

Get the EDGE in EMPLOYABILITY

As employment opportunities evolve in our increasingly global economy, the competition for jobs also gets fiercer. At SIM Global Education (SIM GE), students can graduate with a unique global edge - one that combines a holistic academic and student life experience, adaptability and strong focus on student development geared towards global employability.



Career Connect - an interactive space for students

Through a wide range of initiatives, SIM GE provides students and employers with a comprehensive strategy for talent management and acquisition. Reaching out, SIM GE works with industry partners such as PwC, DHL, Great Eastern, Uniqlo and Educare in engaging speakers for talks, mentorship programmes and internship opportunities. Students also have a wealth of internal opportunities for career training and guidance, especially through SIM GE's Career Development Office. In particular, Career Connect - an interactive space for students to seek

SIM GE Creates Active Links For Employment Opportunities And Talent Acquisition

written by Sheryl Khor

assistance on employability, connects students and employers through enhanced out-of-classroom programmes, talent development and overseas internships designed to give students the global edge.

On the importance of these out-of-classroom experiences, Moira Lesslar, Assistant Director of the SIM GE Career Development Office says, "A degree gives students a potential outcome of employment. Activities beyond the classroom give students much needed exposure, nuanced learning and soft skills, all of which create an impact on their employability."

This is further enhanced through SIM GE's vibrant student life and varied student body. With a diverse student population of around 20,000 students from over 40 countries, SIM GE generates a conducive learning and social environment for this generation of global talents. "Our student life framework includes career development, global learning, leadership and development, scholarship, student clubs and internships," explains Dr Lee Kwok Cheong, chief executive officer of SIM GE. He says that the aim is for students to have the ability to relate their learning experiences in a manner that positions them with an edge. "Our students will have the benefit of owning their personal portfolios of academic performance and extra-curricular performance, which will be beneficial in showcasing their competency to potential employers or investors."

DEVELOPING YOUNG TALENTS

Final year students Nur Liza Abd Latif, 22, Agoncillo Angelica Marie Barcala, 20 and Lina, 21, who are pursuing an SIM-University of Birmingham degree in Business Management with Communications, were placed under the Career Development Office's Talent Development Programme (TDP). The programme aims to bridge SIM GE students and graduates to the realities of the working world and enhance their competencies at the same time.

The group interned in different capacities within the school's marketing department, gaining hands-on expertise. "Having to experience the life

of a journalist helped me to realise my potential. I was lucky to work under the guidance of the mentors," quipped Angelica. Liza and Lina worked on organising SIM GE events. "We were able to put to practice the knowledge and skills learnt during our course, such as taking videos, to inform visitors about the activities and interviewing the audience," they explained. "We also had to do things differently - to find new angles and creative captions on the spot." Despite the challenges of real-time demands, the students found the process to be fun and enriching, with a balance of guidance and autonomy provided by staff mentors.

Besides the TDP, the Career Development Office works with companies from SMEs to MNCs such as Citibank, DHL, Accenture, NCS and Asia Pacific Breweries Singapore (APB) on a range of internship positions.



Khairul Fahmi

Khairul Fahmi, 25, a final-year student pursuing a Marketing degree with the University of Southampton, recently completed a 24-week internship at Nielsen under its Fast Forward Internship Programme. "The school provides us with opportunities to attend networking events and apply for many positions. Although my internship was self-sourced, attending those



SIM GE Career & Internship Fair 2016

events and interviews allowed me to better prepare myself," credits Khairul, who was assigned to the Consumer Insights department during his stint with the global marketing research firm. "We could also attend career workshops where our resume writing skills and interview skills were honed in order to give us an edge in securing our placements. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to work with other student leaders to pioneer the Data Analysis Club, all of which were really helpful for me in securing a placement with Nielsen."

SIM GE students also have the opportunity to learn from mentors and gain valuable real-life insights into the global workplace. Project Protégé, a collaborative partnership between the Career Development office, alumni mentors and students has seen benefits in enhancing students' employability and employer engagement, with alumni from diverse industries investing their time in the next generation. Alumnus Ryan Lim Fangyuan, from SIM-RMIT University's class of 2015, was able to hone his skills in the global workplace when he secured a valuable six-month overseas internship with Lenovo Beijing with the advice of his mentor.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the avenues of personal career training offered to students, SIM GE's holistic approach to education includes exposure to specialised career events such as the CEO Forum leadership series and Industry Networking Nights. Career Chapters, a student-centric platform covering six sectors with 20 career chapters, organises industry engagement and networking

events which seek to immerse students in best practices and mentorship from senior industry practitioners. It also helps to better streamline and develop specialised career interests of like-minded students.

The Career & Internship Fair is a key annual networking event. This year's event, held on March 17 at the SIM Headquarters, involved about 70 companies from diverse industries in the private and public sectors such as DBS Bank Ltd, Standard Chartered Bank (Singapore) Limited, MINDEF, Central Provident Fund Board and Singapore Armed Forces. Students were able to interact with hiring managers and prospective employers, while assessing their suitability for a particular industry.

With a well-rounded and comprehensive strategy that hands both employers and potential employees a win-win situation, SIM GE continues to focus on training its students to gain a global employability edge. "At the end of the day, it's not just what we learn from textbooks, but how we apply both hard and soft skills that matter," says Khairul. "What I've gained at SIM GE is something of real value, and not just a certificate that I will be graduating with." ▲

UPCOMING
EVENTS

SEP
17
SATURDAY

OPEN HOUSE@SIM GE
Time: 10am to 5pm | Venue: SIM HQ

SEP
17
SATURDAY

PARENT INFO SEMINAR
Time: 10am to 12pm | Venue: SIM HQ

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