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Hundred percent placement for NTU’s life sciences graduates

Since graduating from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) School of Biological Sciences (SBS) in August 2006, Tan Li Xuan has been in Maine, USA, both experiencing snow for the first time in her life and contributing to the advancement of cutting-edge pharmaceuticals. