

# Virtual Talents

With SP, it's so possible!

Ever dreamt of making your own game, or developing a brand new computer programme that will revolutionise the world? The IT education at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) prepares you for both virtual and actual realities. Just ask Tan Shi Hui and Yao Wei, two siblings who made SP their choice.

**B**rother and sister Yao Wei and Shi Hui have two things in common: a passion for IT, and the school they go to. Both siblings joined SP's School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) despite having L1R5 scores that could qualify them for junior college (JC). Yao Wei, the elder, picked the **Diploma in Information Technology (DIT)**, whereas Shi Hui entered the **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)** just two years after him.

Their parents were supportive of their move. To them, the IT industry was ever-growing, so it would be a promising career path for their already enthusiastic children. A few years later, their faith was rewarded. Yao Wei graduated as the silver medallist in his batch in 2011, and is now pursuing a degree in computer science in Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) – Digipen with an SIT scholarship. Similarly, Shi Hui graduated top of her batch this year, and is heading to University College London in the UK to further her studies. An Integrated Infocomm Scholarship recipient during her SP days, she was recently awarded the higher-tiered National Infocomm Scholarship that will fund her overseas studies, on top of other benefits.

During their three years in SP, they gained considerable hands-on project experience to boost their skills and portfolios. Yao Wei

pursued his passion for games by choosing DIT's Game Development specialisation. He programmed a first-person Flash game, a 2D side-scrolling action shooter called *Wormstrike*, and 3D animation software for the iPad when it first came out. Shi Hui, on the other hand, pursued her dual passions for business and IT by developing social networking apps, creating financial analysis software programmes and entering computing competitions, including the recent National Infocomm Security Competition 2013, in which she clinched the top prize and bagged \$1,000 cash.

Some people, however, associate the field of IT as something more suited for a theory-intensive JC education. Did poly life help or hinder these brainy siblings? Here's what they have to say:

### What did you interested in IT?

**SH:** When I was in secondary school, I was in the media club. At first, I wasn't an IT kind of person, but I started liking it after creating my own websites and joining competitions. After I graduated, I wanted to study something IT-related. I was also quite interested in business, so I chose DBIT since it had a mix of both.  
**YW:** When I first got my Xbox, I got exposed to

Dynasty Warriors and all the different 3D fighting and other types of games. I was impressed by them and became enthusiastic about gaming; I wanted to understand how to make a game. After my 'O' levels, I joined DIT, partly because of its Game Development option.

### What did your courses offer that you liked?

**YW:** DIT's mix of subjects gives us fundamental exposure to what information science and computer technology are about. It's a good place to get exposed to the IT world.  
**SH:** I enjoyed everything about my course, but the thing I liked most is how IT is used to support business in different ways. Computer programmes are used in business intelligence, analytics, websites and marketing. I also like its balance of business and IT modules.

### Why did you choose to study in a poly?

**YW:** Personally, I could really see myself doing hands-on projects. I like the feeling of having a final product at the end of the day and doing something that is more applicable rather than theoretical. Poly allowed me to really specialise

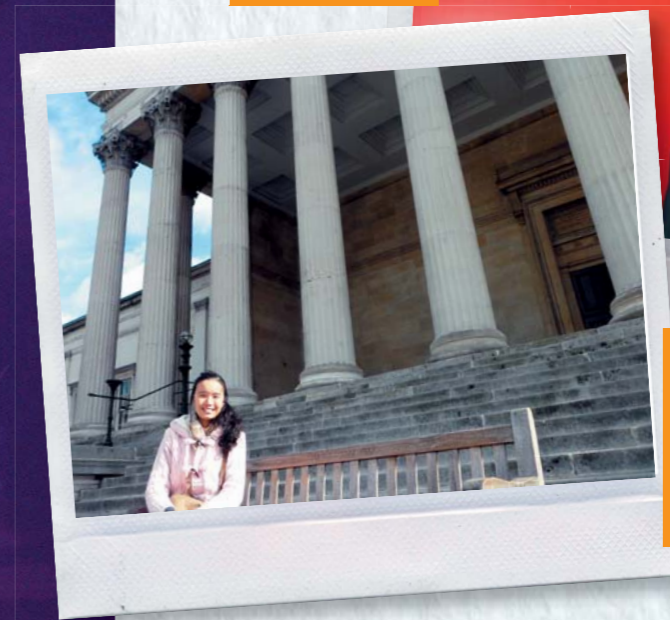
in what I'm interested in. And in poly, there are more group projects. I like having teammates who fight alongside me to get things done. With SP, I went to USA for a really valuable six-month internship. I don't think I would get such an opportunity in a JC.

### How was life in SP?

**SH:** I really had a good time. I travelled to Indonesia, China and the United Kingdom for various student exchange and community service programmes. Besides that, the supportive friends and devoted lecturers I met were also part of the wonderful time I had. I did not regret choosing DBIT, and I believe that new students would enjoy their time there as well.

### Any advice for students who'll be choosing their courses soon?

**SH:** Try to choose a course you know you will like even after three years. Don't follow trends or go with the flow. Going with your heart is more important. If you have no idea what you want, maybe you can look into a course that has a wider scope so that you'll have more options in future.



Brother and sister Tan Yao Wei and Shi Hui

The siblings at Shi Hui's graduation ceremony.



Shi Hui did a six-week internship programme at University College London where she researched trends in the IT industry.

The School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology (DMIT) offers the following diploma courses:

- Business Information Technology
- Digital Animation
- Infocomm Security Management
- Information Technology
- Music and Audio Technology
- Visual Effects and Motion Graphics



**SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC | SP**

Follow SP on

facebook.com/singaporepolytechnic  
twitter.com/singaporepoly  
youtube.com/singaporepolytechnic  
www.sp.edu.sg