

Business enabler

National Infocomm Scholarship holder Danny Seow enjoys the flexible nature of his job at Accenture

by douglas chew

NATIONAL Infocomm scholar Danny Seow, 26, had the best of both worlds, having experienced university life both locally and abroad.

After graduating from Ngee Ann Polytechnic with a diploma in Business Studies, he landed the scholarship which sent him to Singapore Management University, where he earned the highest honours or summa cum laude for his Bachelor in Information Systems Management degree programme.

He followed it up with a master's degree in eBusiness technology at one of America's top universities, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), also on the scholarship.

Having left his comfort zone when he arrived at CMU, Mr Seow adapted quickly by making new friends and adapting to the American way of life. In this new environment, he realised he had the capacity to surprise himself, even hiking through the Yosemite National Park on his own, something he previously could not imagine doing.

Mr Seow worked on projects with students from varied nationalities including Korea and Senegal. This allowed him to learn more about their cultures and attitudes.

"The fantastic thing about the scholarship is that it has given me international exposure and broadened my perspective. The year spent overseas has really built my character and enforced a degree of self-reliance," he says.

The National Infocomm Scholarship is a joint scholarship offered by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) in collaboration with a partnering organisation to attract top talent into the country's infocomm industry.

Candidates can choose among 26 prestigious organisations across multiple industries, ranging from top consulting firms like Accenture to both local and global finance institutions. Upon graduation, scholars will serve their bonds at these companies.

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— Mr Danny Seow (above, right), analyst, Accenture

"The financial coverage extends to all essentials so we can concentrate on achieving academic excellence," says Mr Seow.

The scholarship also has a talent management programme where scholars can attend relevant courses, seminars and conferences, and apply for certifications in a bid to enhance their professional capabilities and be equipped with industry-relevant skills prior to graduation.

Now three months into his current position as an analyst at Accenture, Mr Seow is rapidly learning the ropes, leveraging the experiences of his colleagues and supervisors.

"Team members work together to the best of their abilities to meet project goals and when we celebrate our success, the sense of our collective achievement is tremendous and we are recognised for our effort and achievement," he adds.

"Even as a fresh graduate, I am entrusted and empowered to make key decisions on the tasks assigned to me. I am given the opportunity to play an important role and make a difference in the work I do."

As Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, providing services across a wide range of industries and business functions, Mr Seow will have the chance to work with different industries in the span of his career.

"I find this flexibility and movement across different projects and industries at this early stage of my career very important," he says. "This rotation allows fresh graduates to experience the different best practices across various industries and learn how to adapt quickly to different demands."

"Knowing that I play a part in helping our clients achieve high performance as well as being a business enabler gives me a great sense of achievement and is a key motivator," he adds.

His advice to prospective scholars is that while any scholarship will ease the financial burden of further education, they

should be aware of the accompanying obligations.

"Potential scholars must be aware of their job role in future, passionate about the companies' direction, comfortable with the employee benefits, and most importantly, confident that they can excel prior to committing to a bond," he says.



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