

{ Go Beyond THE CLASSROOM } ...

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Reaping Rewards During Internship

Story by Charlene Peh, Nurqistina Azmi and Raymond Quek
Images courtesy of Puteri Nurin Syazwani, Mabel Wong and Sim Zhi Jie, Dylon



Puteri (2nd from right), together with colleagues and fellow interns, at a farewell dinner

Puteri Nurin Syazwani, 22, remembers when she was accepted into NYP via EAE. "With the knowledge that I had secured a polytechnic placement, I was much calmer and more confident with the final exam," she shared. "This actually allowed me to end my ITE years on a good and positive note!"

Her journey in NYP has been positive since. Puteri spent her internship semester at Silicone Manufacturing Company Pte Ltd (SSMC). She experienced a well-rounded internship as a learning and development administrator.

A recent graduate from the Diploma in Business Management, specialising in Human Resource and Events Management, Puteri tried various functions in human resources and even had a chance to shine.

"As I was responsible for various administrative tasks, I became more aware of my work efficiency. I asked myself whether it was a question of my ability or the company's system efficiency," explained Puteri.

Thereafter, she spoke to her supervisor about creating materials for the training of staff, which would cut down the preparation process and provide a more manageable workload. Her idea was implemented.

"Corporate work life is like a game of grinding experience points," Puteri shared, saying that repetitive tasks are the foundation to reaching greater heights.

Another SBM student, Wong Xin Yuan, Mabel, 19, is presently pursuing her passion for journalism. A third-year student from the Diploma in Mass Media Management, Mabel wasn't sure if it was the right course for her at the start.

"I only knew that I should 'invest' in my English skills, but I didn't know what I could do with it," she shared. She's happy she came in through EAE. "It was the best decision that I could have made at the time!"



Mabel working from home in her "office"

Mabel is presently interning at Mothership, writing for the Editorial Lifestyle department. The internship had a rough start as she wasn't sure if she would still be hired during the circuit breaker. Eventually, she began working from home.

"I haven't met most of the staff face-to-face, except for a few of my supervisors. As such, it's hard to connect with them," shared Mabel.

Despite the challenges, Mabel now sees a different side of humanity. She wrote a memorable piece on a pregnant mother who walked from Singapore to Johor Bahru for hours with her two-year-old son as buses weren't operating at the time.

"If not for these stories, I wouldn't have had the chance to really understand what life is like for these people."

And now, we turn our attention to Sim Zhi Jie, Dylan, a 20-year-old graduate from NYP's Diploma in Banking and Finance, who has always been certain about pursuing finance. This is why he chose the EAE route. "EAE got me thinking about my future career at a younger age," he said.

Undergoing his internship was part of that career pursuit. Dylan worked at the quantitative risk analysis department at

State Street Global Exchange. It allowed him to put his life skills and academic knowledge to the test.



Dylan (3rd from right) with his team during his State Street internship

"Once, I found myself leading a teleconference with people from different time zones to hand over the work to them," he said. He resolved the issues successfully by sharing an operation guide which he made during his free time.

Dylan's efforts paid off. He was ranked the best intern in the department during his term. "I am grateful that my superior and internship mentor acknowledged the work initiative that I placed," he said.

Dylan said that solutions are hard to come by but if one searches hard enough, they can be found. "Stay diligent and optimistic, and you can solve any problem," said Dylan, of a mantra he lives by.

Winning In Their Specialised Fields

*Story by Hazirah Ismail and Siti Hani Binte Jumari
Images courtesy of Joylynn Teo and Tan Yong Xiang*



Joylynn representing team Blaze in Hong Kong last year

Joylynn Teo Hwee Teng, 19, was sure she wanted to get into the Diploma in Sport and Wellness Management and applied through EAE. "I knew there was nothing to lose giving the interview a shot," she said.

Her spirit for winning in the sporting arena is evident, as she led NYP's Touch Football

team to their sixth consecutive Polytechnic-Institute of Technical Education (POL-ITE) title. Under the year three student's captainship, the team, Blaze, also secured the first runner-up position in the 2019 Touch Football IVP competition.



