Fast-track into the IT Industry

The Institute of Systems Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS-ISS) has been running the Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis (GDipsA) programme since 1981. The GDipsA curriculum is practitioner-oriented. Lectures are augmented by workshops, laboratory sessions and group projects, culminating in a five-month internship at the end of the 13-month full-time programme. The internship is a very important part of the curriculum as 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, deliver and deliver solutions to the satisfaction of their users,” says Dr. Limongi.

M. K. Kwok, Deputy Director, NUS-ISS, Dr. Escher Tan, Chief of the GDipsA programme, says, “The U.S.-S. S. works closely with industries and companies who need IT solutions and provide them students. During the internship, students gain real-life experience, and companies are able to prototype advanced technologies that they would like to explore. Sometimes, companies use the internship programme to scout for potential employees and may even offer them a job after their graduation.”

LEARNING NEW SKILLS

A recent graduate of the GDipsA programme is Naruvath Saravanan Manubhata, who holds a Bachelor of Technology from Sri Sairam Engineering College, Chennai. Now working as a Graduate Trainee at Accenture Singapore, he shares his experiences. “I interned at Integrated Health Information Systems, Singapore as a Software Engineer,” he says. “My job was to develop and build a corporate budgeting system. During this five-month internship, I was involved in requirement analysis, designing documents, development and testing. I gained a lot of knowledge on how to handle users and how systems work in a real IT environment. My current job at Accenture Singapore involves testing new technology like Angular.js, which is an MVC JavaScript framework. I was trained on the basics during my GDipsA course, so I could understand and work with it easily.”

A HOLISTIC PROGRAMME

Narender Kumar Somi Poon Korba, Chittagong, India, was working as an Assistant System Engineer at Tata Consultancy Services in Bangalore before deciding to pursue the GDipsA programme in Singapore. After completing his GDipsA programme, he was hired by a Bangalore-based company.

Armed with a Bachelor of Engineering in Information Technology from the Chittagong Swami Vivekananda Technical University, Bhubaneswar, he wanted to learn new technologies quickly such as Android, iOS, project management, design, etc. The GDipsA programme was the perfect match for me. It was a short course for us to get trained in many different technologies. Going through this course was a worthy experience for me. Apart from doing course work, I was an active organisng committee member of a NUS student club called ‘CARE’ - a well-recognized student body under the Office of Student Affairs, NUS. This gave me experience from different nations and I thoroughly enjoyed my NUS-ISS experience.”

In addition, Somi also hosted his soft-skills and developed technical know-how through his internship. “I did my internships at a local MNC, Crimsoniate, along with one of my Singaporean course-mates,” he says. “We compiled three projects over five months, and were part of a development team involved in an ongoing project to design and develop use cases. I also developed an Android Application for a module. The learning during the five months was immense as we went through the complete cycle of development. We learned the best programming practices and conventions and picked up different programming utility software and application servers. We became familiar with the local work culture as well. And most importantly, I am utilizing my knowledge now, working in Crimsoniate as a full-time employee - a Systems Engineer.”

Over the last 34 years, more than 2,000 students have graduated from the GDipsA programme. The GDipsA programme continues to evolve and today, students have the option to focus on areas which are in strong demand by Singapore companies, specifically mobile programming and web application development.