Wired for success

NUS-ISIS offers graduate programmes for professionals who want to make a career switch or enhance their IT knowledge

Rachel Chan

AN INTEREST in e-publishing coupled with exposure to low short courses related to information technology (IT) sparked Mr Adam Khoo’s interest in IT. This spurred him to pursue a Graduate De-

gree in Computing from the National University of Singapore last year.

The skills he acquired in programming and project management, he believed, helped to lay the foundation in his IT career and engage colleagues across different roles and functions.

Hands-on approach

With a hands-on approach, the programme offers more than theory to provide students with a strong foundation in systems analysis, pro-

gramming and other soft skills critical for the industry.

“IT professionals work on software, but they need to be aware of the processes the software supports,” Mr Khoo said.

“The lectures at NUS-ISIS went beyond the syllabus by providing case studies and ex-

amples. They were approachable and willing to address any queries I had,” says Mr Sia, 62.

While pursuing his graduate diploma, Mr Sia undertook a five-month internship at Cognizant, a global IT Services and Business Process Outsourcing firm. On his return from the internship in February, he was offered a position in the company as a business process analyst and software engineer.

He manages client requirements and is responsible for engaging government agencies by assessing their Government needs and recom-

mending processes to enhance their business operations.

Mr Khoo’s supervisor Wong Chia Loo, senior lead software engineer for Solutions & Services, was impressed by his foundation in IT and ability to contribute even during the initial stage.

“Says Mr Wong: “He immersed at our organisa-
tion prior to coming on board, so he was al-
ready familiar with our corporate culture and way of doing things.”

The eight-month, full-time, part-time CICTA Pro-

gramme at NUS-ISIS “The CICTA programme can help someone without IT knowledge to transit into the role of an IT professional in a very short period of time. “Seven out of the 15 months are dedicated to very intensive training in terms of lectures, workshops and projects. “We work closely with industries and com-

panies to provide relevant training for providing them with student interns. “Throughout the duration of the internship, students can gain real-life experience as an IT professional.”

Relevant to industry needs

After working for 16 years as a solutions archi-
tect at Maxis/Telekom, Mr Lee (45) decided to pursue a Master of Technology in Enterprise Business Analytics (MTEB Analytics) from NUS-

ISIS. He had gone through the Microsoft .NET professional Diploma at NUS-ISIS previously, he was confident in the quality of the lectures and comfortable with the delivery pace of the course.

He also appreciated how the industry-based courses were relevant to the needs of the industry.

As the classes are conducted on Saturdays, this did not interfere with his job, which often required late-night shifts.

“I was able to work as an intern for overseas projects late into the night. Mr Lee recalls. “One of the memorable guest lecturers was the Asia-Pacific head of data ana-
lytics, strategy and reporting at a large foreign bank who gave a lecture on the application of data analytics to financial products and insur-
ance.”

This gave him insights into the practical appli-
cation of data analytics in the finance industry.

“I enjoyed it as it provided a clear example of the use of data analytics to enable businesses to be successful as well as to identify trends.”

In Carol Magonets, chief of enterprise busi-

ness analytics practice at NUS-ISIS, says: “The programme aims to equip participants with the necessary business skills to trans-

pose business challenges and gain insights into the relationship between business factors and underlying relevant data.

“From there, they will be able to make use of data and turn it into a competi-
tive advantage for their organisations.”

He adds that he has also gained global per-

spective and expanded his network of indus-
ty contacts through the programme.

With the data analytics knowledge and skills from the master’s programme, I am better able to help my clients and customers make use of data and turn it into a competitive advantage for their organisations.”

Mr Lee says (right)