value of news is and how to put stories together."



Scan for more on the **SPH Media Journalism Scholarship**.

As a journalist at The Straits Times, Mr Ng Keng Gene has the opportunity to highlight the importance of land use and urban development in Singapore. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



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# Making your daily commute smoother and safer

From maintaining rail infrastructure to developing talent, an industry expert shares career highlights at SMRT

Setting up the point care team in SMRT Corporation Ltd's rail system in 2012 stands out as the most difficult yet the most rewarding part of Mr Brandon Kuah's career.

Today, this team is one of the most vital in the rail network, overseeing the maintenance of the "points" and "point machines" that guide Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) trains onto alternative routes, or allowing two rail lines to merge together.

Currently comprising over 60 highly trained personnel, the point care team constantly monitors the condition of the points across hundreds of kilometres of track. This includes several quick response units stationed at all major depots, ready to respond quickly and address issues such as track obstructions and power supply loss.

Mr Kuah was tasked to set up the team when he was only four years into his career at SMRT. There were only three team members, himself included. He was from SMRT's Engineering and Management Associate Programme, which focuses on developing leadership and functional skills for a career in the rail industry.

Point maintenance requires expertise in two major departments in rail transport – signalling and permanent way.

In layman's terms, signalling is to trains what traffic lights are to cars, regulating the flow of "traffic" on each section of track. Meanwhile, permanent way deals with the

physical properties of the railway tracks, like rails and sleepers.

With no precedent to follow, Mr Kuah and his colleagues had to write the playbook from scratch: finding the right personnel and drafting entirely new processes, systems and workflows.

Being placed in a hands-on leadership role allowed him to make decisions which directly influenced the reliability of the point machines.

This was why he chose a rail career with SMRT, where he is able to see the tangible impact of his hard work.

"A career in public transport is very meaningful," he says. "It is fulfilling to see the results of your work being enjoyed by many people."

**New horizons, new growth**  
Early in his career, Mr Kuah never imagined that his responsibilities at SMRT would expand to cover so many areas within public transportation.

Now 36, he has since left the point care team and his portfolio includes project management, operations, planning and asset management.

Mr Kuah's roles have given him a more comprehensive idea of the scope of the network's operations and the public transport industry.

This exposure is vital in his current role as director of signal and communications maintenance on the North-South and East-West Lines.

"My job is also about developing our people so they have the right skill sets for their jobs," he says.

As Singapore's rail network expands, the public transport industry is presenting exciting opportunities that extend beyond traditional engineering roles.

The Singapore Rail (SGRail) Industry Scholarship provides an avenue for those with a passion for trains, engineering, technology and transport to be part of the talent pipeline.

Awarded and managed by the Land Transport Authority (LTA), the scholarship offers individuals a well-rounded experience as an engineer in both the public and private sectors.

Through developmental programme that includes various postings to both LTA and the public transport operators (SBS Transit Ltd or SMRT Corporation Ltd), SGRail Industry scholars will hone deep rail engineering knowledge in areas such as rolling stock, signalling, power, permanent way, communications and control systems.

"SGRail scholars will have the opportunity to broaden their skill sets beyond mechanical and electrical engineering, delving into areas such as digitalisation, data analytics and artificial intelligence," says Mr Kuah.

"They will have the potential to shape the future of public transportation and leave a lasting mark on Singapore's public transportation."

**"A career in public transport is very meaningful. It is fulfilling to see the results of your work being enjoyed by many people."**

**Mr Brandon Kuah**  
Director of Signal and Communications Maintenance at SMRT Corporation Ltd



Scan for more on the SGRail Industry Scholarship



Mr Brandon Kuah's responsibilities at SMRT has spanned across operations, planning and asset management.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA



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# Moving to her own beat

The NUS Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship is giving this undergraduate student the freedom to balance her interest in dance and data science

Ms Vienna Fiorella Anong's bond-free scholarship lets her chart her own path after she graduates.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

For as long as she can remember, Ms Vienna Fiorella Anong, 19, has always relished the freedom she found in movement.

Reflecting on her childhood, she recalls being a perpetually active child who "could not stop moving", which led her to join a dance class.

