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The nursing difference

This student upgraded her nursing skills so she'd be better equipped to help others

Nursing and its associated responsibilities — like caring for others and making a difference in their lives — holds considerable appeal for Ms Su Htet Htet Aung, a Staff Nurse at the Singapore General Hospital (SGH). The 26-year-old graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) from the University of Sydney in March this year. The programme is offered and taught at SIM Global Education (SIM GE).

Ms Su, who has been working at SGH for more than three years, says she has always been interested in the nursing field: “I wanted to do something in my career that is interesting, challenging and makes a difference in people’s lives on a daily basis.”

UPGRADE PATH

Accredited by the Singapore Nursing Board, the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) is a part-time programme aimed at advancing the knowledge and skills of registered nurses and educating them to be leaders in the healthcare sector.

The programme was a perfect fit for Ms Su, as she had already been awarded a Diploma in Nursing from Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) and she wanted to upgrade her qualifications and knowledge of health care.

“I decided to study for a Bachelor of Nursing because I wanted to advance my career after getting my diploma from NYP. This programme is strongly structured for nurses to develop their professional knowledge.”

Attaining the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) from the University of Sydney opened the door for her to pursue other options. Graduates who do well in the programme are able to progress to the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) programme as

well as other postgraduate studies.

“I’m currently doing my Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) at SIM GE and undertaking a study on breast cancer. I chose this course because it is a research degree. I think that research training is essential for any nurse because of the emphasis on evidence-based nursing. This means we learn to use research to answer questions we have about patient care and use these research findings to inform policy and change practice.”

Ms Su also enjoyed a payoff of a different kind: “I learnt advanced clinical assessment skills, leadership and management skills, research skills, clinical and patient education skills extensively.”

“My salary increased after graduating from the University of Sydney programme and I will be promoted to Senior Staff Nurse after I have five years of working experience.”

STERLING REPUTATION

Students enrolled in the University of Sydney’s part-time nursing programme can complete their studies in one or two years. It is fully taught by leading nursing academics from Sydney Nursing School at the University of Sydney and is the same programme offered to students in Sydney, but incorporates relevant case studies from Singapore.

The University of Sydney is a member of several prestigious university groupings, including the Group of Eight, which represents Australia’s leading research-inten-



Ms Su became a nurse to make a difference in others’ lives. PHOTO: KOH MUI FONG

sive universities. It is also a part of the Academic Consortium 21, a network of educational, research and industrial organisations in Asia, the United States and Europe.

PART-TIME FLEXIBILITY

Balancing part-time studies with shift work and personal commitments was a huge challenge, but SIM GE’s lesson structure helped Ms Su to manage it all.

“Classes are taught in the evenings so I was able to go for morning duty. There are also study breaks between the semesters. So, I can still enjoy my holidays and spend my time with friends and family.”

Determination and discipline also played a part. Said Ms Su: “Sometimes, I had to work the night shift after my classes. Determination was most important. It was my self-interest. It was my goal. No matter how busy I was with my duties, no matter how tired I was, nothing could stop me from studying.”

PRODUCED BY THE TODAY SPECIAL PROJECTS DESK

* MORE ABOUT THE COURSE

● Applications for the February 2014 intake of the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) awarded by the University of Sydney close on Nov 30, 2013. Applicants who have the relevant qualifications but no working experience are also eligible to apply. A briefing will be held on Sept 21, 2013 at 2pm. Those who wish to attend can register at www.simge.edu.sg.