

# Great value-add

The NUS-ISS Master of Technology programme equips Mr Nasri Najib with relevant knowledge

**Mike Lee**

JUGGLING postgraduate studies with work and other commitments helped Mr Nasri Najib land a new role in finance technology.

Mr Nasri, 32, who completed the NUS-ISS Master of Technology programme this year, now works with Murex, a multinational company providing trading, risk management and processing solutions to major local and international banks.

The programme has been offered at the Institute of Systems Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS-ISS) since 1996. Besides Mr Nasri's specialisation in Software Engineering, the other programmes are Knowledge Engineering and the newly launched Enterprise Business Analytics.

Part-time classes span two-and-a-half years, including projects based on industry work. Prospective students can also take up full-time classes over one-and-a-half years, including an eight-month internship.

## Practical approach

Dr Leong Mun Kew, deputy direc-



**Mr Nasri has landed a new role in finance technology.**

PHOTO: NASRI NAJIB

job from beginning to end, and not just pieces here and there you might find in the textbook.

"Our staff, who have many years of industry experience, can share with the students real working experiences and not textbook answers."

Mr Nasri recalls that soon into his part-time studies, he felt more confident in his field.

"I was picking up valuable knowledge that is well distilled by the NUS-ISS lecturers, bringing

Group Architecture Framework) gave him the confidence to plunge into the job market.

Besides the modules, Mr Nasri also enjoyed the final project. He found his team cohesive and effective. "We cooperated extremely well and complemented each other in terms of our skills and expertise," he says.

Lecturers were understanding of the part-time students' other commitments, and gave "an unimaginable level of support". Mr Nasri, who was planning his marriage on top of community service and reservist commitments, also found much support from the NUS-ISS admin team.

## Making the right choice

Mr Nasri chose the NUS-ISS programme for its industry-relevant modules.

"The value that can be achieved from NUS-ISS programme outweighs the monetary investment," he says. "There is so much one can learn from the myriad of modules on offer."

His team lead from his former employer, IBM, was also a graduate of the programme, and shared with Mr Nasri his positive experi-

tor of NUS-ISS, says it is a graduate programme “for practitioners by practitioners”.

He says: “When NUS-ISS develops a curriculum, we make sure to engage information technology (IT) leaders and experienced practitioners in the field to understand their pain-points, their problems and their issues.

“We want to ensure that the use of the curriculum or the use of technologies we teach students cover what is needed to do the

me up to speed with the rapidly changing domain of IT,” he says.

“The skills were of practical use and applicable to many firms and industries, and this cross-industry application is invaluable. Furthermore, the lecturers taught us the principles so the knowledge can be evergreen and I appreciate their efforts in assisting us to be always relevant.”

Knowledge from modules such as core programming, IT outsourcing, TOGAF (The Open

ences. In addition, before his master’s programme, Mr Nasri had taken up, and benefited from, a short professional development course at NUS-ISS.

He was also drawn to the history and heritage of NUS and its vibrant campus life.

All in all, Mr Nasri says he found much value-add from the programme.

“The network of friends I made is valuable as we share our industry experiences,” he says.