

The edge in business and finance

DURING UCSI's 27th convocation last year, Tiew Kee Yee (*pic*) received the loudest applause when he was announced as the recipient of the inaugural Chancellor's Gold Medal Award – an honour on par with that of the valedictorian.

Diagnosed with Type 2 spinal muscular atrophy disease, Tiew depends on a wheelchair to get around. Nonetheless, he did not let that stop his pursuit of an education. He stated matter-of-factly that his condition would not improve.

"Knowledge is my only choice to ensure I have a competitive advantage," he said.

Tiew's resolve to earn a degree saw him enrolling in UCSI University's BA (Hons) Accounting degree under the Faculty of Business and Information Sciences (FoBIS).

Tiew's years at UCSI are marked with achievement. In 2009, he was awarded the MERIT Scholarship Award and he made the Dean's List two years in a row for 2011 and 2012.

Tiew made a conscious effort to step out of his comfort zone. This saw him setting up the Accounting and Finance Student Association as the founding president and participating in various competitions and forums organised by the faculty.

Today, Tiew is pursuing his Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) qualification part-time. He is earning his keep as a freelancer working on accounting tasks and GST preparations.

An edge with finance

To ensure its students such as Tiew are equipped with a competitive edge for the working world, FoBIS periodically reviews its programmes.

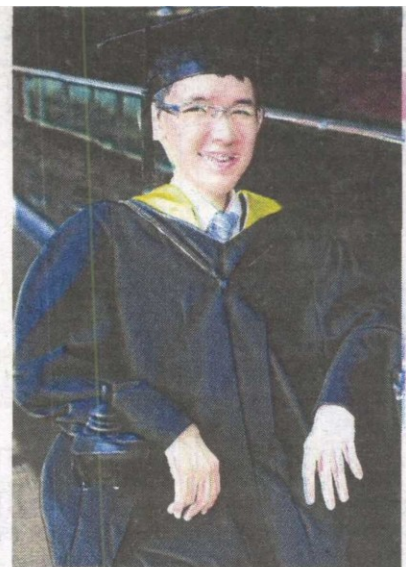
Going to the source of student employment, the academic staff members touched base with industry practitioners and realised that all of them had the same request.

"The industry leaders we spoke with said that they needed graduates with financial knowledge," reveals the dean, Dr Melissa Migin.

Interestingly, the industry feedback is that it needs graduates with knowledge of finance in addition to a conventional business degree.

Dr Migin credits this demand to the flexibility such a degree provides.

Therefore, FoBIS has designed a new range of programmes that incorporates the trusted business degree with the growing finance potential – Bachelor of Financial Economics (Hons), BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance, BSc (Hons)



Actuarial Science and Finance, BSc (Hons) Finance and Investment and BBA (Hons) Islamic Banking and Finance.

This foresight also means UCSI is one of the few private tertiary education institutions offering these degrees.

■ To find out more about UCSI University's Faculty of Business and Information Science, contact 03-9101 8882 or e-mail www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/onlineenquiry

You can also drop by its Career Forum on April 11 and 12 to find out more.