

FACT SHEET (August 2009)

NATIONAL INFOCOMM SCHOLARSHIP

The National Infocomm Scholarship (NIS) was launched by IDA in 2004 to develop infocomm leaders and ensure a future pipeline of talent for the infocomm industry. Specifically, it aims to:

- Make infocomm a top career choice among top students;
- Create 'industry-ready' scholars to drive Singapore's infocomm industry; and
- Ensure that the industry has a fair share of top talent to sustain its future growth.

Scope

NIS offers the unique opportunity for scholars to be nurtured by leading MNCs, local companies and government agencies during their course of study. The sponsoring organisations range from diverse sectors including banking and finance, defence, energy, entertainment, and infocomm. These sponsoring organisations will nurture national infocomm scholars through mentorship and overseas work attachments of up to six months. At the end of their studies, all NIS scholars would go on to serve their bond with their sponsoring organisations.

NIS is open to both local and foreign students who have completed their junior college or polytechnic studies and are keen to pursue a fulltime infocomm-related degree in either a local or foreign university. "Partial Scholarships" are also awarded to deserving students in their final year of their infocomm degree programme at the three local universities (i.e., NUS, NTU and SMU).

NIS covers tuition and exam fees, hostel fees, annual allowance and cost of the scholar's six-month overseas attachment. Top performing undergraduate scholars may be given an opportunity to pursue another year of sponsored postgraduate studies.

Talent Management Programme

From 2008, the NIS Talent Management Programme (or TMP for short) has been further strengthened. The aim of the TMP is to ensure that the scholars are plugged into the latest infocomm developments and have the opportunities to upgrade themselves with industry-relevant skills while they are studying. Under this programme, the scholars could choose to attend development courses, besides the NIS education, to enhance their professional capabilities. IDA is committed to sponsoring up to S\$7,000 for each scholar. The development courses seek to provide vendor-specific expertise, business domain knowledge, client management, business communication and soft skills. Examples include:

- ITIL V3 Foundation;

- Microsoft Certified Application Developer (MCAD);
- Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP): Database Administrator;
- Red Hat Certified Engineer; and
- Sun Certified Java Developer.

Flagship Infocomm Programmes

Five Flagship Infocomm Programmes are offered under the NIS programme. In collaboration with the three local universities and top overseas universities, the programme aims to provide top quality courses for talents interested to pursue infocomm education and careers. Graduates will be awarded with both Bachelor and Masters degrees from the respective universities.

The Flagship Infocomm Masters Programmes are:

- SMU-Carnegie Mellon University Fast Track Programme awarding a Bachelor of Science (Information Systems Management) degree and a Master's of Information Technology degree with seven possible areas of specialisation (e.g., infocomm security, e-business, etc);
- NUS-Carnegie Mellon University Entertainment Technology Centre Programme in Interactive Digital Media awarding a Bachelor of Computing (Media & Communication) degree and Master of Entertainment (Entertainment Technology);
- NUS-Brown University in Computational Biology
- NUS-Cambridge University (Judge Business School) in Information Management & Management
- NTU-Georgia Institute of Technology Integrated Programmes awarding either a BEng (Computer Science) degree and a MS (Computer Science) degree, or a BEng (Electrical and Electronic Engineering) and MS (Electrical and Computer Engineering) degree.

Infocomm Security Specialisation

In a digital global economy, information assets are becoming as important as, if not more important than, physical assets. As cyber threats such as malware, hackers and cyber criminals become more sophisticated, infocomm security is now an evolving challenge. The right infocomm security professional is needed to help businesses and organisations mitigate the risks from cyber threats - a professional that is grounded in the sound principles of infocomm solutions and who also has the acumen to maintain a delicate balance between security and business needs.

In Singapore, infocomm security professionals are high in demand. The Government has driven the implementation of two Infocomm Security Masterplans to enhance Singapore's position as a secure and trusted hub, and Singapore was ranked 1st out of 55 economies in the 2008 IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook survey for the degree to which cyber security is being addressed by corporations.

The NIS for Infocomm Security programme will allow scholars to pursue their university studies in the area of infocomm security. Upon graduation, scholars will work as an infocomm security professional with our designated NIS partners.

Below is a list of renowned universities which offer infocomm security degrees:

List of recommended universities

- Carnegie Mellon University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Purdue University
- University of California, Davis
- Cambridge University
- Royal Holloway, University of London

Industry Partners

The 26 participating organisations for NIS include the following. IDA will continue to engage top companies and invite them to come on board as our NIS partners.

