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# Take charge of your future

**Michelle Chin speaks to five people on the appeal of the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme, which aims to help applicants chart successful careers**

Pondering over your next move after recently graduating from polytechnic or the Institute of Technical Education? Many paths can lead to the career you desire.

Get a head start in a career that builds on the knowledge and skills you acquire in school with the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme (ELP).

Check out the ELP work-learn programme that equips you with invaluable skill sets that are in demand in the workforce. Pick from sectors including air transport, banking, biomedical sciences, design, food manufacturing, infocomm technology, maritime, retail and many more.

Deepen your professional knowledge via structured, full-time on-the-job training, earn a competitive starting salary and receive certification for your part-time studies. Should you decide to enter university in future, be exempted from selected modules if you meet certain minimum requirements.

This Saturday, check out the ELP Carnival, where ELP students and graduates, as well as industry speakers from various industries, will share their experiences. It will also be an opportune time to get information from exhibitors and participating employers spanning more than 20 sectors.

The participating companies include Standard Chartered, ST Logistics, Resorts World Sentosa, Marina Bay Sands, SBS Transit, Sembcorp Marine, Kelly Services, Grandwork Interior and many others.

Explore the seven experience zones at the ELP Carnival — Game Zone, Speaker Zone, Performance Zone, Partnership Zone, Information/Interaction Zone, Food Zone and Learning Journey Zone.

Win attractive prizes, gain insights from keynote speakers and register your interest at the ELP Carnival.

Visit [www.skillsfuture.sg/earnandlearn](http://www.skillsfuture.sg/earnandlearn) for more information on the ELP.

## ELP CARNIVAL

**WHERE:**

Ngee Ann Polytechnic Convention Centre

**WHEN:**

Saturday, from 10am to 2pm

Visit [www.elp-carnival.com](http://www.elp-carnival.com) for details.

**SKILLSfuture**  
Earn & Learn



**Tan Ze Hao, 23**  
Singapore Accountancy Commission-Ngee Ann Polytechnic (SAC-NP) Advanced Diploma in Accountancy, 2016-2017  
Employer: Ardent Associates LLP  
Previous qualification: Diploma in Accountancy

### REACH FOR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

While in National Service, I decided to join the workforce after leaving the army. It was by chance that I saw one of my polytechnic lecturer's social media posts on the ELP.

I found the 18-month work-study programme perfect for me. I can work full-time, and be fully sponsored for my part-time course and examination fees. I also developed new skills through on-the-job training and gained valuable working experience.

Attending classes increased my understanding in financial reporting, tax, financial management and other areas, and I realise I can apply what I learnt at work.

Managing real-world situations at work also increased the relevance of what my lecturers were describing in classes, and I was better able to relate to what was being taught.

I will be sitting for the Singapore CA Qualification (Foundation) centralised exams conducted by the Singapore Accountancy Commission. I aspire to progress to the Singapore CA Qualification to attain the Chartered Accountant of Singapore status."



**Masyitah Hasunah Binte Muhammad Mario Ceralvo, 21**  
Advanced Diploma in Chemical Engineering, 2016-2017  
Employer: Shell Eastern Petroleum  
Previous qualification: Diploma in Chemical Engineering

### BEING AHEAD OF PEERS DURING UNIVERSITY

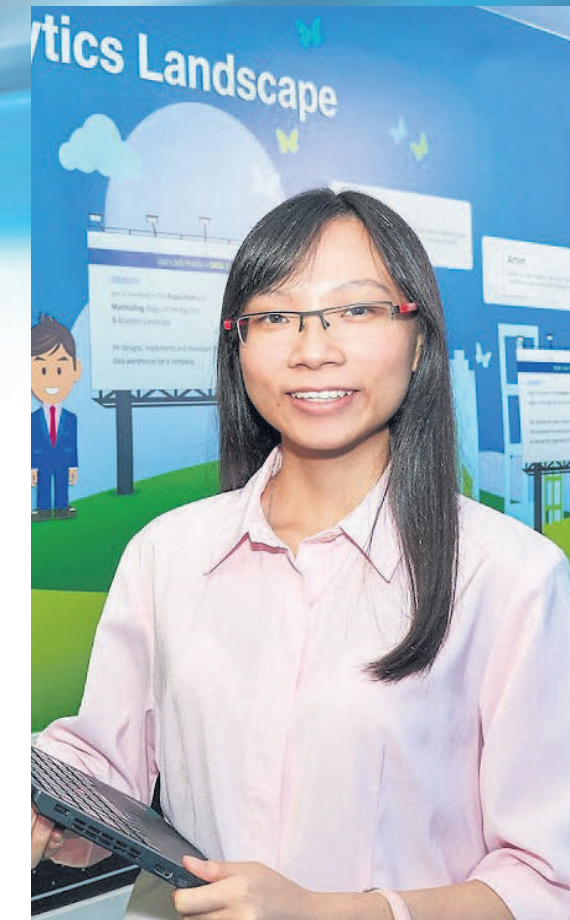
Both my parents' careers in the oil and gas industry played a role in inspiring me to join the sector.

