More varsity students heading overseas for internships

Those with overseas experience ‘stand out naturally’ during interviews: PR agency exec

Gracie Lee

While many of his peers remained in Singapore for their internships, Mr Tan Rui Feng, 24, packed his bags and headed to Canada. The third-year business and social sciences student from Singapore Management University (SMU) had interned at a sales and marketing firm in Singapore’s school career portal, and decided to step out of his comfort zone last year.

When he interviewed, Mr Tan said that he was “very interested and willing to go for the experience of living and working in a foreign country.”

The $50,000 internship, which was financed by the Singapore government’s Student Internship Programme, opened up a new world for him. “I really enjoyed the experience and would recommend it to anyone who is looking to gain international work experience,” he said.

For Mr Tan Rui Feng (right), with a smile at a local retailer he worked during his internship in Singapore. The Singapore Management University student spent 10 weeks from May last year in a consumer goods firm. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TAN RUI FENG

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Israel

Start-up stint offers NUS grad food for thought

Weizmann Institute of Science

When Ms Lim Jie Ai was offered an internship in Israel last year, she said she was “very excited” to accept the opportunity.

“I believe it is important to gain as much experience as possible before starting a career, and this internship will allow me to do just that,” she said.

Ms Lim, 22, who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science at National University of Singapore’s (NUS) College of Engineering, said she was drawn to the country’s high-tech startup scene and its strong emphasis on innovation.

“My internship experience will help me to better understand the technology industry and how to apply my skills in real-world situations,” she added.

Throughout the internship, Ms Lim worked closely with her supervisor, Dr Shmuel Tennenbaum, who mentored her and provided guidance on her project.

“I was very impressed by Ms Lim’s passion and drive,” Dr Tennenbaum said. “She was always eager to learn and to contribute to our team’s work.”

Ms Lim said that the internship was a great opportunity to gain hands-on experience and to develop her skills.

“I really enjoyed working on the project and learning from my colleagues,” she said.

Her internship was funded by the Israel National Science Foundation (INSF), which supports research projects with a focus on applied sciences and technology.

Ms Lim’s project involved developing a new algorithm for image recognition, which she hopes will be used in various applications such as security systems and autonomous vehicles.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to work on this project and to contribute to the field of computer science,” she said.

Gracie Lee