1. Accenture Pte Ltd
2. Avaya Singapore Pte Ltd
3. Aztech Systems Ltd
4. Barclays Capital
5. BT Frontline Pte Ltd
6. Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies
7. DBS Bank Ltd
8. Ecquaria Technologies Pte Ltd
9. Fujitsu Asia Pte Ltd
10. e-Cop (S) Pte Ltd
11. IBM Singapore Pte Ltd (including ILOG (S) Pte Ltd – an IBM company)
12. IDA
13. Intel Technology Asia Pte Ltd
14. MediaCorp Pte Ltd
15. Microsoft Singapore Pte Ltd
16. MobileOne Ltd
17. NCS Pte Ltd (including Singapore Computer Systems Pte Ltd which is an NCS member)
18. Novell Singapore Pte Ltd
19. Oracle Corporation Singapore Pte Ltd
20. SAS Institute Pte Ltd
21. Singapore Power Ltd
22. Singapore Telecommunications Ltd
23. ST Electronics (Training & Simulation Systems) Pte Ltd
24. StarHub Ltd
25. Symantec Singapore Ltd
26. United Overseas Bank Ltd

Please see annexes for more details:

- Annex A List of NIS 2009 Scholars
- Annex B Profiles and Quotes of Selected NIS Scholars
- Annex C Quotes of Some Sponsoring Organisations

For more information, please visit www.ida.gov.sg or www.infocommtalent.sg, or email ida_nis_admin@ida.gov.sg

FOR MORE INFORMATION

IDA Communication Contact

Ms Vanni CHEONG
Manager, Corporate & Marketing Communication
Tel: +65 6211 0353
Email: vanni_cheong@ida.gov.sg

Annex A

LIST OF NIS 2009 SCHOLARS

No	Name	Gender	Sponsor Organisation	Type of Scholarship	University	Course of study
1	Goh Ying Yi Alvin	M	Avaya	Local	NTU	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
2	Chua Ying Li Pamela	F	Barclays Capital	Overseas	Stanford University	Mathematical & Computational Science
3	Lu Hanxu Leonard	M	Barclays Capital	Overseas	Cornell University	Engineering
4	Teh Qin Chuan	M	CSIT	Local	NUS	Computer Science
5	Chuan Guangxu	M	CSIT	Partial	NUS	Computer Engineering
6	Song Liqin	F	Ecquaria Technologies	Partial	NTU	Business & Computing
7	Tay Shi Hui	F	Fujitsu	Local	NTU	Business & Computing
8	Lee Shang Qian	M	IDA	Overseas	University College Oxford	Electrical Engineering
9	Tan Jing Wei*	M	IDA	Overseas	Royal Holloway London	Computer Science
10	Jerene Yang Zhe*	F	IDA	Overseas	CMU	Computer Science
11	Xing Yi Huan	M	IDA	Local	NTU	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
12	Kwan Huiling	F	IDA	Flagship	SMU-CMU Flagship Masters	Information Systems & MSc(IT)
13	Iswarya*	F	IDA	Local	NUS	Computer Engineering
14	Peh Rui Yuan	M	IDA	Overseas	Imperial College London	Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Management
15	Lee Wai Hoong Joel*	M	IDA	Flagship	SMU-CMU Flagship Masters	Information Systems & MSc(IT)
16	Lim Yew Siong	M	Microsoft	Flagship	NTU-Georgia Tech Flagship Masters	Computer Science & MSc(CS)
17	Teh Ming Han	M	Microsoft	Overseas	CMU	Computer Science
18	Chong Yun Long	M	NCS	Local	NUS	Computer Science & Business Admin
19	Lau Han Yang	M	NCS	Local	NUS	Computing
20	Tan Xue Shan	F	NCS	Flagship	SMU-CMU Flagship Masters	Information Systems & MSc(IT)
21	Chng Soon Yeong Kelvin	M	SAS Institute	Flagship	SMU-CMU Flagship Masters	Information Systems & MSc(IT)
22	Thong Qian Mu Timothy*	M	Singtel	Overseas	TBC	TBC
23	Tan Wei Jin Benson	M	Singtel	Partial	NTU	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
24	Koh Meng Hui	M	ST Electronics (Training & Simulation Sys)	Flagship	NUS-CMU Flagship Masters	Computing & Masters in Entertainment Technology
25	Anujot Singh	M	StarHub	Overseas	TBC	TBC

	Dhaliwal					
26	How Jing Lin	M	Symantec	Partial	NUS	Information Systems

** denotes scholars taking the infocomm security specialisation*

PROFILES AND QUOTES OF SELECTED NIS SCHOLARS

1, Anujot Singh Dhaliwal, Male, Singapore PR, 24, Indian, StarHub, University College London, Computer Science

"Having worked in the infocomm industry as a Software Engineer for the past two years has made me realise the importance of continuous learning and upgrading of skills in the ever evolving world of infocomm technology. By handling projects involving solutions like Voice-Over-IP and working on mobile platforms like iPhone and Google Android, I have gained knowledge on new and emerging technologies and also valuable management and communication skills. Through NIS, I hope to acquire skills with which I can contribute to my line of profession, particularly in the field of software systems in telecoms industry, and hope to share my knowledge and experience with others to motivate them in the same way as infocomm has inspired me."