Later, when Ms Anong joined her secondary school's contemporary dance programme, she discovered an avenue for creative expression that resonated deeply with her.

"I fell in love with the different creative ways that I could express myself and tell stories through the art form," she says.

"When I'm dancing, I say all the things words fail to express using facial expressions and movements."

However, Ms Anong's journey as a dancer was not always smooth sailing. As her workload intensified at junior college, she was uncertain about the role of dance in her future.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do in life," she admits. "I also did not know what I was dancing for and doubted my abilities."

Her perspective shifted when she met Jace Kang, a prominent local dancer who invited her to join team Ikigai for the 2022 Super 24 dance competition in Singapore.

That experience became a defining moment for her. More than just a performance, the competition was a journey of self-discovery and growth.

It also paved the way for Ms Anong to apply for the Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where she is now a first-year student majoring in data science and economics.

A spokesperson from NUS' Office of Admissions says: "These scholars are uniquely well-rounded individuals who contribute actively to the performing and/or visual arts scene at the university."

**"I fell in love with the different creative ways that I could**

**tell stories..."**

**"When I'm dancing, I say all the things words fail to express."**

**Ms Vienna Fiorella Anong**  
Recipient of the NUS Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship

## The best of both worlds

Much like how dance has given her the freedom of expression, the bond-free scholarship is offering Ms Anong the space she needs to explore who she is and what she hopes to achieve.

She is free to chart her own path after graduation, with the option to further pursue her passion for dance.

As part of the scholarship, Ms Anong participates in at least two performances or showings each year, ensuring a continued commitment to the art of dance alongside her studies.

The scholarship also comes with a mentorship programme. Students identify and develop their area of interest, and staff mentors from the Office of Student Affairs will help to find or create some of these opportunities for them.

"The learning is usually more self-reflective, both in terms of

exploring different areas to expand the scope of experiences while developing more in-depth knowledge and technical skills," says the NUS spokesperson.

Ms Anong will have the opportunity to expand her dance skills in various ways, including solo performances, leading roles in group dances, and choreography. She will also be able to experiment with cross-genre and multidisciplinary performances, broadening her artistic repertoire.

Another bonus: The scholarship comes with a guaranteed overseas attachment. Ms Anong has her eye on universities in Britain so that she can backpack and gain more life experiences.

For now, she is embracing the present while keeping her options open for the future. She enjoys her data science modules and dreams of leveraging her skills in the sustainability sector, driven by her passion for the environment.

Simultaneously, Ms Anong will continue to refine her dance and choreography skills to become a more well-rounded performer.

"To me, the scholarship is what you want to make out of it. The most important thing is to be your authentic self and to have drive."

"So long as you have that, you can use it to steer yourself to a good place," she says.



Scan for more on the NUS Performing & Visual Arts Scholarship.

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# Fusing technical savvy with business acuity

The NTU REP double-degree scholar gets to meld passions in engineering and marketing

**S**ourcing for his own lodging and learning how to live abroad by himself while coding to build a dashboard for a client in Michigan. Using artificial intelligence (AI) to counter bicycle theft. These are just some of the adventures Mr Dhruval Kothari has had.

The 24-year-old is a final-year Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) scholar at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), pursuing a bachelor's offered by the College of Engineering and a master's offered by Nanyang Business School.

"The double degree allowed me to seamlessly blend my passion for engineering with the pursuit of a master's degree," says Mr Kothari. Students in the REP obtain both degrees within four and a half years.

One of the programme's biggest draws is a year-long exchange with an overseas partner university. As a scholar, his living expenses in the United States were fully covered.

He picked the University of California (UC), Berkeley which is known for its computer science programmes. There, he attended classes in computer security, AI deep learning and neural networks.

During his marketing module at UC Berkeley, he worked with other students to pitch a business idea almost every week.

"We did not just learn the theory of technology but also its application in the business world," he adds.

While in the US, he also interned at Danlaw, a global leader in connected vehicle and automotive solutions. The company designs and develops technology for smarter vehicles, safer roads and more efficient cities.

Danlaw collects vehicle, sensor and behavioural data to provide valuable insights into driver safety, insurance and vehicle diagnostics.

