

# SCHOLARS' CONNECT

A biannual publication



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PREPARATION

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**SP**

DEPARTMENT OF  
STUDENT SERVICES

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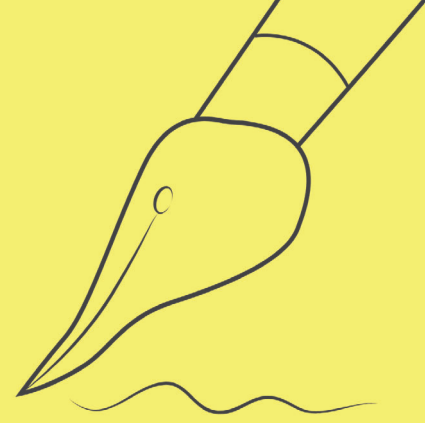
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# EDITORIAL

It's that time of the year again! September traditionally marks the start of scholarship application season. Graduating students begin their final semester and busy themselves with finishing up their Final Year Projects, internships or remaining modules while concurrently putting in their applications (pew!).

The second issue of Scholars' Connect will be helpful in providing students, regardless of where they are in their scholarship journey continued support and guidance. We hope that Scholars' Connect remains an easy and comprehensive read that better facilitates your decision-making, preparation and eventual scholarship application.

This issue features specially curated in-depth interviews with current and former scholars who share valuable advice that will undoubtedly inspire you to get that scholarship application in! Complete the Scholarship Prep 101 Checklist to ensure you have all the boxes ticked and your mind at ease. Don't miss our exclusive interview with Enterprise Singapore and our special feature on the YALE-NUS study experience.

If you need to reach out to us for advice and assistance as you go along, do write to us at [scholarships@sp.edu.sg](mailto:scholarships@sp.edu.sg)

We wish you all the best!

*Scholars' Connect Editorial Team*



# ACE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW

Your scholarship interview will likely be one of the most important conversations you'll have in your life (so far). But don't worry, with some preparation, you can skyrocket your chances of impressing your interviewers – and landing the scholarship of your dreams!

## THE BASICS OF ACING SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWS



### PRACTISE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEW SKILLS

- Roleplay with a friend, family member, teacher or mentor.
- Have them ask the questions you prepared for, and unexpected ones.
- While practising, keep in mind that universities, companies and agencies are assessing your personality, ability and fit.



### FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT, EVEN FOR ONLINE INTERVIEWS!

- Log in a few minutes before if the interview is virtual or reach the venue early.
- Dress well, even for online interviews. Don't be shabby!
- Ensure your body language is on point; smile, greet the interviewers and avoid inappropriate gestures and mannerisms.



### KNOW WHAT MATTERS TO INTERVIEWERS

- Research the scholarship requirements and why the scholarship is being offered.
- What is the university/company/agency's vision and mission? What kind of work do they do? These are questions you should find the answers to in advance.
- A scholarship interview with a public or private company/agency is akin to a job interview, so you should do your homework.



### KEEP IT CONVERSATIONAL

- Show interest by asking questions.
- Be conversational, engaging and take genuine interest in the answers given.
- Build a natural rapport with the interviewers and let the conversation flow organically. Remember, it's not an interrogation session!



# TIPS FOR ANSWERING POPULAR QUESTIONS

Qn 1

## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

- Give interviewers a good first impression of your personality
- Highlight what sets you apart from other candidates
- Talk about interesting points that aren't included in your written application (like personal experiences in your CCA, school or volunteer work)



Qn 2

## WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

- Research the sponsoring organisation's (or agency's) goals and show how your aspirations are in line with theirs
- Share your aspirations honestly, while also showcasing how you can be an asset to the organisation after your graduation
- For university scholarships, focus on your career goals and how you intend to pay it forward, either to your campus community or to society at large



Qn 3

## WHY DID YOU APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?

- Tell interviewers why you applied, aligning yourself with their mission, and highlight your interest in certain career roles/functions
- Did you apply for financial reasons? It's absolutely OK! Be honest about your reasons - interviewers will appreciate your honesty as much as your accomplishments
- Demonstrate why you are a suitable candidate for the scholarship
- Show humility when speaking about your achievements, remembering to credit the people who helped you along the way



# WRITING A SCHOLARSHIP-WORTHY PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement is a big part of your scholarship application. A well-written essay can earn you multiple scholarship interviews, while a poorly worded one could do the opposite by failing to highlight all the outstanding things about you.

Not sure how to get started? Check out our top tips for writing an outstanding personal statement.

## CREATING AN ATTENTION-GRABBING PERSONAL STATEMENT

### ▶ **BE REAL**

- Reviewers want to know who you are, beyond grades
- Think of this as your autobiography
- Express your personal, genuine and authentic self

### ▶ **GRAB ATTENTION WITH YOUR OPENING PARAGRAPH**

- Showcase your best qualities – and what sets you apart – in your first paragraph
- Give readers strong reasons to continue reading
- Think of your personal statement as a story, where at the last paragraph, one ends on a cliff-hanger that keeps audiences wanting more

### ▶ **HIGHLIGHT WHY YOU DESERVE THE SCHOLARSHIP** (*NOT WHY YOU NEED IT*)

- Showcase your experiences, attributes and positive attitude through personal anecdotes
- Talk about any awards or honours you've earned
- Frame your reasons for wanting the scholarship positively – instead of saying, "I come from a low-income family", say, "I'm driven to succeed and help my family"

### ▶ **BE FOCUSED AND ORGANISED**

- Make sure each paragraph focuses on one highlight only
- Keep your essay concise and impactful, from start to finish
- Do not deviate from any instructions or pointers that are provided. This ensures you do not go off-topic.

### ▶ **MIND YOUR TONE**

- Write in a personal, reflective tone
- Be careful when using humour (if not used well, it can come across as unprofessional)
- Avoid boasting, let your credentials speak for themselves

### ▶ **BE SPECIFIC**

- Personal statements that are vague never stand out
- Be clear about your thoughts, ideas and goals
- Use specific names, clubs and organisations in your stories



## **SAMPLE**

Currently a Biomedical Science student at Raffles Polytechnic, I am excited about science and research. Before joining Raffles Polytechnic, I signed up for a programme where I had the opportunity of touring science facilities at the National Science Laboratories (NSL) and this further inspired me to pursue research. In 2019, I applied for and was awarded the National Research Polytechnic Award. My internship at NSL allowed me to gain a greater understanding of lab work and the demands of a career in science research. In 2020, I participated in the Young Science Achievers Competition, where my project earned a Merit Award. My curiosity of the workings of the human body has led me to read deeper into topics and subjects that are not covered in my coursework.

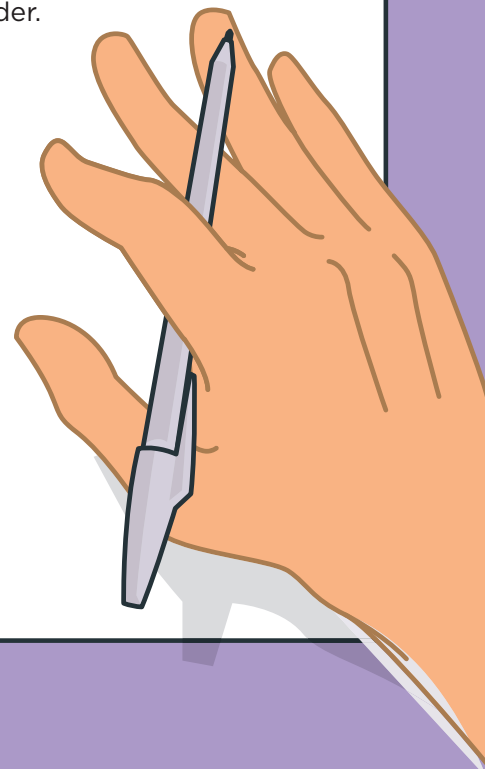


I am keen to take up Life Sciences at the Singapore International University because I ultimately wish to pursue a career in research, specifically in the area of human diseases. As part of a school project, I have looked into the possibility of using synthetic biology as a form of treatment for patients. I aspire to apply my research to improve the quality of life of patients, advance medicine and be a contributing member of scientific research. The SIU Undergraduate Scholarship will enable me to fund my studies while contributing to the school community. I look forward to being able to join SIU's Science Club and exploring new curricular activities such as photo journaling and horticulture.

