App gives users feedback on university courses, lecturers

Campiy helps users decide on courses by linking them with current, old students

Madhumika Paramanathan

When Mr Joshua Koh mulled over his experiences as a university student, he realised that he had been overwhelmed with too much information.

The 44-year-old founder of the student social networking app Campiy told The Straits Times that he had had more access to information about courses and the quality of teaching in universities, he might have made more informed choices.

Taking into account the gaps in students' knowledge, he came up with Campiy, which offers thousands of high-quality student reviews for top-notch universities like the National University of Singapore, National University of Singapore (NUS) and the National University of Singapore (NUS).

"From the time when I was a student till today, university rankings and reviews have largely been based on research performance and citations," he said. "These reflect the teaching or everyday quality.

Campiy, however, allows users to take on the role of student and experience the reality of learning. The app will give current and former university students' evaluation of professors and courses.

All they have to do is download the free app on their mobile phones and indicate the university and courses they are interested in.

Campiy has been downloaded by over 6,000 students in NUS and SMU since its launch in March.

Mr Koh said that the reason for its popularity might be that it addresses one of the crucial unmet needs of university students.

"Some things that students want to know just aren't in the university guidebooks, websites or rankings - how's the teaching, how rigorous the module is, or how relevant it is to one's career ambition," he said. "Campiy allows users to actively participate in class."

Campiy's 25-year-old CEO, Mr Chan Soon Kim, is a student at NUS himself. He pointed out that a feature in the app allows students to message their seniors in peer advice about courses and even campus life.

"Instant feedback from peers about a course or professor goes a long way in preventing unpleasant surprises," he said.

Mr Koh and Mr Chan plan to make Campiy available to students from other local universities by the end of the year.

Next year, they hope to work with students from United States, United Kingdom and Australian universities, as well.

Mr Chan stressed that Campiy would be especially useful to students who plan to enrol in universities overseas.

"These students probably wouldn't know anyone in the universities. Campiy can provide them with necessary info about courses and professors and even allow them to connect with seniors in an unknown environment."

Campiy CEO Chan Soon Kim and founder Joshua Koh aim to have the social networking app, which now covers Singapore Management University and National University of Singapore, available to students in other local universities as well as foreign campuses. ST PHOTO SONG TAO

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