"With my team, I built a dashboard showing useful statistics about each car and pitched the dashboard to the management team," says Mr Kothari.

Because the firm was based in Michigan and required face-time with clients, he had to source

for his own accommodation during his 10-week internship, learning to cook his own meals and do his own laundry. "It really helped me learn how to be more independent," he adds.

#### Campus life at NTU

He had his first real taste of independence when he entered university in 2020.

The REP is a fully residential course where students are guaranteed a place in an NTU student dormitory.

As a member of university student club REACH, Mr Kothari has used his coding skills for social good. Together with other REP students, he worked on an application called KeepFit which gamified the process for primary school students to cultivate good habits like eating fruits.

"This endeavour was in line with my aspirations to leverage my skills in technology to create meaningful and beneficial outcomes for others," says Mr Kothari.

During a hackathon organised

by the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX), Mr Kothari tapped AI and computer vision to build a bicycle recognition database.

Cyclists can upload photos of their stolen bicycles and the program would automatically note the model and make. When matched against surveillance data, this would help the police narrow down their search radius and locate the stolen bicycles.

Although Mr Kothari's engineering speciality at the REP is computer science, he is also required to take compulsory modules in other engineering disciplines. This cross-domain approach has given him a solid foundation and understanding of the other engineering specialisations.

There is also a variety of non-engineering subjects. In addition to marketing and entrepreneurship classes to nurture his interest in business, Mr Kothari also enrolled in courses in literature, ethics and law.

"For example, we learnt about the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) in Singapore," he says. "This is useful when you work for a tech company and need to adhere to the PDPA regulations. It is also important that businesses not merely chase profits but also make ethical decisions."

**"We did not just learn the theory of technology but also its application in the business world."**

**Mr Dhruval Kothari**  
Recipient of the NTU Renaissance Engineering Programme Scholarship



Scan for more on the NTU Renaissance Engineering Programme Scholarship.



During the course of his studies in NTU, final-year student Dhruval Kothari even helped to build a bicycle recognition database for the police. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Saving lives, one breath at a time

MOHH scholar Sara Sim faces death every day, but these challenging encounters have made her cherish life even more

**W**hen the Code Blue emergency code is activated, it means someone's heart has stopped beating and the patient may be on the verge of dying. That is when respiratory therapist Sara Sim rushes to their side to help them breathe again.

"Wherever we are in the hospital, we do our best to get to the patient as soon as possible and try to resuscitate him or her," says Ms Sim, 30.

Most often, this means getting a breathing tube into the patient, though it can also mean helping with compressions for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or giving the patient oxygen using a device. It is a very fast-paced job that requires one to think on one's feet.

"When things happen, you need to immediately know how to rectify or help with a situation," says Ms Sim. "You don't have time to sit down and run through a checklist."

It can be very fulfilling when she manages to get a patient breathing again, but she points out that it is just the beginning.

"Depending on how long the resuscitation takes, you might have to worry about stuff like brain damage. That's more important than just focusing on the resuscitation itself," she explains.

Currently a senior respiratory therapist at Woodlands Health hospital, Ms Sim had been awarded

a MOH Holdings (MOHH) Healthcare Merit Award (formerly known as the Health Science and Nursing Scholarship) in 2013 to study respiratory therapy at Ohio State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

She decided to become a respiratory therapist after visiting a scholarship fair while she was studying biotechnology at Temasek Polytechnic. Her older sister was also going into the same line of work, and Ms Sim tagged along when her sister did an attachment at a hospital. That experience cemented her decision to take up the MOHH scholarship.

**Facing death, focusing on life**  
The job is not without its emotional tolls, Ms Sim warns.

The first time she lost a patient was during her first year on the job in 2017 at Singapore General Hospital. Though she had managed to establish an airway, she had to help squeeze bags of blood into the patient who was bleeding out too quickly.

All the while, she could hear the patient's family crying outside through the double doors.

"That night, I could not sleep. But the reality is that a lot of people who make it to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) are so sick, the mortality rate is pretty high. I realised I had to learn to let go," she says.

That loss hit her badly. Now, she copes by compartmentalising.