One of my greatest strengths is dedication to the tasks and projects I undertake and this allows me to work well with people. I am passionate about community service and currently serve as Vice-President of the Raffles Polytechnic Community Service and Cultural Club. With my team, I have led in the planning of several community service projects and these experiences have honed my leadership and communication skills. A once shy follower, today, I can confidently call myself a courageous and empathetic leader.



*Note: All names and references in this sample are entirely fictional.*



# SCHOLARSHIP PREP 101 CHECKLIST

Thinking of applying for a scholarship? Ensure you've done your homework and have all boxes ticked before you put in that application!



## DO YOUR RESEARCH!

- ▶ Research the scholarships that meet your career interests. If they are a good fit, you can apply for all of them!
- ▶ Shortlist universities and degree programmes.

! Do not put all your eggs all in one basket!

## GATHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ▶ Diploma transcripts, 'O' Level results and relevant certificates

! Always have scanned copies of the originals ready to go!

## PREPARE A RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

- ▶ Include key information:
  - Internships
  - Volunteer work
  - CCAs
  - Awards & achievements
  - Education history
  - Certifications (if any)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- ▶ Usually required for financial aid awards and needs-based university scholarship applications

## GET UP TO DATE WITH CURRENT AFFAIRS AND PRACTISE YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS

- ▶ Some agencies may require you to submit a pre-recorded video interview as part of your application

## PREPARE A PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ▶ Usually a mandatory requirement for scholarship applications
- ▶ Share about yourself:
  - *Why are you applying?*
  - *What are your motivations?*
- ▶ Check for submission requirements

## OFFICIAL CCA RECORDS

- ▶ Secondary & pre-tertiary records

! Download from your school's student portal

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- ▶ Request for these from people who know you well (mentors, internship supervisors or teachers)



# IN CONVERSATION WITH ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE

Enterprise Singapore (ESG) is one of the public sector agencies which has been instrumental in helping Singapore and Singaporeans tackle the myriad challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. You may have read about the many financial schemes ESG has supported to tide SMEs over and their efforts to help local businesses digitise quickly and pivot to new business models. In 2020 alone, S\$17.4 billion in loans were extended to firms to sustain them in these trying times.

Dedicated to championing enterprise development and internationalisation, ESG is today a popular choice for graduates who seek to contribute to Singapore's economy. Scholars' Connect catches up with the Scholarships Team at ESG to find out how polytechnic students can embark on a dynamic career with ESG through the Global Executive Scholarship (GES).



## How did the GES for polytechnic students come about and what are some of the benefits it offers?

We offer the GES to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents who are passionate about growing stronger Singapore enterprises and championing the growth of the economy.

We offer developmental opportunities to grow scholars during their university studies and after they start their careers with us as they embark on the meaningful pursuit of creating good jobs for Singaporeans and shaping the economic future of Singapore.

The GES covers the following:

- Full tuition and compulsory fees
- Medical / health insurance (where required by university)
- Pre-studies allowance
- Monthly maintenance allowance
- Developmental programmes such as:
  - Internship opportunities at ESG
  - Sponsorship for foreign language training (subject to approval)
  - Sponsorship for student exchange programmes (subject to approval)
  - Sponsorship for Master's programme (subject to approval)

**Is ESG interested in students from any particular course? There is often a misconception that ESG might only be looking for students from business related courses.**

ESG is supportive of our scholars pursuing varied disciplines, ranging from Science, Engineering, Computing, Business and the Arts as we believe in having a diverse pool of talent in the organisation.

Scholarship applicants can pursue all undergraduate courses except medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, law, architecture, music and nursing.

**What unique strengths do poly students have in comparison to JC students, from your experience and interaction with past candidates?**

Through our interactions, we have been very impressed by the entrepreneurial and self-starter mindset of polytechnic students. Many of them have kickstarted their own businesses and/or passion projects, and are able to share through first-hand experiences, the challenges of a micro/small business.

**What qualities does ESG look for in a scholar?**

Beyond academic excellence, leadership and strong CCA records, ESG scholars should embody our values, and possess the following:

- a) Versatility and resilience
- b) Critical and strategic thinking
- c) Heart for public service and growing Singapore enterprises

**Which would you say is the most challenging part of the ESG application/scholarship selection process?**

Each stage of the selection process provides a window for candidates to understand the work of an ESG officer. What is important is for candidates to assess if ESG is the right organisation for their first career as they go through the process, and think about how ESG fits into their longer-term career aspirations.

**How can polytechnic students prepare themselves to go through the ESG application and interview process?**

Students who are interested can start by reading up on news about ESG, and visiting our website. Talking to seniors who have applied or are in the organisation to understand ESG's work better would certainly help. They should also look out for opportunities to embark on internships with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to experience first-hand and better empathise with the challenges that SMEs face.

**What makes a candidate stand out in an interview?**

Sincerity in wanting to join the Public Service and having the passion to grow Singapore enterprises.

**What is the scholarship panel's key consideration when deciding to offer the scholarship to a candidate?**

We assess candidates holistically and look out for a variety of qualities for fit with our organisation.

## ESG CURRENTLY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS

	SCHOLARSHIPS	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
1	Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship: Local	JC/Poly students
2	Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship: Overseas	JC/Poly students
3	Enterprise Singapore Global Executive Scholarship: Mid-Term	University undergraduates



**FIND OUT MORE!**

<https://brightsparks.com.sg/profile/EnterpriseSG/scholar-local.php>

Visit <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/careers/for-students-and-graduates> to learn more about the scholarship & internship opportunities offered by ESG.

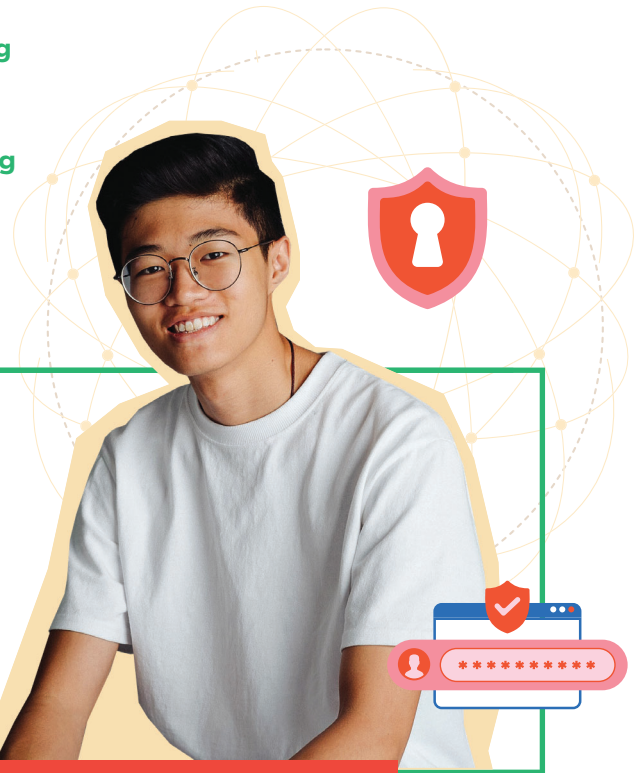
# SHARING OUR STUDENTS' STORIES

## DRIVEN BY A PASSION FOR CYBERSECURITY

Hardworking, ambitious and helpful, Ryan Goh is a strong believer in technology as an enabler for positive change. A School of Computing Ambassador and member of Cyber Youth Singapore, he spends a lot of his time raising awareness about cyber security and the importance of cyber-wellness. Taking time out from his busy schedule which also involves stints of basketball & gyming, he shares with us why he is driven to make a difference.