2. Leonard Lu Hanxu, Male, Singaporean, 21, Chinese, Barclays, Cornell University, Engineering

"From social networking portals to powerful financial trading systems, the infocomm industry excites me as it is abound with intriguing opportunities to revolutionalise lives. The NIS will allow me to work in a MNC like Barclays which views infocomm technology as central to its operations and growth, instead of merely as a service support function. This is important as I feel that technology innovation, however brilliant, cannot be maximised unless it is subjected to effective governance and risk management. In a recent speech, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong also asserted that administrative efficiency in e-Government can only be achieved when infocomm investments are coupled with good governance, such as continuous regulatory review. Therefore, I aspire to become a CIO, the bridge between the business vision and the infocomm force, and in so doing contribute to the promotion of Singapore as a global infocomm hub."

3. Tay Shi Hui, Female, Singaporean, 21, Chinese, Fujitsu Asia Pte Ltd, NTU, Double Degree Programme in Business and Computing

"Having the strong technical knowledge which School of InfoComm Technology has prepared me was sufficed for me to understand and solve infocomm problems technically and logically. However, in the competitive market, in order for problems to be effectively solved, infocomm professionals need to strike a balance in understanding both business and infocomm knowledge. I was working as an intern in a solutions company developing an enquiry portal using SAP Business One as the backend database, where I would need to know the business processes before I could apply my technical skills to solve the problems. Thus, this has made me realised that business and infocomm complement each other. This has spurred me to apply for the double degree programme in Business and Computing in NTU, which I would receive a hybrid curriculum that integrate both technology and business elements. I believe this double degree program will be very beneficial to my future career in the infocomm arena, which I would be able to understand both business

and technology aspects; providing effective solutions to companies that increase their efficiency and robustness in the competitive market."

4. Jerene Yang Zhe, Female, Singaporean, 20, IDA, CMU, Computer Science

"As a young girl, I have always been interested in areas like robotics, computer science and mathematics. Hence, it came as no surprise when I chose to major in computer science. The NIS has given me this valuable opportunity to further my studies at Carnegie Mellon University, one of the best in this area. I hope with this scholarship, I'll be able to learn from the best and help develop the infocomm industry as a leading infocomm security specialist here in Singapore."

5. Kelvin Chng Soon Yeong, Male, Singaporean, 23, Chinese, SAS Institute, SMU-CMU Fast Track

"Who would have thought that 15 years ago, your computer at home can book you a Broadway performance, along with the air tickets and your accommodation, half a globe away? I am lucky to be part of this critical transition, knowing how much infocomm has changed our lives, enabling possibilities which were previously fiction fodder. Coming from a family with both parents who are working long hours in the bank, striving hard to harness that possibility to make life easier for them has always been my key focus. NIS will allow me to reduce their financial burden and with new skills acquired, to help them in any little way I can with their daily tasks. That, keeps the drive in me, pushing me harder to delve further into this exciting industry of unexplored opportunities."

QUOTES OF SOME SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS

The NIS continues to see strong support from the industry in groom national infocomm scholars.

1. Masaki Kajiyama, President, Fujitsu Asia

“Human resource is the most important asset of any organisation. The National Infocomm Scholarship by IDA, which Fujitsu has sponsored for the last three years, is in line with our corporate philosophy of nurturing human capital. As a leading global IT services provider, Fujitsu is honoured to be part of this scheme to develop talented professionals for the local IT industry.”

2. Jessica Tan, Managing Director, Microsoft Singapore

“Having an IT talent base and ecosystem that has both the depth and breadth of expertise are vital to the success of the Industry in any economy. That’s why Microsoft has focused our effort on developing a sustainable ecosystem of talent. Through our close partnership with IDA and other government agencies, we invest in a continuum of programs from primary schools to start ups, software developers and technopreneurs. We believe that this will nurture talent for the competitiveness of the local software economy in the longer term. It is from this vast pool of talent that we hope will be the talent base to help build and contribute to Singapore’s mission to be a hub for the Infocomm industry in Singapore as well as a healthy source of talent for Microsoft and our partners.”

3. Wong Sau Lin, Vice President (HR), Singapore Telecommunications Ltd

“SingTel is firmly committed to talent management and development, and we constantly look for individuals who can Connect and Grow with us. Having the right partners is key to us identifying and grooming future talents that will help us achieve our business and strategic goals. In this, SingTel is pleased to be a partner of IDA in the NIS programme.”