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Beyond promotions and pay cheques

One student learned some valuable life lessons while studying for his degree

Benjamin Tan always wanted to give something back to his community and country, so he joined the civil service — a logical step for someone who wanted to serve his nation.

The 25-year-old wouldn't just be making a living, he'd also be able to make a difference. When he decided to further his studies, Mr Tan wanted a degree programme that would help sharpen his analytical and social skills. Grades were a priority, but so was expanding his horizons.

He said: "I wanted a degree from a world-class university that would challenge my worldview and push my thinking to new frontiers. I yearned to understand the science and complexities of leadership among people, and sharpen my mind."

Enrolling in the University of Manchester's Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Management, which is offered at SIM Global Education (SIM GE), was also a logical step for someone seeking a course that would give him the confidence to "step out into the world" as he put it.

A WORLD-RENOWNED INSTITUTION

Not only does this British university enjoy a sterling reputation, it is also a member of a prestigious association of leading UK research-intensive universities: The Russell Group.

"What attracted me to the University of Manchester programme was the University's reputation in providing a rich and immersive learning experience, in academic rigour and research," he said.

The University of Manchester is ranked 5th in the United Kingdom while the Manchester Business School has achieved the prestigious

Benjamin Tan wanted a degree from a world-class university. PHOTO: KOH MUI FONG

"triple crown" accreditation. This refers to accreditation from all three major business school accreditation bodies: The AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), AMBA (Association of MBAs) and EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System).

ACADEMIC-WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The school's Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Management is a two-year part-time degree programme that gives students the flexibility to balance their studies with personal and work commitments. And by taking the programme at SIM GE, students benefit from the cost savings compared to doing the programme on campus in Manchester.

Graduates are awarded the same degree as full-time students studying in the university's campus in the UK. Lectures are conducted by faculty members from the Manchester Business School while local lecturers conduct tutorials.

The modules are delivered one at a time, over a period of six weeks, a system Mr Tan found to be extremely helpful.

"The Manchester programme's modular structure gave me time to concentrate on difficult topics and concepts. Rather than divide my time across modules, I found that I could focus better on researching issues and material which are imperative for gaining a solid foundation of the subject matter," he said.



The well-structured programme sets the foundation for a rewarding education, while the degree inspired him to look beyond paper qualifications. Instead of just focusing on grades, he learnt to take ownership of his studies.

BEYOND BOOKS

Said Mr Tan: "The university also provided an environment for students to debate and share. I sharpened my critical thinking skills, learnt to speak better and present my thoughts in a more coherent, persuasive and well-founded manner."

As he embarks on his civil service career, he feels the university's proactive approach to education has given him the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed.

"I want my life to be a positive influence to the community around me in some way. My current work allows me to do just that. This global degree played a big part in giving me the confidence I needed to step out into the world," he added.

ABOUT THE COURSE

● The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Management has two intakes per year, in March and September.

Applications for the September intake close on July 1. A programme briefing by Dr John Byrom from the University of Manchester will be conducted at SIM HQ, Room 4.07A on June 8, from 11.30am – 12.30pm. Those who wish to attend can register at www.simge.edu.sg.