Invest in a real-world education

Postgraduates at National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science benefit from industry partnerships

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The best way to prepare students for working life is to expose them to real-life work environments, and that is exactly what the Institute of Systems Science (ISS) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) is doing. Established in 1998, the institute offers comprehensive professional development courses, as well as consultancy and research services. Its objectives are to develop information leaders and digital business leaders, as well as encourage innovation and business transformation.

‘Internship is a win-win for students, industry,’ says Iss. "Businesses get feedback on postgraduates’ job performance, while students get the chance to put in practice what they have learned. It also enables students to gain work experience, which dentists lack. It also helps them to narrow down their interests. It is also a chance to make new contact with potential employers," he adds. Currently, NUS agrees with over 100 companies, and expects this number to increase by the end of the year. By the end of the year, NUS will roll out a new curriculum that will allow its first-timers students to spend at least four weeks with a partner company.

Developing business-friendly solutions

One of those who has benefited from the university’s industry ties is Mr. Yip, a full-time employee at a software engineering company. He has signed up for the one-year Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis (GDSA) in 2022 in order to gain more skills. "The GDSA program is specifically designed for students with relevant technical knowledge who want to pursue a job in an IT profession," he says. "The soft skills that I gained during the program, especially communication skills, played a very important role in helping me to communicate with both technical and non-technical people more effectively. It also helped me to collaborate with members of other departments in the organization more effectively and in a professional manner."

As part of his internship, Mr. Lee was assigned to develop a methodology to solve a specific problem. He was finally able to use his skills in a real-life setting. "The experience was quite challenging, but it helped me to develop new skills," he adds. "I learned a lot from it, and it helped me to improve my skills in my current job."

Expanding knowledge base

Another student who benefited from the GDSA is Mr. Lim, a full-time employee at a software engineering company. He has signed up for the one-year Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis (GDSA) in 2022 to strengthen his foundation in systems analysis.

Electrical Engineering from NUS was necessary to acquire a lot of practical knowledge in my chosen field," he says. "The module that I had to work on under the supervision of Mr. Lee was the most challenging part of my training. I really enjoyed working with the team and I was able to learn a lot from them."

According to Mr. Lee, the course has been very successful in achieving its objectives. "Students have had the opportunity to be part of a real-life project, and they have been able to apply their knowledge in a real-world setting," he says. "This experience has helped me to improve my approach towards my job. In the future, I want to focus on the design phase of the project. This will enable me to apply the knowledge I have gained in this course to my future projects."

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