"Once I get off work, I try not to think about it anymore so it won't be stuck in my mind all the time," she says. "That way, I can carry on and provide better care for my patients."

What she does let herself take away from her work is the reminder that life is short and unpredictable.

"You should always try to cherish the people around you," she reflects.

Ms Sim went on to spend five years at Sengkang General Hospital, which she helped set up in 2018. Her role included working on simulations to check the viability of hospital workflow.

She took with her the lessons she learnt there when she moved to Woodlands Health hospital in 2023, where she is currently helping to set up the respiratory care department.

To do this job, Ms Sim says you must be someone who does not give up. She advises scholar hopefuls to do an attachment first, so they have some idea of how intense the job can be.

"Just know what you are getting yourself into," she says. "If you have emotional stress from seeing a lot of death, then maybe you won't be able to cope very well."

"But if you love the job, you will enjoy every day at work."



Scan for more on the MOHH Healthcare Merit Award.



Respiratory therapist Sara Sim's fast-paced job requires her to think quickly on her feet. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

# Leaving judgement outside the classroom door

This MOE scholar aims to create an environment where children are unafraid to make mistakes



Ms Seah Xing Hui aims to cultivate an environment where students feel free to learn without fearing ridicule.  
PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

**F**or Ms Seah Xing Hui, the classroom door symbolises more than just a physical entry; it marks a boundary where judgement is left outside.

She envisions a space where every student feels comfortable and accepted. Having a safe classroom environment will encourage learning and personal growth as students are less likely to fear making mistakes or being ridiculed, says the 22-year-old.

Till today, she still remembers a primary school teacher making her stand in class as punishment for making a grammatical mistake. Having come from a Chinese-speaking background, she had struggled with English and the embarrassing incident made her feel that she was “a hopeless student”.

Fortunately, there were more positive encounters than bad ones. Good teachers, she recalls, would encourage her when her grades faltered. Rather than dampening her enthusiasm for learning, they instilled confidence and made her believe she could do better next time.

## Aiming for change

Such stark contrasts in Ms Seah's educational experiences fuelled her ambition to join the teaching profession. After completing her A levels, she joined the MOE Teaching Internship Programme where she was attached to a school for nine weeks from January to March 2020. The same year, she applied for and was awarded the MOE Teaching Scholarship.

The scholarship offered various opportunities such as attachments to schools, financial sponsorship for student exchange programmes and

international practicum. Ms Seah participated in the Building University Interns for Leadership Development programme where she interned at the Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board. There, she was about to gain valuable exposure to the education sector.

As part of the National Institute of Education's Service and Leadership Training programme, she also had the opportunity to teach English, math and art in Cambodia, which gave her invaluable insights into the diverse needs of students.

She has applied to teach in primary schools after graduation because she wants to influence young minds at a crucial developmental stage.

“I wish to be the educator whom students are able to trust and confide in should they encounter any problems,” says the final-year student who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Education at Nanyang Technological University.

Reflecting on a professor's poignant advice – “Nine times out of 10, the story behind the misbehaviour won't make you angry; it will break your heart” – Ms Seah reminds herself to approach every child with love and empathy.

“Students come from different backgrounds and carry with them different stories. This insight has allowed me to reflect on how educators can impact students,” she says.

During her teaching assistantship in July 2022, she was assigned to shadow a student known for his disruptive behaviour during lessons.

Through observant eyes and heartfelt conversations with his teacher, she discovered that the boy lived with his grandmother, in an environment lacking structure and discipline. Initially perceived as mischievous, his actions were a cry for attention and understanding.

To foster a supportive learning environment, Ms Seah plans to focus on her students' strengths and potential while being more sensitive to their feelings.

Her classroom would be a place where students encourage their peers and not laugh at or mock one another.

By moving away from traditional rote-learning methods, she wants her students to take ownership of their learning journeys as well as nurture their ability to think critically and solve problems.

Ms Seah believes these skills are essential for success beyond the classroom.

The aim, she says, is to “build up students' self-esteem and confidence by helping them to believe in themselves”.

