

Springboard to accounting success

RESPONDING to the demand for more versatile accountants and finance professionals, the Professional Studies Institute at UCSI University has created a learning environment and a unique programme to prepare its ACCA students for the real working world.

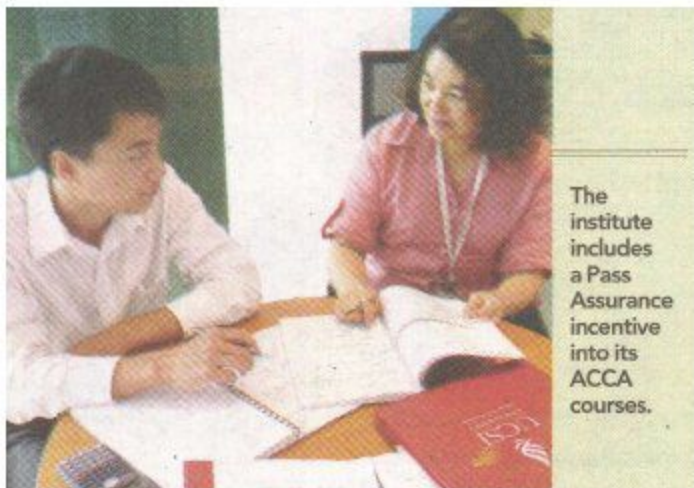
"Our educational goal is to provide quality education that surpasses an examination-oriented paper qualification", says Sudesh Balasubramaniam, general manager of the Professional Studies Institute. "Our aim is not only to guide students to pass their exams, but to further coach them into applying the acquired theoretical knowledge to the real world through internships with our many corporate partners while they are still studying with us. We believe this is the essential and leading contribution on the future shape of the overall global accountancy profession."

Employers expect newly-qualified accountants to be able to quickly incorporate what they have learned in school into real life situations, so today's graduates must be able to rise to the occasion.

They also need to possess excellent soft skills. At the Professional Studies Institute, students can look forward to holistic training. Besides corporate training seminars on accounting, tax, finance, audit and assurance, there are skill-enhancing workshops for personal advancements which include promoting critical thinking and nurturing development in areas which extend beyond the realms of accounting and finance. These areas include presentation skills, and Business English.

Classes at the institute are conducted on both full- and part-time basis. Kirsten Michele Fernandez, who sat for her degree in Accounting & Finance, attributes her continuing motivation in her studies to the holistic learning environment. "I am very grateful to the staff as well as my trainers who constantly encourage and guide me throughout my ACCA course", says Kirsten. "I am happy to be able to pass in my first sitting while juggling work and my studies," says Kirsten.

Another student, Gan Shin Lu, says it is never too late to pursue any career interest. Gan was an A-Level student taking Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics before she realised her true calling in ac-



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countancy. She is now in her second semester at the institute.

As one of the most sought-after accounting professional qualifications in the world, the ACCA professional qualification involves a total of 14 papers. ACCA students who complete the Fundamental Level exams (F1-F9) and the Professional Ethics Module will be awarded the Advanced Diploma in Accounting and Business. Upon obtaining the Advanced Diploma, students could opt to pursue a BSc (Hons) degree in Applied Accounting that is awarded by the Oxford Brookes University which requires them to submit a Research and Analysis project, as well as complete the Professional Ethics Module. Subsequently, these students could progress to the Professional Level to qualify for the ACCA qualification.

Studying ACCA at the institute has many advantages. Besides the high contact hours, experienced lecturers and learning facilitators, and excellent campus facilities, there is also the commitment to students' progress. "We incorporate a Pass Assurance incentive into the course," says Sudesh. "This is our commitment to ensure that our students pass the ACCA examinations at their first sitting."

For more details on UCSI and the institute, call 03 -9130 8888 or e-mail us at info@ucsipr.com