**“I am passionate about cyber security and programming. My journey in DISM has equipped me with the skills and knowledge that readies me for the ever-evolving cyber world. I wish to pursue a career where I can contribute my skills and knowledge in IT to protect Singapore against cyber threats and develop technological solutions that would benefit others.”**

**RYAN GOH, DISM, DSTA POLYTECHNIC DIGITAL SCHOLAR (2020)**



### Why did you choose SP?

People always ask me why I chose to study at SP even though I live at the opposite end of Singapore! It all began when I visited the SP Open House in 2018. Open houses can be so intimidating at times for a secondary school student. But I recall being greeted warmly by SP students who lined up at the school's entrance. As we explored the campus, I was amazed by the impressive facilities, such as the Cyber Wargame Centre. I even had a chance to interact with some very approachable lecturers to learn more about the course that I was interested in - the Diploma in Infocomm Security Management. SP left a great impression on me, and I felt that their culture was inclusive and inviting, something I definitely wanted to be a part of.

### What inspired you to apply for the DSTA Polytechnic Digital Scholarship?

I am very passionate about cybersecurity and I want to pursue a career related to it after my studies. While I was doing research about future career paths, I stumbled upon the DSTA Polytechnic Digital Scholarship. It must have been fate as the deadline for application was fast approaching! As I had not much time, I submitted my application quickly and had no expectations about the outcome. To my surprise, I received an interview invitation! I prepared diligently and eventually was awarded the scholarship! It was a humbling moment, and I have since been motivated to work even harder and participate avidly in extracurricular activities to better develop myself as a well-rounded individual.

### **You are also an SP Scholar. How did you prepare for the interview?**

I ensured that I was well-versed with the activities I had participated in and my achievements so that I could bring them up as examples to share during the interview. I took time to recall my past experiences and jotted them down. In addition, I also drafted a list of possible questions that the interview panel might ask and practised answering them. Lastly, I also reflected on my strengths and weaknesses and read up on current affairs to prepare for the interview.

This allowed me to gain good self-awareness of myself and the things going on around me.

### **What does being an SP Scholar mean to you?**

It has allowed me to gain more exposure and grow as a person. Being a SP Scholar, I could participate in the SP Outstanding Talent (SPOT) Programme which taught me the importance of being a good communicator, humanitarian, and leader. But of course, being a scholar goes beyond just receiving more opportunities. Being a scholar also means that I must continue to be disciplined in my academics and constantly improve myself, serving as a good role model to my peers. Last but not least, it also means giving back to my school and the community, through helping out at school events and volunteering during my free time.

### **Any advice for SP students looking for a diploma level scholarship or award?**

Believe in yourself, and take a chance to apply for scholarships when the opportunity is presented to you. You never know what the outcome might be if you don't try! If you do not get the scholarship the first time, do not be disheartened and definitely do not give up! You can always reapply. In the meantime, you can participate in more activities to boost your portfolio. Also participate actively in courses and learning programmes to demonstrate to interviewers that you are someone who takes the initiative to improve yourself and enhance your skills.

### **What are you engaged with at the moment?**

I spend my Saturday mornings volunteering for the 'KidsRead' programme for Lakeside Family Services. This programme is meaningful to me as it cultivates a love for learning beyond textbooks. I enjoy interacting with the children and this experience has also made me greatly appreciate my teachers for being such dedicated educators.

I have also just embarked on my Final Year Project, where my team and I are working to create a web application that automates vulnerability scanning of JavaScript codes. I am really excited about this!



### **How do you plan on giving back to the community?**

Technology is here to stay and will continue to play a huge role in the future. There will be segments of society like the elderly however, who are struggling to adjust and who may feel increasingly lost in a world which is rapidly changing making them more vulnerable to scams or cyber-attacks.

One difference I would like to make therefore, is to use technology to benefit the elderly. I am eager to find solutions to ensure that they are safe online and are empowered to use technology with ease to better integrate into today's society.



## DISCOVERING A LOVE FOR POLICY

We catch up with Chloe Lin, current Diploma in Biomedical Science student and recipient of the A\*STAR Science Award. Appointed SP's representative to the REACH Supervisory Panel in 2020, she has had opportunities to learn more about and contribute actively to Singapore's policy-making process. As a Youth Ambassador, she has had the opportunity to meet with key political office holders and has even been featured on the Straits Times twice! Incidentally, REACH stands for *Reaching Everyone for Active Citizenry @ Home*.

### Tell us more about your involvement with REACH.

My duty as a panel member involves providing strategic guidance and direction to support REACH in carrying out its objectives; that is, to gather and gauge ground sentiments, to reach out and engage citizens, and to promote active citizenry through citizen participation. I've moderated a session titled "Adulthood 101 with REACH," which featured Minister S Iswaran, MOS Tan Kiat How and 115 ITE students. We discussed various issues, ranging from jobs and the economy, to affordable housing, marriage and parenthood, digitalisation, climate change and women's development. I've also participated in an International Women's Day feedback session, where the team collected over 200 responses pertaining to women's development in Singapore.

### How have these opportunities empowered you?

My involvement in REACH has shown me how meaningful it is working in an environment driven by quality of service. The experience has shown me that it is possible to make an impact in people's lives and I realise now that engaging in policy discussions and debate is something I enjoy. Most recently, in June 2021, my team delivered a speech at the REACH Singapore Model Parliament, centred on proposing policies to create fairer and more inclusive workplaces for minorities in sectors dominated by one gender.

Women's issues is something close to my heart. If possible, in the course of my career or as part of service, I would also like to help the elderly understand technology better. Many among them continue to struggle due to language and technology barriers. With basic tech knowledge for example, they would be able to access their SingHealth records easily, have wider sources of entertainment, and better connect with the younger generation.



CHLOE LIN, DIPLOMA IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE



### What inspired you to apply for the A\*STAR Science Award (Polytechnic)?

The opportunity of being able to intern at a well-established corporation that focuses on science, technology and research excited me. The thought of being able to learn under established scientists was just beyond words. Prior to my application, I scrolled through the A\*STAR website and read about remarkable discoveries made by the scientists at A\*STAR, which really inspired me.

### How would you describe yourself?

Blessed, loved, contented!

### What's your favourite quote?

*"Don't be hard on yourself and don't get so lost in what you think you should be. You're great the way you are."*

I consider myself very blessed; I have people who support me and also many opportunities which I am immensely grateful for. But there are times when I can be pretty hard on myself, especially in terms of living up to expectations I set for myself or feel that is expected of me. I've come to realise however, that I don't have to be perfect, nobody is; I just have to be the regular Chloe who tries her best, and her best is enough!

## TURNING TIDES: BREAKING STEREOTYPES AT SEA

A self-professed rebel at heart who didn't understand why she had to abide by rules and social norms while growing up, Petrina Tan is today an exemplary role model. The Tripartite Maritime Scholar & SP Engineering Scholar, is a trailblazer, diving wholeheartedly into an industry which still has some way to go in addressing gender imbalance and stereotypes.

