Critical thinking skills

Two students share how the courses at Ngee Ann Adelaide Education Centre give them greater insight into the business and financial world

Seow Kai Lun

THE desire to enhance her business knowledge for professional and personal development led Ms Winnie Lee to sign up for her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Ngee Ann Adelaide (NAA) Education Centre.

“I explored several options but chose NAA because of the programme structure, delivery of programme by professors in the university and the central location of the campus,” she says.

During her studies, she learnt about managerial skills and business knowledge, including the latest trends and developments in finance, marketing, operations management and global business, all backed up with research and proven methodology.

“Often, we would look at case studies and examine actual companies to understand and discuss how these theories work in the contemporary business world,” says the 32-year-old service quality manager at NTUC First Campus, who has already completed her MBA studies.

“This gave us deeper insight into how companies operate, how the various disciplines integrate with one another and how we can apply business knowledge to improve the overall performance of the organisation,” she adds.

“The greatest takeaway from the MBA programme is the ability to think and analyse an issue critically,” says Ms Lee, adding that this is especially important in organisations today, where problems are complex and interconnected, with no clear-cut solution most of the time.

She adds: “I have learnt to look at business issues in a more holistic way instead of jumping to the gun and proposing solutions without a thorough analysis of the root causes.”

The lessons were also more engaging and practical than she had initially expected.

She says: “The professors have real-world working experience prior to joining the university. Most of them are still active within the industry and some of them are researchers and consultants to big corporates.”

While undergoing her studies, she also benefited from working and networking with her schoolmates, who hailed from different nationalities and industries.

Ms Njeng, 26, who works in the banking and finance industry, chose NAA to pursue a Master of Applied Finance as lessons were conducted by professors from the main campus in Adelaide over Friday evenings and the weekend. Also, there were a wide range of relevant modules offered that were suited for various career paths and interests.

“University of Adelaide is well established and a member of the Group of Eight in Australia,” she says.

Another draw was the option to attend summer school at the main campus allowing students to accelerate their student life in Adelaide, in both worlds, Ms Njeng, who is in the NAA Australia campus.

The modules covered current analysis of companies and the nance in the working world, with sharing extra knowledge about markets and their own experiences.

“All these components have programme valuable and relevant to better equipped with the knowledge necessary to develop in the industry and be able to assist my clients,” she says.

It was fun and memorable to work together as we would leverage on one another’s strengths in projects and assignments, and would discuss and share ideas if we face any difficulties with the course materials,” says Ms Lee.

Overseas exposure

Ms Jessica Njeng, who works in the banking and finance industry, chose NAA to pursue a Master of Applied Finance as lessons were conducted by professors from the main campus in Adelaide over Friday evenings and the weekend. Also, there were a wide range of relevant modules offered that were suited for various career paths and interests.

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PHOTOS: CHONG SUN LIAO
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Another draw was the option to attend summer and winter school at the main campus in Adelaide, allowing students to accelerate studies and experience student life in Adelaide, providing the "best of both worlds", says Ms Ngien, who spent a month in the NAA Australia campus.

The modules covered current market scenarios, analysis of companies and the application of finance in the working world, with professors always sharing extra knowledge about the financial markets and their own experiences, she says.

"All these components have made the programme valuable and relevant to my career as I was better equipped with the knowledge of market financial development and ability to analyse trends and better assist my clients."

Other subjects that were covered within her studies include in-depth analysis and calculations of capital markets, portfolio management, structured products and options.

Like Ms Lee, she too has benefited from making friends with classmates from different nationalities and cultural backgrounds.

Her communication skills have also been enhanced throughout the process as she often engages in discussions about course topics with her professors and classmates, and they work together for their group assignments.

"I expected to have interactive classes, gain in-depth knowledge of the financial markets and to meet like-minded people who are deeply interested in the banking and finance sector. And this was exactly the experience that I had," she says.