Acing The Learning Journey

Tomy Jaya was looking for a part-time programme that would sharpen his skills in software development and which would give him the career boost that he is looking for. He found it in the Master of Technology in Software Engineering (MTech SE), offered by the Institute of Systems Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS-ISS).

"NUS-ISS is well-known in the industry for its programme, hence when I was looking for a Master's programme, I looked no further," said Tomy. "The MTech programme was very well-structured, especially for part-time students. Classes were mostly scheduled on Saturdays, which is suitable for IT professionals with a relatively hectic work commitment, like myself."

Part-time students make up an estimate of 40% for each MTech cohort.

Gaining Hands-on and Practical Skills

Previously an Application Developer at Credit Suisse Singapore, the hands-on and applicable skills which Tomy has picked up in the MTech SE programme gave him new job opportunities as he found a new job as an Agile Software Developer at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Singapore.

"The programme gave me applicable, current and practical skills to advance my career as a software developer. In addition, it equipped me with complementary skillsets in software design and requirement analysis, project management, solution architecting and quality management, to be an innovative leader in my field of expertise," said Tomy.

Tomy added, "When I enrolled in this course, I expected to enhance and sharpen my skills in the field and it did exactly that. Not only have I become a technically-stronger software developer, the programme has exposed me to a myriad of software engineering best practices, which serve as arsenals in developing my career in the future."

Tomy Jaya (middle) celebrating with his course mates at the MTech Commencement Ceremony

Achieving Top Student's Award

Tomy emerged as the top MTech SE student and won the Accenture medal and book prize of 2015. He attributed his success to people close to his heart, "I'm very grateful for the guidance from the lecturers and support of my project teammates, without which I wouldn't be able to attain this achievement."

As a working professional, Tomy finds time management to be the most important factor in excelling in the Master's programme. He shares, "Know your priorities and manage them well. Also, focus on the learning instead of just your grades. Enjoy your experience, learn as much as possible from your lecturers and team mates, and you can do well in the programme."

To those who are considering the part-time programme, Tomy has this piece of advice, "It is definitely challenging, but at the same time, rewarding as well. Juggling your commitments and priorities will require solid time management skills, as well as several sacrifices and hard choices. Nevertheless the sense of accomplishment and career prospects that you get upon graduation will be worth all the effort."

Training professionals for the industry

Designed to produce highly employable IT professionals who will be comprehensively equipped with the knowledge and skills required by the industry, the MTech programmes are for practitioners by practitioners. The teaching staff are professionals who have worked for many years in the industry, with highly relevant

and real working experiences to pass on to the next generation of IT professionals.

Mrs Swarnalatha Ashok, Chief of MTech SE programme at NUS-ISS, said, "The MTech SE programme is designed to enable IT professionals to lead in delivering systematically engineered high quality software solutions. Students will be equipped with the essential knowledge and practical experience to design, build and manage the delivery of effective computing solutions for their organisations and customers."

Apart from lectures, workshops and examinations, the MTech programme also exposes the students to hands-on practice through projects with real-world organisations for part-time students, or an 8-month internship programme for full-time students.

> "The MTech programme was very well-structured, especially for part-time students. Classes were mostly scheduled on Saturdays, which is suitable for IT professionals with a relatively hectic work commitment, like myself."
> - Tomy Jaya

If you are interested to find out more about the MTech programmes, sign up for upcoming preview talks here-
https://www.iss.nus.edu.sg/GraduateProgrammes/MasterofTechnology/PreviewTalksRoadshows.aspx

NUS | National University of Singapore

ISS | INSTITUTE OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE

☎ +65 6516 2064
✉ isspostgrad@nus.edu.sg
🌐 www.iss.nus.edu.sg/mtech