**I wish to be the educator whom students are able to**

**trust and confide in**

**should they encounter any problems.**

**Ms Seah Xing Hui**  
Recipient of the MOE Teaching Scholarship



Scan for more on the MOE Teaching Scholarship.

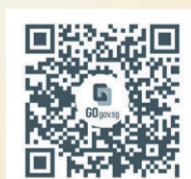
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The Land Transport Authority (LTA) is driven by the vision of a people-centred land transport network that connects communities and places. Apart from charting the future of land transport through masterplans, it continually looks at innovative ways to manage traffic flow, provide reliable public transport and advocate active mobility options as it strives towards a car-lite city.

LTA is on the lookout for future leaders who are keen to

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National University of Singapore

The National University of Singapore is a leading global university and Singapore's flagship university, known for its innovative and rigorous education, research and entrepreneurship. Since 1905, the tertiary institution has nurtured generations of leaders and luminaries across diverse industries and professions, in Singapore and beyond. NUS Scholarships are highly coveted scholarships

awarded to high-calibre individuals who demonstrate academic excellence, high intellectual capacity, sound character, strong leadership potential, and a passion for creativity and innovation.

NUS offers a variety of scholarships to prospective students, such as the NUS Global Merit Scholarship, NUS Merit Scholarship, NUS Sports Scholarship and the NUS Performing and Visual Arts Scholarship.



SCAN TO UNCOVER DETAILS ON YOUR PREFERRED SCHOLARSHIP

## SGRail

SGRail Industry scholars will have the unique opportunity to work on projects with the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and public transport operators SBS Transit Ltd or SMRT Corporation Ltd through a structured developmental programme.

Enriched by perspectives from both the public and private sectors, your career path will be nothing short of diverse and

dynamic. Choose from a wide range of specialities such as Signalling, Rolling Stock, Power, Permanent Way and Systems.

Expect to gain valuable exposure and expertise in the exciting rail industry and make a positive impact on the lives of people in Singapore. All SGRail Industry Scholarships are centrally awarded and managed by LTA, on behalf of Singapore's rail sector.



## Singapore Institute of Technology

As a University of Applied Learning, the Singapore Institute of Technology is renowned for its innovative, industry-focused approach to education. With close industry ties and collaboration, SIT provides a distinctive hands-on learning experience, offering applied degree programmes, some in partnership with renowned overseas universities.

The flagship SIT Scholarship recognises exceptional students for their academic excellence, robust co-curricular record and strong

leadership qualities. It aims to nurture well-rounded individuals and develop future leaders who impact society positively.

The bond-free scholarship grants SIT scholars access to valuable development opportunities and networks. Furthermore, the upcoming SIT campus within the Punggol Digital District has been designed to seamlessly integrate with the industry and community, augmenting teaching and learning with spaces that allow for stronger industry and community collaborations.

## Singapore Police Force

The Singapore Police Force Scholarship (SPFS) is one of the most prestigious scholarships awarded by the Public Service Commission.

It is awarded to candidates who have shown outstanding leadership qualities, possess impeccable integrity and have a strong interest in policing work to safeguard our nation. As an SPFS scholar, you will continue your learning journey in a world-renowned

university that provides intellectually, socially and personally enriching programmes. Afterwards, you will be involved in shaping policies to address issues on public law and order and play an integral role as a guardian of homeland security. You will also acquire investigation acumen, policy conceptualisation skills, as well as command and leadership abilities.



## SPH Media

Are you a curious, and persevering truth-seeker who is passionate about curating stories that impact lives? Do you have the courage to uphold professional ethics and integrity when the going gets tough?

You could give voice to the stories that need to be told. Start an exciting career with SPH Media through the SPH Media Journalism Scholarship. Upon graduation, you will join

one of the organisation's newsrooms and work alongside its teams of experienced journalists, editors, and audience specialists.

SPH Media's work is published in four languages (English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil) across digital, social, and print platforms. Many past scholars have advanced to leadership positions in the newsrooms and various parts of SPH Media.

## Woodlands Health

Woodlands Health (WH) provides care for the North-Western population in Singapore.

When the Campus is fully opened, it will have about 1,000 beds in its acute and community hospital which are housed together for better integration of services, along with almost 400 beds in the long-term care tower.