**“The majority of the crew on a ship will be males of different nationalities. How are you going to deal with this? What would you do if one of them harassed you?”**

**“You're only in Year 1. What makes you think you will enjoy sailing?”**

**“Why do you want to be an engineer? You look so feminine.”**

These were just some of the tough questions thrown her way during the panel interviews for the Tripartite Maritime Scholarship Scheme (TMSS). Petrina recalls how she was thrown off during the interviews, wondering how females in the maritime sector dealt with such attitudes. “I answered the questions honestly. To be frank, I really don't know how I would have reacted in real life if I was the subject of any unwelcome attention from a crew member while being onboard a ship. But that says more about the person than me. Working relationships must always be professional and upheld with integrity,” she says.

While the aggressive line of questioning may have been a test of whether she could hold her own in a male dominated environment when sailing, she is reassured by her supportive supervisors at the company she is bonded to. Petrina says “while they cannot promise she would not face discrimination and harassment, they have advised her that if such situations do occur, she should not be afraid to report any inappropriate behaviour.”

She remained composed during the interviews. “They were not the normal curveball questions I had prepared for, but on hindsight, they were realistic questions.” She remains undeterred about a career in the maritime industry. She recalls how she had decided early on that she was not going to be a stereotypical female engineer, declaring to her father, “one day I'm going to be so good at my job that everyone in the maritime sector is going to know me.” He responded with a quote she now steadfastly



**PETRINA TAN, DIPLOMA IN MARINE ENGINEERING**

believes in; “there is a very big difference between being great and being good.”

“I want to be great at what I do.” Petrina says earnestly. Petrina believes that a scholar is someone who seizes opportunities. When the TMSS opportunity presented itself, the company-sponsored acquisition of the internationally recognised professional Certificate of Competency while sailing, she was excited. Although it will take her almost seven years to acquire certification and then serve a three-year bond, she values the stability and financial independence it will bring. She also plans to pursue an MBA after completing her bond.

“I love to study, I'm a bit of a nerd. This will let me pick up skills I can't learn anywhere else.” She counts her PFP year at SP as formative in motivating her to excel in her studies. Her teachers at SP were welcoming and non-judgemental, constantly encouraging her to think about what she intended to do after SP. So, when she was invited for the SP Engineering Scholarship interview, she took it seriously.

Petrina advises aspiring diploma scholars not to view life as a competition. “Don't get caught up focusing on your flaws. Being aware of one's strengths and weaknesses is the start to opening doors. At least it was for me.” While she hopes that the maritime industry makes quick strides in levelling the field for women seafarers, she encourages TMSS hopefuls to be flexible, adaptable and have passion & integrity in everything they do.

# ALUMNI RECONNECT



## EXPLORING BEYOND HIS COMFORT ZONE

Securing the Public Service Commission (PSC) Engineering Scholarship in 2019 (awarded in 2021) was no mean feat for Sheikh Arfahmi. Although the SP Engineering Scholar & A\*STAR Polytechnic Science Awardee had always excelled academically, he had never given much thought to a career in the public service and knew little about the PSC scholarship. All he had ever hoped for was to make his parents proud and happy for providing him a comfortable upbringing despite their personal hardships. Of course, being able to secure a scholarship would go a long way towards achieving this, as it would relieve them of some of their financial burden and worry.

Apart from academics, Sheikh enjoys sports and reading. A firm believer in leading with his heart & venturing forward with boldness, he lives by his favourite quote from Steve Jobs:

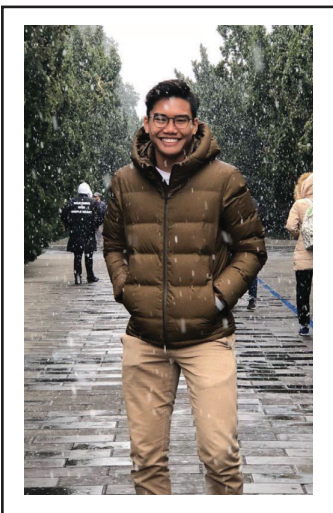
“

You can't connect the dots looking forward, you can only connect them looking backward. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future.”

”



SHEIKH ARFAHMI, PSC SCHOLAR



### A Passion for Engineering

Growing up near an airbase where he would regularly watch fighter jets take off and land, Sheikh has always been immensely curious about aircrafts. He was fascinated by how they could fly without falling from the sky. This 'mystery' sparked his ambitions of becoming a pilot and he harboured dreams of being similarly able to control an aircraft in the sky one day. His curiosity about flying led to him to enrol in an Advanced Elective Module on Aerospace Fundamentals in SP, when he was in Secondary 3. Inspired by his father, an Assistant Engineer, he had grown up troubleshooting and learning to solve problems, be it repairing household appliances or making his school projects work. Sheikh says, "I wanted an education that would expose me to a diversity of experiences. I did not want to solve problems only in theory."

A stint with the Singapore Youth Flying Club as a student pilot enabled him to explore his childhood ambition and sparked an interest in aeronautical engineering and the airline industry. In 2016, he went on to enrol in the Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering, and subsequently, the Certificate in Aviation Management. The latter enabled him to learn more about transport connectivity, fuel and scheduling. Coupled with his broader interest in public transportation and future mobility technologies such as Autonomous Vehicles, it was only natural that Sheikh chose the Land Transport Authority as his parent agency when he was offered the PSC Scholarship (Engineering).



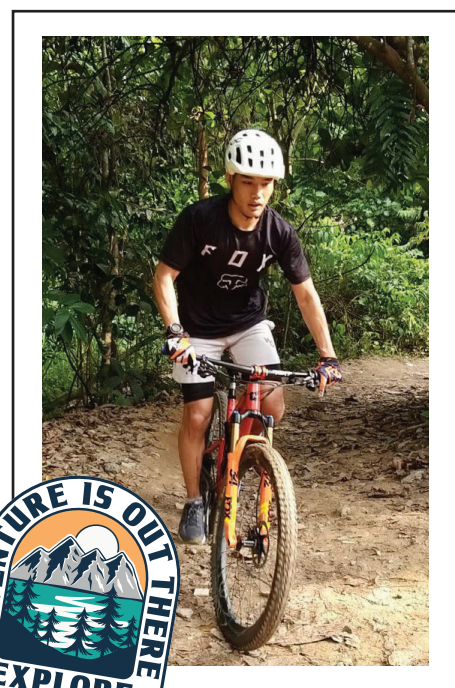
## Exposure to the public service

Sheikh is honest in admitting that he knew next to nothing about the PSC Scholarship before he applied. He was open however to the SP EDGE team's invitation to find out more. After attending several information sessions which highlighted the different career pathways within the Public Service and listening to scholars share their stories, he felt a growing sense of responsibility. Realising that much of his own success was due to the support and encouragement of people around him, it was time to pay it forward.

Taking a leap of faith, he decided to apply for an additional internship with the Public Service Division (PSD) to learn more about what working in the public service entailed. "It was during my tenure as an intern at PSD's Engineering Programme Office that I realised the importance of the public service as well as the great sense of fulfilment that could be derived from working to improve people's lives. The close mentorship and warmth provided by my supervisors reassured me that it was a shot worth taking."

Upon being offered the PSC Scholarship (Engineering), he almost fell off his seat in disbelief! "It took me a few minutes to internalise it, thinking that I may have read the email wrongly. I still remember tearing up in front of my parents when I broke the news to them. They were so happy for me and it made me equally happy to see their joy." Even after being awarded the scholarship, Sheikh is still plagued by self-doubt sometimes when he hears of other candidates who were unsuccessful, but he reminds himself not to waste the rare opportunity that he has been given.

