

# DOORS TO GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

## SIM Paves The Way For A Truly Global Education

Written by Sheryl Khor

As Singapore celebrates its fiftieth year of independence this year amidst an ever-changing global landscape, young people of today - known as the Millennial Generation, have a new path to walk from their forefathers.

While we celebrate the historic success of our nation and value the contributions of the pioneers, there is also a renewed focus on the new generation to continue the Singapore success story. How to acquire a holistic education to be ready for the 21st century?

True to its name, SIM Global Education (SIM GE) is a tertiary institute that emphasises holistic education with a keen focus on empowering students to excel in the new world economy.

This dedication to providing a holistic education led to the initiation of the SIM GE Scholarship in 2009. This initiative gives students with good academic results or achievements in sports and arts a stepping stone to pursue their career and life goals.

### Students of Excellence

#### A Flexible and Effective Approach



Christina on the left, front row.

"As a millennial who believes in living with purpose in both work and play, I enjoy being able to serve in my school community while having one less concern about financing my studies"

SIM (Academic & Leadership) scholar Christina Ong, 21, who is reading Economics in the University at Buffalo (UB) programme offered by SIM, explains that the scope and flexibility of the programme was a very attractive choice for her. Christina took a gap year after her 'A' Levels examinations to complete a six-month internship in an American technology MNC before enrolling in SIM. She describes herself as 'highly curious about the world' and the SIM model of education was ideal for her to access opportunities both locally and overseas.

Christina is currently in Lehigh University, USA, attending the Global Village programme which is a five-week study stint. SIM students can apply for the programme to experience first-hand the intellectual cut-and-thrust of global exchanges in a top foreign university. "I am thrilled to have time to explore the world while staying connected as an ambassador of Singapore and SIM," she enthuses. "From work styles, mannerisms to food and culture, it is amazing to experience the everyday together with representatives of 44 other nations."

#### A Holistic and Pragmatic Approach



Photo credit: Lim Sau Boon from Sport Singapore.

"I was attracted by the prospects of being part of an established and all-rounded programme that hones my educational and personal development; The University of London (UOL) degree is also one of the more globally recognised programmes, while SIM has a pool of professional lecturers who are able to share real-life insights from their industry."

SIM (Sports) scholar Felicia Lim Pei Ting, 22, who opted to enroll for the UOL Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Business Degree agrees that SIM's commitment to holistic development was a big draw for her. She cites events like the CEO Dialogue, SIM Open House and community service outreach as interesting platforms that have enabled her to contribute as an SIM Student Ambassador. As a member of the Singapore Women's National Floorball Team, Felicia competed in this year's SEA Games and added a gold medal to the country's medal haul. She also serves as the Vice-President of a local floorball club called Team U Sports Liitto FC. She credits her experience in the SIM GE Scholar's Network as excellent training that moulded her to be a more responsible and resourceful leader.

#### Empowering and Developing Students

Providing students with relevant, up-to-date information and empowering them to network with professionals and high-level personnel is also a crucial part of ensuring a truly global education that SIM provides.

As Christina describes, "It's perhaps unusual to be a student known by the CEO of SIM GE and SIM-UB Resident Directors and all the senior staff members of the Student Life Division within my first year of school." Christina feels that many doors and connections have been opened for her, and she views SIM as her home ground, to own and contribute to.



[www.simge.edu.sg](http://www.simge.edu.sg)



Besides the myriad of leadership and academic opportunities, SIM boasts of more than 70 diverse and unique clubs and student councils ranging from the arts-related like Dancesport and String Ensemble to sports like Wakeboarding and Tchoukball and even special interest groups like Board-gaming Society and Data Analysis Club. Creating a well-rounded learning experience is an important feature in SIM - allowing the students to keep the fine balance between academics and play.

#### A Sports and Academic Balance

On top of academic excellence, SIM values students who have keen abilities in sports and the arts. Tan Chun Leng, 25, who is in his second year in the UOL Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mathematics & Economics programme, is another sports scholar. An avid watersports enthusiast, Chun Leng competed in the recent SEA Games with the Singapore National Dragon Boat Team, taking home three bronze medals. He also trains



with the SIM Men's Dragon Boat team, which won the Prime Minister's (PM) Challenge Trophy at the Singapore Dragon Boat Festival 2015 - making it the first time a university team has defended their title for three years in a row.

For both Chun Leng and Felicia, the timing of the SEA Games this year was particularly challenging, as it was held in June, immediately after their annual examinations in May. On how he copes with the demanding schedule, Chun Leng explains, "The flexible education system and timetable of SIM makes balancing schoolwork and sports training a lot easier - I can choose my classes to avoid clashes with my training sessions."

The training sessions were equally intense for Felicia. "It was a really mentally and physically exhausting period for me to juggle both my studies and floorball training. But looking back, the hard work was all worthwhile," she recalls.

#### SIM Global Education

A truly global graduate should be able to hold his or her own in this borderless world. SIM continues to facilitate this for its students by its holistic approach to campus life and academics, and even for those who may want to further their education through its many postgraduate programmes targeted at working professionals.



**SIM GE OPEN HOUSE**  
19 September, 11am to 5pm



Experience first-hand the campus buzz during our Open House! Learn more about our programmes and scholarships. A Parent Info Seminar will also be held on the same day at 9am.

For more information, check out [www.simge.edu.sg](http://www.simge.edu.sg)