The institution offers prestigious opportunities to aspiring

healthcare professionals with a passion for elevating public healthcare. The scholarships provide the pathways to shape the future of healthcare and impact the lives of Singaporeans. Beyond academic pursuits, scholars at Woodlands Health serve as catalysts for positive change in healthcare as they embark on the transformative journey of redefining the healthcare landscape.



SCAN TO UNCOVER DETAILS ON YOUR PREFERRED SCHOLARSHIP



## The SPH Media Journalism Scholarship

Shape your story  
Shape the world

Be your own protagonist and write your own future. A career in journalism is more than a profession.

It's a platform to touch lives. It's an opportunity to shape narratives and for your story to be filled with discovery, empathy, knowledge and creativity.

Make an impact now.

Mid-term scholarships available.

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# Fast-tracked into a promising future

Contributing to Singapore's efficient public transport system, this SIT scholar commissions new trains for the Thomson-East Coast Line

University scholarships are reserved not only for top scorers, as Mr Jantzen Lee found out in 2019.

When he attended an open house at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) that year, he discovered that their undergraduate scholarship was awarded not based on grades alone, but on one's potential to make a real impact on society.

Intrigued, Mr Lee decided to apply but was not prepared for the gruelling interview with the Admissions and Financial Aid (AFA) team.

Recalling the experience, he says: "The AFA team conducted the interview and one of them, assistant director Saleh Omar Talib, posed so many tough questions that I thought I had failed the interview."

Despite his initial apprehension, Mr Lee was awarded the scholarship.

"I guess they liked my outspoken nature," he adds with a laugh.

**Delivering under pressure**

This opportunity led Mr Lee to SIT's Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land) degree programme (now renamed Engineering Systems), which aligned with his interest in Singapore's efficient transport network.

Mr Lee joined the Land Transport Authority (LTA) full-time in 2022. Today, he serves as a project engineer on the Rolling Stock Projects team, responsible for overseeing the

**"I will always remember what my mentors have told me: To always be learning and growing."**

**Mr Jantzen Lee**  
Recipient of the SIT Scholarship

design, manufacturing, testing and commissioning of new trains for the Thomson-East Coast Line (TEL).

His LTA job has striking parallels to his SIT scholarship journey: Constantly meeting challenges head-on to achieve high performance. One of Mr Lee's key responsibilities at LTA is to ensure that new trains for the TEL are operationally ready before being put into passenger service.

The pressure to commission the trains on time can be stressful yet fulfilling, and Mr Lee has learnt from his scholarship experience how to take things in stride.

Reflecting on his learning curve, he says: "I was quite a perfectionist and did not like to make mistakes. However, my mentors in the SIT scholarship programme created a safe environment that promotes growth and learning instead of fault-finding."

"Thanks to them, I am now less afraid to make mistakes and am ready to take on more challenges."

Mr Lee's experience at SIT was further enriched by the Integrated Work Study Programme, which combines academic learning with industry experience. Mr Lee says the programme made him operationally ready from day one at LTA.

He credits this development to Mr Saleh from the AFA team, SIT career coach Ong Gin Yong and his work

mentor Lim Wen Xin. Due to their mentorship, he received guidance in various key areas like soft skills development and industry best practices, and was exposed to new opportunities in the field of engineering.

"My work mentor told me that how much we want to learn depends on how hungry we are as individuals," shares the 26-year-old.

That hunger to grow was also stoked by being with like-minded achievers at SIT.

During his first year, Mr Lee attended the SIT Scholars' Camp, which helped him to identify his strengths and weaknesses. The Covid-19 lockdown had triggered self-doubt, but his mentors and peers supported him, reinforcing his belief in continuous growth.

"I used to believe that scholars needed to 'have it all'. However, I have learnt that it is not about having it all together, but about who we can become," he says.

With guidance from mentors and meaningful experiences at SIT, Mr Lee was able to overcome self-doubt and face whatever life threw at him.

"I will always remember what my mentors have told me: To always be learning and growing," he says.



Scan for more on the SIT Scholarship.



SIT scholar Jantzen Lee is part of the team who commissions new trains for the Thomson-East Coast Line. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA





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