Post-NS, Sheikh will be embarking on a Degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE) at the Nanyang Technological University. He says, "It is a daring shift from my previous engineering discipline but I have envisioned the shift as an opportunity to cross-train myself in both mechanical and electrical engineering. EEE will also be of relevance in my aspiration of becoming an engineer at LTA and other public service agencies."



## The importance of 'soul-searching'

Preparation for his PSC (Engineering) scholarship application involved a lot of 'soul searching' to gain greater clarity of his passions, interests, values, strengths and weaknesses. This was a critical step for him to decide if the scholarship was the right choice and fit for him. As part of the application, Sheikh also had to write an essay; finally deciding to select one that would best demonstrate his character. He concurrently kept up with the latest news and formed his own perspectives on controversial issues. Leading towards the final interview, he focused on sharpening his communication and interview skills, practicing for long hours almost every single day. He considers himself fortunate to have received constant guidance and advice from his mentors at EDGE.

The toughest phase was preparing for his final panel interview. He says, "I contradicted myself countless times during the practice interviews as a result of over-thinking my responses. It built up a lot of stress in my mind and I almost gave up. What kept me going was the unwavering support from the EDGE team. I kept practicing, even at home, in front of the mirror and even in the shower!"

Currently in his second year of NS, Sheikh shares that although the tough training he has received has made him more resilient, he is acutely aware of the need to improve his leadership skills to prepare himself for his future role as a public service leader. He recommends scholarship hopefuls to start preparing early and try their hand at a public sector internship. "While you are at it, keep your options open to different career paths and be brave to explore beyond your comfort zone," he advises.



## THE GENERALIST ADVANTAGE

**Aston Chia, Diploma in Biomedical Science alumni, shares why and how he sees himself contributing to the Singapore ecosystem through his work with the Economic Development Board (EDB). Embarking on undergraduate studies this year at the University of Warwick, Aston makes a leap from a student of the sciences to reading Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE).**



ASTON CHIA, EDB SCHOLAR, 2020

### Why the switch from the Sciences to PPE?

This is a question I get a lot! I'm making the switch because I want to focus more on politics and current affairs and I want to be a generalist who can contribute across industries eventually. At EDB, I might be focusing on the biomedical science and pharmaceutical sectors. But there will certainly be many opportunities to engage with different sectors across multiple disciplines. In fact, my first attachment is with the advanced manufacturing team! My undergraduate studies will complement my industry specialisation later on. The work at EDB involves speaking with companies, understanding economic developments & investment climates, and assessing business potential, so in this way PPE will come in handy and be a good fit for EDB.

### What inspired you to apply for the EDB Undergraduate Scholarship?

I first found out about EDB when I was in Year 2 at SP. As then President of the Singapore Student Affiliate of the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE), I had ample opportunities to network with directors and senior management from agencies like EDB, MOH and A\*STAR on projects that connected academia with industry. I met them mainly at symposiums and conferences and this was how I got to find out more about the different agencies. This helped me in my decision to apply for the EDB Scholarship after graduating from SP.

I was also heavily inspired by the leadership and successes of EDB's former chairman, Mr Philip Yeo. His book, "Neither Civil nor Servant" has been my motivation. I recommend anyone wanting to work at EDB to read it! The culture and values that he has instilled in EDB is something I want to experience first-hand and imbibe in my personal leadership and work ethic. I also believe that EDB is a great place for young professionals to develop and sharpen their soft skills across different industries and countries. It is an organisation which prioritises staying abreast of global developments and spurs its officers to be on the frontiers of disruptions. Being one of the first polytechnic students to receive this award, there is a lot to live up to. It's going to be challenging but I am looking forward to the exciting new opportunities ahead.

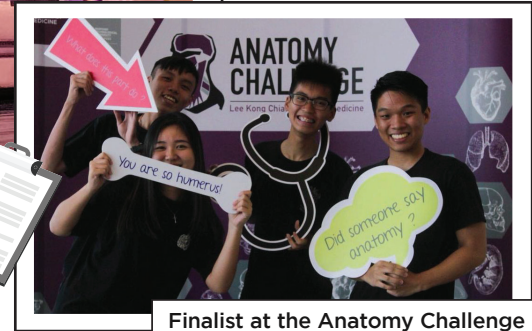
### What are some of the challenges you faced in your scholarship journey?

I reckon the biggest challenge was not knowing exactly what the scholarship process was like. In order to overcome this, I had to take time to understand EDB well; their history, culture, working style and the vision of each member of the executive committee. I found out more about Singapore's macroeconomics, our domestic workforce and the whole-of-government perspective. Once I understood the core principles of the EDB, it was much easier to position myself in a way that could bring value to the agency. It was also important for me to ensure that my personal values and work principles aligned with EDB's.

I also made sure that my sincerity and enthusiasm was evident at each stage of the selection process. I would say the case study presentation was the most challenging stage; I was given a laptop, a somewhat ambiguous scenario and an hour to prepare.



Moderating a panel discussion at the Cell-Biology Symposium @ Temasek Polytechnic



Finalist at the Anatomy Challenge

### How will a career at EDB enable you to pursue your passions?

I love meeting people who are agile when it comes to innovation and excellence. It excites me to meet such driven individuals who want to work towards the betterment of society. I find myself wanting to support them by turning challenges into opportunities. As a generalist, being able to connect people and ideas together provides a certain form of heuristic engagement which is both fun and productive. At EDB, I hope to create opportunities for people to take risks when it comes to education and career development. Being agile is important in this day and age. I think this can be achieved by bringing in more venture capitalists and MNCs into Singapore, and by encouraging Singapore's young pool of talent to venture out regionally and globally to places familiar and unfamiliar. EDB definitely has the capacity to facilitate this.

### What advice do you have for aspiring students looking to pursue a scholarship and career in the public service?

Go beyond pragmatism. It is important to understand yourself, your interests, values, and most importantly, the things you treasure in a career. This will take time and requires reflection, but only then will you be able to articulate your thoughts with clarity to whichever ministry or agency you're looking to serve. As polytechnic students, we have the added advantage of being able to explore the "real world" through internship opportunities and work experience. Capitalise on this and develop skillsets that would be useful to any organisation. Don't wait for FYP or Year 3; start looking for opportunities early and boldly.

Networking is an important skill to pick up; it requires experience and can't be taught. I picked up this skill during my time with ISPE. I had to put myself out there, connect with professionals on LinkedIn and social media to invite them to events. Once I gained more confidence, I was able to understand people's needs better and address them.

Also make sure to research the agency's KPIs and whether there is alignment between your purpose and their goals.

### Why is being a generalist in this particular sector important to you?

Before being awarded the EDB scholarship, I already had some experience doing regional business development and networking with clients during a working stint with a construction company. As I had to travel quite a bit, I learnt the importance of soft skills and how to communicate effectively. Being a generalist relies a lot on these transferable skillsets. EDB provides a central service relating to the economy; the key skills required to do the work include identifying gaps, understanding the larger ecosystem and persuading investors. Being a confident and nuanced articulator helps in this aspect. Having a specialisation helps, but having transferrable skillsets is more important, and this is where I hope to come in.

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**

**THE YALE-NUS EXPERIENCE & FUNDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

Scholars' Connect spoke to Kelly, who graduated at the top of her course in 2020, a recipient of the IMDA Gold Medal and Tan Kay Yong Gold Medal.



