

the new paper

EDU STEP

This is the 13th in the series where SIM Global Education students write their own stories with the help of The New Paper



■ Mr Terry Fong Kin Weng (far left) and Mr Eugene Sng believe the IT courses offered by SIM GE equip them well for the working world.

Programming for success

Practical aspects of IT courses at SIM GE give students valuable edge

REPORT BY VINAY KUMAR,
PHOTO BY JOSHUA CHONG

SOME degree programmes at SIM Global Education (SIM GE) are turning the heads of computer enthusiasts.

These programmes are part of a range of information technology (IT) courses offered at SIM GE.

While they focus on the computer sciences, they also expose students to contemporary business topics and provide a firm grounding in marketing and management.

Instead of concentrating solely on academic theory, the courses also emphasise practical work to hone analytical and critical-thinking skills.

The business and management aspects of these courses enable the students to boost their career prospects.

Mr Terry Fong Kin Weng, 27, is an alumnus of the SIM GE-University of London (UOL) Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing and Information Systems programme.

He graduated last year with a first-class honours degree and chose SIM GE because of recommendations from friends and relatives during his national service days.

Mr Fong felt that the collaborative learning atmosphere in SIM GE was more conducive than the cut-throat academic environment elsewhere which undergraduates often struggle to thrive in.

He also appreciated the well-stocked library and the UOL mock examinations which prepared students before the actual events.

Students can also join the SIM Information Technology Club, an affiliate of the Singapore Computer Society student chapter. Club members can attend workshops and network

INTERESTED?

WHAT: Open House@SIM
WHEN: March 9 (Fri), 2pm to 7pm, March 10 (Sat), 11am to 6pm
WHERE: SIM HQ, 461 Clementi Road

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computing and Information Systems/Creative Computing Briefings
Date and Time: March 9 (Fri), 3pm to 4pm, March 10 (Sat), 1pm to 2pm

Bachelor of Computer Science (Digital Systems Security/Multimedia and Game Development)/Bachelor of Information Technology (Computing) Briefing
Date and Time: March 10 (Sat), 2pm to 3pm
Register online now at www.simge.edu.sg

with like-minded individuals and IT industry players.

Mr Fong, now a systems analyst for software house ToThePoint, feels that the skills picked up in the programme are directly applicable to his job.

He said: "I have to liaise with various stakeholders and ensure projects are delivered within the allocated scope, budget and time.

"The project management and planning skills that I've acquired help me plan my projects accordingly."

Asked what advice he might offer prospective students, he said: "Start early. Always have a head start. Don't wait until the last minute."

Mr Eugene Sng, 23, a final-year student

pursuing a Bachelor of Computer Science (Digital Systems Security) awarded by University of Wollongong (UOW) in partnership with SIM GE, concurs.

He has been selected for an internship with the Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies (CSIT). The internship is a final-year project option for SIM-UOW Digital Systems Security students in the final term of their studies.

GAINING EXPERIENCE

Mr Sng feels that the main benefit of the internship would be the invaluable experience gained.

He said: "CSIT has some of the best research labs in computer security in Singapore. If you want to have a career in computer security, I think doing an internship there is one of the best opportunities you can have."

Mr Sng, who is expected to graduate this June, is planning to build a career as a penetration tester, one who simulates activities of a malicious user to find out how a real cyber criminal would be able to access a computer system.

He said: "This degree has given me useful knowledge for my career, from fundamentals like computer programming to more advanced topics like network security and distributed systems."

The Nanyang Junior College alumnus chose to study at SIM GE because of its good reputation.

He received the Dean's List Merit 2010 award which was given to the top 5 per cent undergraduates that year.

■ Both Vinay Kumar and Joshua Chong are second-year students on the Bachelor of Arts (Sociology) programme from University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, at SIM Global Education.

"I believe that my education with SIM-UOW has equipped me with a strong foundation in IT security concepts, which allows me to pick up new technical knowledge and skills faster."

— Ms Yong Ru Fui, who graduated in 2009, holds a Bachelor of Computer Science (Digital Systems Security) from the University of Wollongong, Australia.

"I wish to become a good systems analyst. The subjects learnt in the programme for the past two years are very practical and useful in helping me attain my goal."

— Ms Yee Mon Htet Aung is a student of SIM-UOL BSc (Hons) in Computing and Information Systems.

IT and Computer Science Programmes offered at SIM Global Education

Awarded by University of London, UK

— Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computing and Information Systems - Full-time
— Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Creative Computing - Full-time

Awarded by University of Wollongong, Australia

— Bachelor of Computer Science (Digital Systems Security) - Full-time/Part-time
— Bachelor of Computer Science (Multimedia and Game Development) - Full-time/Part-time
— Bachelor of Information Technology (Computing) - Part-time