Quality Care

Senior staff nurse Cing Khan Lian, 33, is working towards getting her nursing degree so that she can perform even better at her job.

Why did you decide to go back to school after working for 11 years?
I believe it is never too late to go back to school. Learning is a lifelong journey.

How will getting a nursing degree help you in the next stage of your career?
A career with a salary increment and better career opportunities, the new knowledge will enable me to carry out my nursing duties with a higher standard of care.

How did you decide on the Bachelor of Nursing programme offered by NAA?
I compared courses offered by several universities before I decided on the Bachelor of Nursing awarded by the University of Adelaide. It consists of eight modules, including Law and Ethics, Health Assessment, In-depth Research, Nursing Leadership Management and Nursing in a Global Community. The learning objectives of each module are clearly defined, and I found that all the modules were essential and applicable to my job.

Most importantly, the degree is accredited by Singapore Nursing Board.

What is the course structure and teaching approach like?
Each module consists of 20 hours of lectures conducted by full-time lecturers who fly in from University of Adelaide, and 20 hours of tutorials conducted by local tutors who are experienced senior nurse leaders from various healthcare organisations. They are very knowledgeable and very inspirational. The learning in class is also enriched by the diversity of peers from different hospitals.

Are there any modules in particular that stand out?
My favourite module was Knowledge in Translation. This module focuses on nursing research. The learning in class is also enriched by the diversity of peers from different hospitals.

How do you balance duty calls during hospital emergencies with family life and your studies?
I receive the timetable of lectures and tutorials in advance. It allows adequate time to fit in my schedule requests in the duty roster. Setting aside at least an hour every day to study the reading material also helps. The lecturers and tutors are very approachable, and if I have any queries, they will reply within the day.

You took a course in Management previously. How has it benefited you?
It gave me more in-depth knowledge of leadership qualities, different types of leadership styles and management skills. What I learnt during the class helped me improve in my interpersonal relationships with my colleagues, patients and patients relatives.

Do you have any advice for fellow nurses considering further studies?
As nurses, we always need to update ourselves to enhance our confidence level and self-fulfilment. Most importantly, new knowledge acquired enables us to deliver better patient care.

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