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# Wider skill sets, better horizons

*Higher qualifications paid off for this ICT professional*

Driven by a desire to upgrade her qualifications from a diploma to a degree, Ms Evelyn Chia enrolled in the University of Wollongong's Bachelor of Information Technology (Computing), which is offered at SIM Global Education (SIM GE).

Ms Chia has long been interested in info-communications technology (ICT) and was already employed in the sector. Knowing first-hand what skills would help her advance in her career, Ms Chia opted for the University of Wollongong's programme with SIM GE.

The part-time degree programme equips students with a strong foundation in theory, analysis, design and implementation — core competencies that can be applied to a wide range of key areas.

## STRONG FUNDAMENTALS

"I felt (the degree programme) would add value to my personal profiles and qualifications," said Ms Chia. The programme lasts three years but applicants who gain advanced standing can obtain their degree more quickly.

Senior University of Wollongong faculty members conduct lectures while experienced local lecturers and practitioners conduct tutorials. Said Ms Chia: "The lecturers often shared experiences that are beyond theoretical knowledge, and this has benefited and inspired us greatly."

"I also benefited through knowledge sharing between my classmates about each other's area of expertise.

"For example, I had a classmate who was working as a Systems Administrator and he lent us a great helping hand when it came to assignments and exams preparation, in particular for the 'Systems Administration' module," she added.



Evelyn Chia felt the improved qualifications would help her career. PHOTO: KOH MUI FONG

Another reason Ms Chia signed up with SIM GE? "SIM GE's reputation and credibility," she said.

The programme's global recognition and the University of Wollongong's reputation were other factors that influenced her decision, and for good reason.

## CREAM OF THE CROP

The University of Wollongong is among the best modern universities in the world (and equal first in Australia).

The University is placed among the top two per cent of universities in the world, after strong showings in the renowned QS World University Rankings 2012 and Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2012.

These rankings are highly regarded as they rigorously compare universities across a range of important key indicators, including factors such as research excellence and academic reputation.

The 2013 Australian Good Universities Guide is also the 13th consecutive year the University of Wollongong has scored the maximum five stars in the Getting a Job and Positive Graduate Outcomes categories.

The programme is also fully accredited at the professional level by the Australian Computer Society (ACS), an organisation which helps increase graduates' employability globally.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Having the University of Wollongong's Bachelor of Information Technology (Computing) helped Ms Chia find a better-paying job as a senior consultant at a leading ICT service provider after her graduation. The skills she learnt while studying and working proved invaluable.

"Yes, it was a great challenge. Personal time had to be largely compromised to cope with the stressful work and study commitments. Great determination and self-discipline were necessary to make it happen," she said.

"Good planning and prioritisation were also vital to manage both work and studies well. The skills learnt during the course improved and strengthened my IT-related skillsets and knowledge.

"This has enabled me to perform my work in a more competent manner, and helped me to progress further in my career."

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## \* ABOUT THE COURSE

● There are four intakes per year for the University of Wollongong's Bachelor of Information Technology (Computing) programme: January, April, July and October. The University of Wollongong offers two other ICT programmes through SIM GE — Digital Systems Security and Multimedia and Game Development. A briefing will be held on 18 July. Those who wish to attend can register at [www.simge.edu.sg](http://www.simge.edu.sg).