**KELLY HUI WEN TING**

**YALE-NUS Study Award  
Diploma in Creative Writing for Television & New Media  
Class of 2019/2020**

On 27 August 2021, it was announced that Yale-NUS will close in 2025 and its 2021 intake will be its last batch.

**We do not often hear of SP students studying at Yale-NUS College (Yale-NUS). Which course are you pursuing and why did you choose to apply to Yale-NUS? What has your experience been like?**

Initially, I was interested in a career in journalism but I became interested in social work and psychology after getting involved in volunteer work on the encouragement of my EDGE mentor. I am now pursuing a 4 year Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree program and have just completed my first year of studies.

One of the main reasons I applied to Yale-NUS is because of the opportunity to start on a direct Masters at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy after my third year. If I am accepted, I can graduate with a BA (Honours) and a Master in Public Policy at the end of my 5th year.

Generally, schoolmates I've met who come from a polytechnic background are all doing really well. My roommate who is also from a polytechnic, is a super high-achiever who is now President of the Student Council!

**Tell us what you have been busy with since you graduated from SP in 2020.**

I'm currently quite busy with my external Meet-the-People volunteer commitments with the Braddell Heights constituency. A few of my friends and I were moved to initiate a charity project, **Go With the Flow**, to help low income women living in the Braddell Heights community. In this regard, we are very thankful to Yale-NUS for the support they provided, in terms of space and funding.

The project basically involved appealing to the public to donate brand new packages of sanitary pads which we sort and distribute to women from low-income backgrounds. For low-income households, the cost of sanitary pads poses an added burden monthly, which we hope to alleviate. I am very happy to report that we have so far received 1,455 packets of sanitary pads, from which we managed to help about 60 families or the equivalent of 727 menstruators for one cycle.





### What differences do you see between Yale-NUS and the local autonomous universities?

There are actually a few. First, class sizes at Yale-NUS are comparatively much smaller, ranging from 18 to 25, with a higher faculty-to-student ratio. This suits me perfectly as I thrive in a small, cosy environment rather than in a big university, much like my course at SP. Second, being an autonomous college, students are given free rein to discuss any topic, even taboo ones, in a safe space.

To foster community spirit, Yale-NUS is a purely residential college, so students must stay in, except for weekends and during the vacation period from May to end July yearly. This is different from the local universities, where there is a choice.

Aside from the concurrent degree and special programmes, all students admitted to Yale-NUS either pursue a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree, both of which have a common curriculum in the first year. Something that is different also is that all shortlisted applicants to Yale-NUS will be interviewed one on one, by either an Admissions Counsellor (there is a counsellor assigned to every school in Singapore, including SP) or a senior student.

### What advice would you give to SP students who wish to apply to Yale-NUS?

Prospective students should think about whether the differences I have highlighted appeal to them. Other than that, as learning is very much JC style, they should be prepared for copious amounts of reading for each module. Naturally, aside from maintaining a decent polytechnic GPA to show that they would be able to cope with the academic rigour at Yale-NUS, they should also have a good portfolio. During my admission interview, I was asked quite extensively about the volunteering experiences I wrote about in my essay.

### Do you think having a good portfolio helped in your admission process to Yale-NUS?

Most certainly it helped. This is because Yale-NUS strives to create a student body that has a sense of community spirit and who are open to explore new, diverse experiences. Having a reasonably good GPA is of course important, but they are not looking for students who are just book smart.



### Yale-NUS course fees are comparatively higher compared to those of the other local universities. Is there financial help or scholarships available for students?

There are definitely financial help and scholarships available. Applicants who require financial help should submit a separate application for financial assistance concurrently when they apply to Yale-NUS for admission. I believe about half the students admitted into Yale-NUS receive needs-based financial support.

Applicants do not need to submit a separate application for scholarships. During the admissions interview process, applicants will be assessed at the same time as to whether they should be awarded a scholarship or are in need of financial assistance.

In my case, I was awarded a very generous financial assistance package, the Alice and Peter Tan Study Award, which financed about 90% of my course fees, including food and lodging. Without such assistance, I would not have been able to study at Yale-NUS and for that, I am extremely grateful.

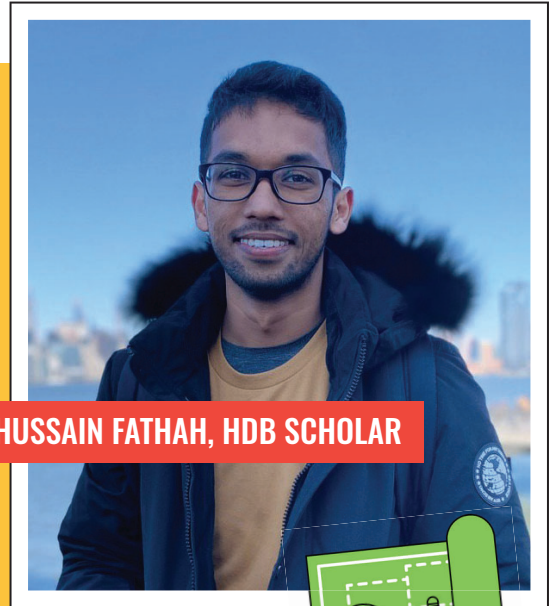
### Do you have any last words of advice for your juniors at SP?

Be sure to write an insightful, informative essay highlighting your experiences and growth, both in and outside of SP. Make sure it is authentic and reflects the real you, as they want to get to know and understand who you are. You should not make yourself out to be someone you are not as it will inevitably be 'sniffed-out' during the admissions interview!

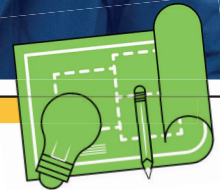
## A CAREER AND A CALLING: AN INTERVIEW WITH A HDB SCHOLAR

Currently in his third year at NUS, SP alumni Hussain Fathah shares with Scholars' Connect how he secured a public sector scholarship and why civil engineering is his chosen path. He graduated with a Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business in 2017 and was awarded the HDB scholarship under the Ministry of National Development's EDGE (Executive Development and Growth Exchange) programme.

To Hussain, HDB is more than just about building houses; instead, he sees it as having a critical role in making Singapore a sustainable place for future generations to call home.



HUSSAIN FATHAH, HDB SCHOLAR



### What does HDB do and where do you see yourself playing a role?

HDB's work is really quite broad and not only about constructing flats. Aside from urban planning, estate management and policy work, there's also a corporate wing. I will be working as a civil engineer at HDB and in this role, I will probably be involved in the building of HDB blocks, community malls and estate town centres.

### It's vacation time for NUS students presently but I understand you are interning at HDB. What has the experience been like?

It's a short 8 weeks internship. So far I'm enjoying my work as it's a nice balance between engineering, policy and planning. Civil engineering is not just about looking into the structural aspects of buildings, but also understanding the perspectives of residents. This way we ensure that housing designs meet the needs of residents and quality of life. I can't really comment on the work culture at HDB at this juncture as I have been mostly working from home, but I must say, my bosses have been super nice and cool.

### You are pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. What else keeps you busy at NUS?

I am in the University Scholars Programme (USP), an interdisciplinary academic programme with a residential component. Being interdisciplinary, it is a great program to complement the technical engineering skills I am learning and broadens my horizons. For example, last semester I took modules in public policy, philosophy and geography, subjects that you wouldn't expect a civil engineer to undertake. Aside from the USP, I am a member of the Cashew Youth Network and have also kept busy with other volunteer work; mostly grassroots initiatives which I've been doing since my SP days. In my free time I play touch rugby with my residential college mates.