Joylynn (right) with her coach, Terrence Toh (centre) and vice captain, Aicha Choochit (left) during POL-ITE 2019 prize presentation

Due to these victories, Blaze was awarded the STAR award, an accolade from NYP that acknowledges those who have excelled and contributed in non-academic areas.

"We win some and we lose some, but all these competitions really challenge us to keep improving as a team," she said.

As captain, Joylynn set an example for the team off-field. She sacrificed her time and gave up activities in her free time to catch up on her studies.

"I'm glad that I was able to manage my other responsibilities, so that I could give my energy and focus to Touch," she said.

Like Joylynn, an NYP alumni tasted victory... at an international level.

Clinching gold at the Alen Thong Golden Coffee Pot Young Chef Challenge in Abu Dhabi as part of the Singapore Junior Chefs Club (SJCC)

Club (SJCC) is one of many achievements that Tan Yong Xiang, 21, has under his belt.

He recalls how he didn't do so well for his 'O' levels and was thankful he made it through EAE into the Diploma in Food and Beverage Business. "I'm able to study in poly and do what I like, so I told myself to work extra hard every day," he said.

The recent graduate ventured into cooking after his grandmother's passing in 2015. His family yearned for her cooking and he began making all her classic dishes.

"When my family ate what I cooked, they started crying," he said. "That sparked my passion for cooking. I want to serve experiences, and not just food."

Being in Abu Dhabi was eye-opening. He met professional chefs and made friends on a global scale. Winning gold made the sleepless nights, social sacrifices and hard work worth it.

"I almost cried. So many people - my mentors, teammates - put their trust in me. I told myself to keep pushing on and to never give up," he said.



Tan Yong Xiang, part of the Singapore Junior Chefs Club (SJCC)

Excelling In Their Soft Skills

Story by Tang Yi Qing and Lisa Anne Yeoh
Images courtesy of Ryan Haque Doulay and Jinie Agilia

Ryan Haque Doulay, 22, comes from a family that enjoys culture and languages. At a young age, the year three student from the Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management discovered his talent for foreign languages.

"I naturally adopted a love for languages," he explained. He started learning Korean on his own in 2012 and practised diligently. His eventual success motivated him to move on to other languages. "And I have not stopped since," he gushed excitedly.



Ryan (left) with one of his closest friends in Busan

He is also fluent in Bahasa Melayu and can converse effectively in Spanish. He is currently pursuing other languages, such

as Russian, French, Arabic and Japanese.

As a tourism student, Ryan plans on using his love for languages to help him connect with international guests in the future. He also intends to bring these skills with him abroad for more opportunities.

He's already begun with his OSEP (Overseas Student Exchange Programme) semester that he completed last year in South Korea. There, he made friends from various countries, such as Russia and Uzbekistan.

"In a way, the opportunities at NYP have helped strengthen my passion," he shared. "I'm quite certain I would not be here if not for EAE."

Likewise for Jinie Agilia, 19, she too is also honing her soft skills while studying for her diploma in Accountancy and Finance.

She said it was stressful studying for the 'O' level exams. EAE helped ease the pressure from competition. "It allowed me to focus on myself and not others," she shared.

Since then, the year three student has progressed to be an active volunteer and has commendable leadership and organisational qualities. Jinie volunteers for ad hoc events at Gracehaven and HCA Hospice Care, among others.

She started under a scholarship Capstone Programme requiring her to give back to the community. After helping at Willing Hearts, she felt a sense of fulfilment and joined the Ambassadorial Team at NYP for more opportunities.

"I want to contribute back to society while working in the future. I'm now training myself to juggle between leadership responsibilities and volunteerism, so it will be second nature when I grow older."



Jinie (far left) volunteering at Gracehaven

She recalls a heart-warming incident at a home for the disabled. "I was extremely touched to receive hugs from one of the beneficiaries as I didn't expect it at all," Jinie happily shared.

She's one who balances her academic and non-academic pursuits. "Perseverance and discipline are the key points."