Come 2019, I plan to enrol in National University of Singapore's Bachelor of Technology (Chemical Engineering), where I would enjoy advantageous consideration for admission to the programme and be exempted from selected modules, subject to me meeting certain minimum requirements.

But before that, I seek a deeper understanding of the sector via the ELP. As part of the programme, I was hired as a process technician at Shell Eastern Petroleum.

Among other duties, I trouble-shoot issues that the chemical plant faces and attend to laboratory testing of chemical samples. So far, I've gained practical skills such as commissioning and trouble-shooting equipment.

With the ELP, I can better link theory learnt in part-time classes to the practical aspects at work. For example, you will never really understand the topic of separation processes taught in school until you actually operate a separation column. I got to do just that when at work."



**Ang Jing Xuan, 20**  
Specialist Diploma in Big Data & Analytics, 2017-2018  
Employer: Azendian Solutions  
Previous qualification: Diploma in Financial Business Informatics

### BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

After completing my polytechnic diploma, I decided that some work experience would be beneficial.

I joined the ELP as I wanted a hands-on approach to master the skill sets that are in demand in the industry. This gives me better insights to decide on my next career move, or if I should matriculate in future.

Among many other skill sets, the ELP's lessons taught me very useful data and analytical skills that I found highly applicable to my work. I can clearly see the usefulness and relevance of what I had mastered in class to the real world.

I was also drawn to its well-planned framework that offers the best of both worlds to help us to balance work and studies.

Also, the ELP is not all about hard, technical skills. I did not quite expect it, but the soft skills I picked up from work helped me to become a better learner.

I became better at time management when completing assignments given by my lecturers."



**Ong Jia Ming, 25**  
Specialist Diploma in Information Systems Development, 2015-2016  
Employer: Accenture  
Previous qualification: Diploma in Business Enterprise IT

### ON TRACK FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT

I started working at Accenture as a software engineering associate in 2014, and enrolled in the ELP a year later while working for the company.

The ELP has high industry relevance and gives participants the necessary expertise to remain employable. The course is in tune with what the industry requires. We learn advanced software development, design thinking, advanced information systems and other skills that are in demand.

The agile software development process I mastered in class is relevant to the projects I'm working on. I found this helpful and practical.

Another attraction of the ELP was the Specialist Diploma certification and the fact that it was fully funded.

In June, I was promoted to be a software engineering analyst, which is a client-facing role that provides IT consulting services. I also conduct training sessions for team members to share knowledge on the capabilities of software such as PegaRULES Process Commander and IBM WebSphere."



**Parameswaran Nadaraja, 30**  
Specialist Diploma in Hospitality Business Management, 2016-2017  
Employer: Marina Bay Sands (MBS)  
Previous qualification: Diploma in Customer Relationship and Service Management

### UPSKILLING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

I interned at MBS in 2012 before securing a position as a management trainee the next year. Then I became a concierge supervisor when I enrolled in the inaugural Specialist Diploma in Hospitality Business Management course last year.

As I progressed along my career, I found the ELP helpful as it provided depth and breadth of knowledge about the hospitality industry. Some aspects of it include financial management, marketing and revenue management, business law in hospitality, managing service quality in hotels, as well as facilities and building management.

My managers shared invaluable insights when I worked on case studies for my classes such as giving examples on service quality and sustainability initiatives. I am thankful for the support from the department.

I could also relate some of my job experiences to my studies. One topic for class discussion was how to improve service quality to raise the competitiveness level of a hotel and I was able to share some anecdotes with my classmates."