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# Building up to a bright future

*Construction management is a specialised field with a bright future*

Skyscrapers are a common sight in Singapore and boast increasingly distinct features. But what's being done underground is also attracting plenty of interest. Projects like the Jurong Rock Caverns — South-east Asia's first underground liquid hydrocarbon storage facility — present interesting opportunities and a growing demand for skilled professionals who can meet such challenges.

This is where SIM Global Education (SIM GE), and the Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management), which is awarded by RMIT University, Australia, come in.

## WIN-WIN

Construction Management is a specialised field of study, but one that will be in demand as Singapore seeks to maximise its land use. It is also a path that opens the doors to a diverse career, something that appeals to Ms Wong Kam Sum, 25, who graduated from the programme with First Class Honours last year. She currently works as a Quantity Surveyor at construction consultancy Faithful & Gould.

The part-time programme lasts two-and-a-half years and dovetailed perfectly with Ms Wong's requirements.

Better yet, graduates are awarded the same degree as full-time students studying in RMIT University, Australia, and classes are taught by both RMIT faculty members and local lecturers at SIM campus.

It was well-structured, and

Ms Wong discovered that her degree complemented her work.

"As it is a part-time degree, a lot of skills we learned can be easily and directly applied to our work. It's a win-win situation, as we get to gain work experience and apply what we learn in this degree together," she said.

## NEW PATHS AHEAD

Already, Ms Wong sees exciting and diverse opportunities opening up for her.

"With this degree, a wide range of jobs in the building and construction industry become open to you — positions including Construction Supervisors, Contract Administrators and Project Managers. The course equips graduates with relevant real-world knowledge. Market demand is high as well."

"The programme offers a solid foundation for Construction Management, Project Management and Quantity Surveying. It also has quite a good reputation," Ms Wong added.

Besides learning technical skills such as cost planning and tendering, Ms Wong also learnt management theories such as construction management and the industrial environment, a range of subjects that were relevant to the industry.

Said Ms Wong: "The modules for the degree were designed to meet the current needs of the construction market. The course is recognised by both local and overseas construction-related companies. It is also accredited by the SISV

(Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers) and will be a good stepping stone for anyone just starting their career."

The lessons Ms Wong learned weren't just limited to textbooks and lecture notes either. "The lecturers shared their real-life working experiences and this often led to short discussions in class."

The RMIT's Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management) programme with SIM GE is a fully accredited Australian undergraduate degree and graduates are eligible for membership in the Australian Institute of Building, the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors and other professional bodies in both Australia and Singapore.

Should graduates like Ms Wong set their sights higher, they can also gain admission into Masters programmes in other institutions, opening up even wider professional horizons in the process. **PRODUCED BY THE TODAY SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM**



## ABOUT THE COURSE

● The Bachelor of Applied Science (Construction Management) has two annual intakes in January and July. Applications for the July intake close on April 24. Visit [www.simge.edu.sg](http://www.simge.edu.sg) for more details.

Students enrolling in this Bachelor programme at SIM GE can also apply for the Keong Hong Holdings Scholarship. It is bond free and covers the full programme fees, plus a S\$600 book allowance. To find out more about the scholarship, visit [www.keonghong.com](http://www.keonghong.com).



Ms Wong's degree opened a wide range of jobs for her. PHOTO BY KOH MUI FONG