Seize the opportunity, challenge yourself, and achieve research excellence among the world's best.

The Best Way to See the Future is to Create It

@ the home of cutting-edge, cross-disciplinary Ph.D. Research & Graduate Education

National University of Singapore Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering [NGS]

Visit nus.edu.sg/ngs/research.html for the research we cover.

NUS Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering (NGS)

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Graduate School for Integrative Sciences and Engineering [NGS]

Visit nus.edu.sg/ngs/research.html for the research we cover.

12 Postgraduate Studies II

The dual master's programme at NAA opens new doors for Mr Hector Lin Chengwei

The course has helped Mr Lin to discover his interest in marketing and be a better leader. Photo: CHONG LIM JUNGE

Panchalee Thakur

IN PURSUIT of a more holistic education, Mr Hector Lin Chongwei, who holds a second upper-class honours degree in industrial and systems engineering from National University of Singapore, decided to take up two master's degrees.

So he enrolled in Ngee Ann Adelaide Education Centre’s (NAA) Ngee Ann Adelaide Mba Programme (MBA) and a Master of Applied Project Management (MAPM) in 2010 and 2013 respectively.

The wide range of subjects he chose in the two courses included finance, operations, global business, marketing, leadership, project management techniques, risk management, and legal studies.

They gave him an all-round perspective on how global businesses work.

The 31-year-old was in the top 5 per cent of the MBA cohort and named the most outstanding student of 2013 in the MAPM programme.

"It was the double master's programme that helped me to discover my interest in marketing. I made a career switch and found myself enjoying the things I do for a living," says Mr Lin, who is currently a senior accounts manager at marketing agency DDB.

Adding value to work

The time Mr Lin spent at NAA helped him to develop a better understanding of different industries, companies and organisation roles.

"The double master's accreditation opened doors for me and helped to kickstart conversations when I decided to make the career switch. But more importantly, the programme provided me with the training I needed for my consulting work."

"Today, I'm better poised to value-add, whether to clients or colleagues, and handle a myriad of challenges," he says.

NAA's distinctive education style and system helped him to advance his skills.

The association of Ngee Ann Kongsi provides the institute with the credence and prestige that students look for, while experienced faculty from the University of Adelaide who fly here to teach adds to the quality of the programme.

Joining the part-time MBA and MAPM programmes, "nearly to dress up the CV (curriculum vitae)" is not advisable, says Mr Lin.

Otherwise, one will find balancing studies with a full-time job arduous.

"However, if you join a programme you really want to learn from and do it in a conducive environment that facilitates learning, you will find yourself experiencing it, whether it's the texts, the assignments or exploring and debating ideas in class," he adds.

His takeaway from the dual master's course is immense.

For instance, he can do a more holistic analysis of issues in his consulting work.

In addition to being less fearful of new and radical ideas, he is now more confident in his presentations as his mind is better trained to respond to discussions and queries, as well as holding discussions with people of different backgrounds and people in top management.

To young professionals who want to expand their horizons, his advice is to build up their knowledge base and have a better perspective of the future for career growth.