



This is the 14th in the series where SIM Global Education students write their own stories with the help of The New Paper



■ Miss Cherie Choong and Mr Ling Chun Boon are SIM Global Education graduates who did Business degrees from RMIT University.

## SIM-RMIT Business degrees help these graduates in careers

REPORT & PHOTO BY DARYL LIM

### THE road to success was not all smooth for Mr Ling Chun Boon, 25, and Miss Cherie Choong, 22.

As they studied for their degree programmes at SIM Global Education (SIM GE), they faced struggles but eventually overcame them.

Their degrees are awarded by RMIT University, Australia, and Mr Ling and Miss Choong graduated in December 2010 and December 2011 respectively.

Mr Ling said: "I had reasonably good grades in polytechnic and applied to the various business courses in the local universities. Unfortunately, they did not offer me the course I wanted."

While still a polytechnic diploma holder, Mr Ling joined the Central Provident Fund (CPF) Board in May 2009 as an executive officer.

He studied part-time, and graduated from the SIM-RMIT University Bachelor of Business (Economics and Finance) programme.

He attended classes after work at SIM GE. Sometimes, dinner was just snacks from the canteen.

Part-time students often find it hard to cope with work and studies, and Mr Ling said overcoming the exhaustion was a struggle.

But he viewed it as an opportunity for personal development and self-progression.

### SELECTED FOR GRADUATE POST

In 2010, soon after graduation, he was selected for a graduate post as senior executive, and was promoted to the post in March last year.

He said: "Society has changed greatly, and so have expectations. It is difficult to move around within the organisation without the proper qualifications.

"The degree played a part in my promotion and gave me the opportunity to move up within the organisation, widening my job scope and taking on more responsibilities. It gave me fresh and bigger challenges at work.

"The promotion and results I got assured me that I had made the right choice in taking up the part-time degree course. The course also gave me greater confidence in analysing problems at work or in life."

Miss Choong, a graduate of the SIM-RMIT University Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) programme, said her studies helped widen her circle of friends and immersed her in school life.

"Without the dependable support of my project group mates, I doubt I would have been able to graduate at all," she said.

# Hard work to SUCCESS

Her time in school was not always a bed of roses, mainly as she had no accounting background before enrolling in SIM.

She graduated from junior college with a science subject combination and a degree in accountancy was considered a leap of faith.

She sought a second opinion from her father and, after thorough discussion, decided to enrol in an accountancy degree programme.

Miss Choong chose the degree offered by RMIT University as there was a balance between project work and examinations.

She said: "Being solely examination-based would have been too stressful for me."

Her hard work paid off when she obtained the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) scholarship upon graduation.

SIM helps in this process by providing the names of the top students who applied for the scholarship to CPA.

Miss Choong managed to secure a full-time job in one of the "Big Four" auditing firms in Singapore, and will start work later this year.

Miss Choong also felt her appointment as assistant treasurer in her church may have increased her chances in gaining the scholarship, and her internship programmes at various companies allowed her to gain industrial experience.

Mr Ling's and Miss Choong's success stories are

testimony to not only their hard work, but their astuteness in choosing the right courses as well.

■ Mr Daryl Lim is a second-year student doing a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) programme, awarded by University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, US, in partnership with SIM Global Education.

## INTERESTED?

**WHAT:** Open House@SIM

**WHEN:** March 9 (Friday), 2pm to 7pm

March 10 (Saturday), 11am to 6pm

**WHERE:** SIM HQ, 461 Clementi Road

### Bachelor of Business (Accountancy)

Date and Time: March 10 (Saturday), 3pm to 4pm  
Venue: LT 2.36

### Bachelor of Business (Economics & Finance)

Date and Time: March 10 (Saturday), 2pm to 3pm  
Venue: LT 2.08

To register for these or other SIM-RMIT programme briefings, visit [www.simge.edu.sg](http://www.simge.edu.sg)