### Any advice for your juniors who are keen on applying to NUS and the University Scholars Programme?

The first thing is to keep an open mind. As a poly student, I had no idea about USP until I received an invitation to find out more. Don't confine your world to just your major. Be open to and say yes to other opportunities. Having confidence that you are good enough is important. Many students may end up not even applying for initiatives because they feel that only students from brand name schools will be accepted; so don't feel like you are inadequate to make it into such programmes.

### What was your scholarship journey like and how did you prepare for it?

I initially applied for the PSC Scholarship (Engineering). When I was not shortlisted for the interview, I went on to apply for the HDB scholarship. I approached the Scholarships team at SP for guidance and prep for my applications. I started my practice with writing application essays and made sure I got feedback to improve. I then prepared for psychometrics tests by googling websites to practise free trial questions. I also read up on current affairs and practised interview questions. To be realistic, you can't really prepare for all questions that may come up during an interview. I remember there was a question I couldn't answer, I was honest and said "Sorry Sir, I don't know the answer to that." That was a defining moment for me.

### Many students are hesitant to take up a scholarship that comes with a bond. What were your considerations when you took the plunge?

My scholarship comes with a four year bond. Initially, I had misgivings about whether I did the right thing accepting it. However with the COVID-19 situation, any uncertainty has gone out of the window. Thank goodness I have a job waiting for me! To be honest, when I applied, I went in with the mindset that I was applying for a job. That helped me overcome any worry about a bond. I saw it as an opportunity. Also, when I took up the HDB scholarship, I believed in their mission and what they set out to do. When you believe in the work an organisation does, the bond ceases to matter.

### Why did a career in public service appeal to you?

It sounds clichéd but I think it was really a "calling" for me. I feel that it is a natural transition for me to go into public service because we are all part of a society and we need to come together to make it work. The construction industry can be attractive for those looking to make money, but that is not something I'm interested in. I am just happy to have an opportunity to serve.

### Did you face any discrimination as a PFP student?

There was no real hurdle or obstacle, beyond the fear that I was from the first batch of PFP students, and things looked a bit uncertain at the time. No one in university has ever asked me whether I have 'O' or 'N' levels. The only thing is that students from the 'N' Level track themselves may feel like they are taking a bit longer and might be more conscious that they are older than their peers.

### How did you stay motivated throughout your studies at SP?

I was fortunate that civil engineering came naturally to me; it just made sense in my brain. There was no magic recipe really; I just enjoyed what I was learning.

### What does being a HDB scholar mean to you?

This is quite an existential question for me. Being awarded a scholarship is certainly an achievement, but what is more important to keep in mind is that a scholarship is just the start, not the end goal. You need to keep the momentum and drive going. So, although it has been such a blessing that I don't have to deal with student loans or worry my family, more than that, I get to look forward to a career I believe in and can make an impact in.

### What's next for you after HDB?

I see myself staying at HDB, perhaps trying out other areas of work. I'm also thinking of furthering my studies overseas, possibly in public policy!



# PSYCHING UP FOR PSYCHOMETRIC TESTS!

Thankfully, despite the first 2 syllables of the word ‘psychometric’ containing the word ‘psycho’, psychometric tests do not reveal sensitive personal information about a person or their mental state.

Instead, psychometric tests examine an individual’s capabilities and preferences, providing data that can help assess his or her “fit” for a role within an organisation. Depending on the organisation, psychometric tests may be carried out at the very start of the job or scholarship application process, in conjunction with an interview, or between interviews.

There are two main types of psychometric tests; namely, ability and personality.

**TEST 1**

**ABILITY**

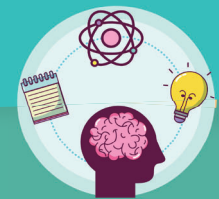
Ability tests assess a candidate’s numeracy skills, general problem-solving skills and their ability to understand written information & tackle abstract concepts. Ability tests have right and wrong answers.



**TEST 2**

**PERSONALITY**

On the other hand, personality tests look at how candidates are likely to behave at the workplace, e.g. their leadership style, teamwork and interpersonal profile. Personality tests do not have right or wrong answers.



Today, organisations place more emphasis on fit, and so, psychometric assessments are becoming increasingly common during the selection process. Even the Central Manpower Base requires pre-enlistees to sit for psychometric tests, using the test scores as one of the factors in assigning NS men to appropriate vocations and for selection to leadership courses.

It is no wonder then, that public sector bodies offering scholarships in Singapore, for instance, the Public Service Commission (PSC), ministries and government agencies, require shortlisted candidates to sit for psychometric tests.



Some organisations have recently introduced games-based assessments (GBA) as part of the tests to assess attributes such as perseverance, learning orientation and risk-avoidance. Students should find GBAs fun as these are like what the name suggests – computer games! Now that you have a better understanding of what psychometric tests are all about and how important they are in the scholarship selection process, how do you prepare for them?

The simple answer is to **practise, practise and practise!**

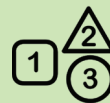
While many students often assume they can ace psychometrics if they are naturally good at math and language, the adage, “practice makes perfect” holds true here, as you need to familiarise yourself with the content and format of the assessment. You should also not leave preparation to the last minute! You need to be at your best and tiredness will affect your scores.

Are you all fired up to practise now? You are probably wondering how you can access practice tests...

Well, the great news is that SP has purchased psychometric tests from Graduates First (GF), a leading psychometrics test provider. Students and alumni now have unlimited access to all the tests on the GF portal to practice for free!

Happy practising!! :)

To access Graduates First, all you need to do is to sign up for an account. To do so, please visit the SP Library website at [https://sp-sg.libguides.com/psychometric\\_assessment](https://sp-sg.libguides.com/psychometric_assessment) or scan the QR code below.



**Numerical Reasoning**



**Verbal Reasoning**



**Logical Reasoning**



**Situational Judgement**

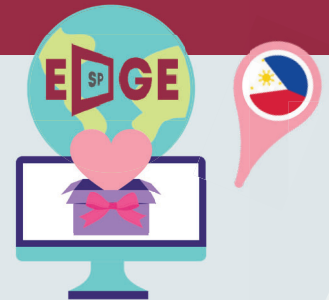


**Games-based Assessments**



# THE EDGE YEP-GO (PHILIPPINES) EXPERIENCE

**YEP-GO (Youth Expedition Project Goes Online) was launched as an alternative platform for youths to engage in overseas community service and global citizenry without having to travel during a pandemic.**



**ALFINA AU**

Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology



**TAN WEE JOE**

Diploma in Computer Engineering



**RYAN LIM YI-KIAT**

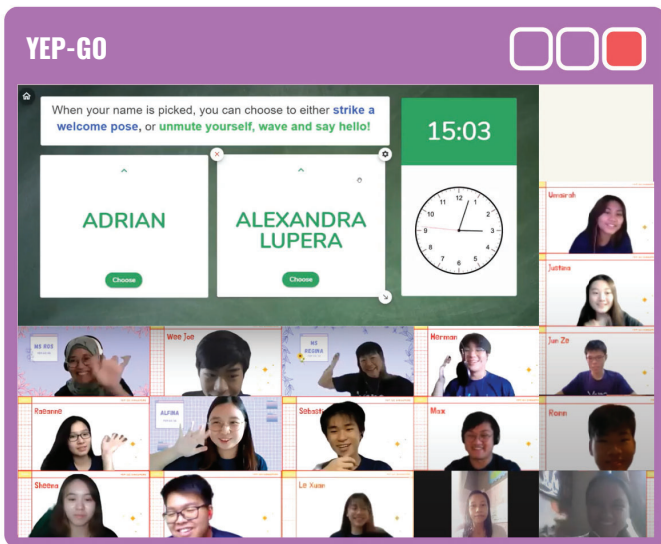
Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering

From March to June 2021, Alfina and her team of 15 members spent most of their weekends preparing for, and conducting a series of online activities with their counterparts from Iloilo City. Connecting with the group students from social work and community development courses was the highlight of the trip, says Ryan, but “the final event on 26 June was heart-breaking because of the emotional bonds forged.”

