Building solid foundations for their careers

Small classes, overseas lecturers give students holistic experience

One is passionate about the role marketing can play in shaping businesses. The other aspires to create his own start-up.

Despite these different backgrounds, the desire to pursue an undergraduate degree was uppermost in both the minds of Miss Tan Si Tian and Mr Oh Hang.

Having already completed their poly-technic education, both knew that they wanted to go to university.

They also knew that they wanted to do so at an institution of repute.

This made their choice to pursue their bachelor degrees at the Ngee Ann Adelaide Education Centre (NAAC) a natural one.

NAAC is a joint venture between the Ngee Ann Kongsi and the University of Adelaide.

Degrees at NAAC are conferred by the University of Adelaide, a member of the Group of Eight coalition of Australia's leading research universities.

Located along Tank Road, NAAC offers qualifications at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in fields such as business, computing and nursing.

Miss Tan, 21, a Diploma in Hospital- ity and Tourism Management graduate from Temasek Polytechnic, said that she was drawn by the knowledge that the degree she would obtain would come from a school that "has established an international reputation".

Miss Tan, who saw "the growing po- tential and the need for gaining busi- ness marketing knowledge," is now pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce (Mark- eting), which she is expected to com- plete in March next year.

Similarly acknowledging that NAAC's reputation had attracted him, Mr Oh, 23, was quick to point out that he want- ed to "pursue an overseas education in a local context".

Mr Oh, a former Diploma in Business Information Technology student from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, is now in his fi- nal trimester of study for a Bachelor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The aspiring start-up owner had his entrepreneurial passion kindled when he was in polytechnic and was asked to create a mobile application.

Mr Oh said the NAA course has given him the necessary knowledge and skills to manage a start-up. Citing his Applied Entrepreneurship class, he said that it had provided useful contextual knowledge on the intricacies of operating a business in Singapore, and how to deal with interna- tional businesses.

When asked if the too has had mean- ingful experiences in class, Miss Tan said that there was a high level of enga- gement and interaction in her lessons.

With class sizes that are "relatively small", Miss Tan, who hopes to work in the events and marketing industry upon graduation, appreciates that her "lecturers are able to spend more time explain- ing the material in detail" as a result.

The lecturers are very interactive and interesting, and they use real-life cases and experiences to facilitate our thinking," said Miss Tan, adding that games, projects and in-class simulations are often used during lessons.

OVERSEAS LECTURERS

Miss Tan and Mr Oh also pointed out that the majority of their lectures are conducted by academics from the Uni- versity of Adelaide.

Miss Tan said that the lecturers flying in from Australia to conduct classes in Sin- gapore.

NAAC also offers varied opportuni- ties for students, including the chance to participate in student exchange pro- grams with more than 140 globally reputable universities that the univer- sity has bedded up with.

More than this, NAAC is also keen to promote academic excellence among its students.

Both Miss Tan and Mr Oh are re- cipients of the Ngee Ann Kongsi scholarship, a bursary-free ac- ademic award that is open for application by eligible students enrolled at NAAC.

Mr Oh mentions that the scholarship has been of benefit to him, as he is now able to financial- ly manage both the cost of his university edu- cation and funding his own start-up.

Adding that the scholar- ship has also improved her employability, Miss Tan said that the award had helped her "in building up my responsibility and dis- cipline in the things I do."