

Craft a new career in IT

The NUS-ISS Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis equips non-IT graduates with skills in information technology

Suresh Nair

MR AYE Shwe clinched his dream job, thanks to the NUS-ISS Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis (SA) programme, which allows non-IT (information technology) graduates to craft a refreshingly new career in the IT field.

The 13-month full-time programme at National University of Singapore's (NUS) Institute of Systems Science (ISS) offers hands-on experience and equipped Mr Shwe with the latest IT knowledge and skills.

After graduation, he joined Fullerton Healthcare as a systems analyst.

Says Dr Leong Mun Kew, deputy director of Institute of Systems Science (ISS): "ISS designed the SA programme primarily for non-IT graduates to craft a new career in IT."

"But in recent years, many graduates have also joined the programme to sharpen their IT skills to meet the needs of local industry."

He adds that students have the option to focus on mobile programming and web application development, which are in strong demand by local companies.

In addition, the SA curriculum is practitioner-oriented, where lectures are augmented by workshops, laboratory sessions and group projects.

These provide students with technical and professional grounding for a 20-week industrial attachment (IA) at the end of the programme.

"The IA is a very important part of the curriculum as the students need to quickly adapt to companies' working environment, pick up new technical skills and domain knowledge, propose feasible IT solutions and, most of all, develop and deliver the solution to the satisfaction of their users," he says.

During Mr Shwe's internship, which was made possible by the Singapore International Foundation, the Myanmar student worked on Java API web service for CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System.

He found an "exceptional tutor" in Ms Tharana Azeem, who is an alumna of the same programme.

She says: "The NUS-ISS goes beyond the normal IT education because it grooms people for the professional world. The course requires a lot of hands-on work that simulates the real world with exactly the same kind of challenges."

Many graduates have joined the programme to sharpen their IT skills to meet the needs of local industry, says Dr Leong (far right).
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