

NUS' Institute of Systems Science

COURSE SUMMARY PAGE 00

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Developing Infocomm Professionals

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 accompanied by workshops, laboratory sessions and group projects, and students wrap up the course with a five-month internship at the end of the 13-month full-time programme.

"This course is designed 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 the local industry," says Dr Leong Mun Kew, Deputy Director of NUS-ISS.

One graduate of the programme is Ms Ong Lay Hoon, currently a system specialist at Accenture. Her interest in IT led her to sign up for the course. An NUS graduate with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Ms Ong found the programme challenging and at times stressful, but her desire to advance her career motivated her.

"There were a lot of ups and downs during those months. However, the experience has developed a stronger character in me and proved that nothing is impossible until you've tried hard enough," she says.

Another GDipSA graduate, Mr Ruly Kurniawan was an IT graduate and worked as a software systems analyst before signing up for the course.

"I have learnt a lot, not merely about theories, but also about executing theory into real implementation, enterprise design and project management. We were also

taught to be more professional through training on presentation delivery, writing good resumes and tackling interviews. All the things I learnt in ISS have made me a better IT practitioner," he says.

Mr Kurniawan's five-month internship at the Land Transport Authority allowed him to translate what he had learnt into real-world projects, enabling him to win the Accenture's Best Industrial Attachment Project award for his work in developing a new ticketing system.

He is now working as a solution architecture analyst at Accenture.

Dr Esther Tan, Chief of the Systems Analysis programme, says, "NUS-ISS works closely with industries and companies who need IT solutions by providing them with student interns.

Throughout the duration of 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 the interns a job after they graduate."

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