Themed “The Gift of Appreciation”, the team’s final engagement centred on showing gratitude towards friends, family, our local communities and frontline workers. “It was especially meaningful to us to show appreciation to our frontline workers and particularly so for our Filipino friends because the Philippines was still battling rising daily numbers of COVID-19 cases. During the session, we created a social media collage dedicated to frontline workers,” shares Alfina.

Unlike the regular YEP programme which involves “roughing it out” through service-learning activities, the virtual programme was more reflective in nature and allowed for authentic sharing of cross-cultural traditions and lived experience.

The “buddy system” the team had in place allowed for informal communication beyond the virtual activities and this helped with overcoming any initial shyness and awkwardness. Over the course of 12 weeks, the students bonded over activities such as Gallery Game, Scavenger Hunt, Weekly Challenge and the Gift of Sight, which involved artistic depictions of famous monuments. While their Filipino peers created a video introducing them to the famous sights and sounds of Iloilo city, the EDGE students created a series of 5 videos showcasing life in Singapore beyond the main attractions, such as our famous wet markets, hawker centres and food culture. “At the end of the sharing, we really wished we were on a plane there, and vice versa!” Ryan laughs.



Meeting each other for the first time



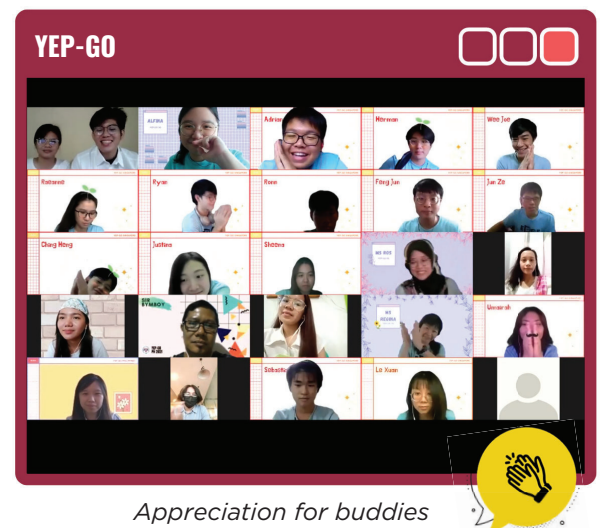
PH2 Gallery Walk

However, the digital switch was not without challenges. Conducting Zoom sessions involved intense planning, countless dry runs and was mentally gruelling. Wee Joe, one of the members in the IT support team, commends the resilience of their Filipino peers, who had to contend with recurring power outages, poor connectivity and lack of WiFi, things that many of us take for granted in Singapore. “They did not have access to computers and logged in mainly using their mobile phones! No matter how many times they kept getting disconnected, they always tried to join us again, which was really admirable. As such, we had to ensure our approach and content was practical, feasible and as inclusive as possible, so that they could participate easily.”

“We had many, many dry runs,” Alfina adds. “We wanted to be prepared and professional. In the end, I think we delivered confidently, but inevitably there were hiccups on the actual day.” Notwithstanding the difficulties faced, the team acknowledged that the experience was “soul-searching” in many ways. For Ryan, YEP-GO ended up being an effective coping mechanism during COVID-19, allowing him to meaningfully occupy his time while forging new friendships. “I would have been idle otherwise. Today, I realise I can do more.” For Wee Joe, the experience helped him “learn how to be less task-focused and emotionally connect with others, showing empathy and a listening ear.”

For Alfina, her role as team leader allowed her to learn the value of teamwork and delegation. “I realised I didn’t have to do everything myself. That is the greatest takeaway for me. I learnt that if there is trust between team members, we can collectively achieve much more than as an individual. As a leader, I just have to be there to guide them. Now for my class projects, I always ask my team how we can share tasks together.”

While all three students are looking forward to being able to go on a normal YEP or overseas exchange programme when the pandemic subsides, they wholeheartedly endorse the digital programme. Alfina notes, “the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. There are so many things to learn. Although the programme has ended, it really is the beginning of a new journey, as we look forward to interacting with our new friends and building the bonds of friendship beyond the confines of YEP-GO!” Ryan, however, is quick to caution students looking to embark on YEP-GO, to “commit only if you have the time and are willing to put in the effort. But it’s definitely worth it!”



Appreciation for buddies

# A SERIES OF SCHOLARSHIP SPECIALS!



Organised by the Department of Student Services, the virtual Series of Scholarship Specials was held from 12 – 30 July 2021 to generate greater awareness about scholarship opportunities available to SP students.

Through the six virtual sessions, participants had the opportunity to participate and interact with SP alumni, SP's public service scholarship recipients, external speakers from the UK and Singapore, and the wonderful team behind *ItsRainingRaincoats*.

Participants gained useful insights into public sector scholarships, funding opportunities for overseas universities and how they too could build meaningful service portfolios. Scholarship hopefuls were heartened by the authentic alumni sharing sessions and the practical tips gleaned for scholarship applications from the *BrightSparks* and *EDGE* info-sessions.

We hope to see you at our next Scholarships event!

## 12 JULY 2021: FUNDING YOUR OVERSEAS EDUCATION: HEAR FROM OUR SP ALUMNI & SCHOLARS



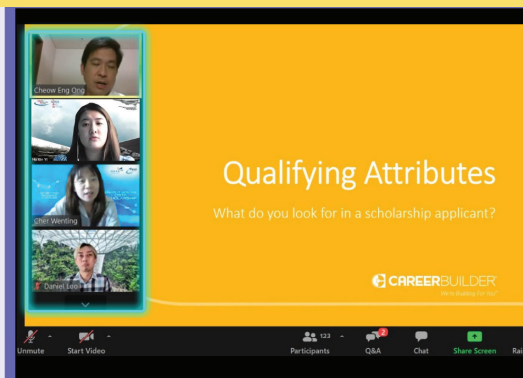
Alumni and CAG Scholar, Elyn See, shares on life overseas and why a scholarship was the right choice for her.

## 14 JULY 2021: PSYCHOMETRICS TALK BY GRADUATES FIRST



A comprehensive overview of psychometrics tests by Peter and Abdul from Graduates First.

## 22 JULY 2021: BRIGHTSPARKS FEATURE: POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS GET SCHOLARSHIPS TOO – HERE'S HOW!



Participants hear from BrightSparks and scholarship officers from DSTA, CAG and MINDEF on the various opportunities for poly students.

## 23 JULY 2021: IN CONVERSATION WITH ITSRAININGRAINCOATS: SERVICE, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INSPIRING ACTION IN TODAY'S WORLD.



Dipa Swaminathan, founder of *ItsRainingRaincoats* inspires us with her rich sharing on migrant worker issues.

# WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have any comments, contributions, or questions or if you'd like us to feature specific scholarship-related topics, please write to us at [scholarships@sp.edu.sg](mailto:scholarships@sp.edu.sg) or scan the QR code below.



## SPECIAL THANKS

The Scholars' Connect team would like to thank the following for their invaluable help in the making of Scholars' Connect (Issue 2):

- Current students as well as alumni for sharing their photographs and taking time off from their busy schedules to be interviewed
- The Scholarships Team from Enterprise Singapore for sharing more insights on the Global Executive Scholarship