Doing good with an MBA

University of Adelaide MBA student Ku Kai Li is putting her skills to good use even before graduating

Aaron Tan

Mention a Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme and one of the first assumptions is that it is only for those who aspire to climb the ladder in big business.

But not for Ms Ku Kai Li, a volunteer and deputy vice-president of a non-profit organisation that offers pro-bono consulting services in the social sector.

Armed with the business smarts she has picked up from a University of Adelaide MBA programme, at Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre (NAA), Ms Ku has helped several local voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs) in areas such as business planning over the past year.

Ms Ku, who learnt to be more critical and systematic in her thinking by analysing corporate case studies during her classes, has also applied her newfound knowledge in her full-time job as a manager at a government agency.

“It has complemented my existing skill sets while building better working relationships with my colleagues and project stakeholders,” she says.

The University of Adelaide's MBA programme is widely recognised for its high quality and rigour, equipping students with key business skills including problem-solving, communication, leadership and team building.

Offered on a part-time basis, the MBA programme aims to provide students with a solid grounding in academic disciplines relevant to management. Students will acquire the conceptual and analytical abilities they need to make and carry out decisions at a senior managerial level.

NAA students undergo the same curriculum, receive the same study materials and take the same examinations as students at the University in Adelaide's home campus.

“This gave me the assurance of the high quality of the programmes offered to its students,” Ms Ku says. As with any MBA programme, Ms Ku, who has another class to complete before graduating, had the chance to network and learn with like-minded classmates, not just in school, but also during overseas exchange programmes.

“I was fortunate to be selected to represent NAA as one of the 82 participants for the 27th European Summer School for Advanced Management hosted in Britain last year,” she says.

Ms Ku says the MBA programme is her best educational investment to date.

She says: “The returns have been manifold, both tangible in terms of the academic knowledge acquired and intangible in terms of the valuable relationships forged during the programme.”

Master of Business Administration, Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre

Next intake: May 2015. Course fee: $32,400 (excluding other payments such as application and administration fees). For details, e-mail Mr Tai Kiang Heng at kianhengtai@naa.edu.sg or call 6738-2910.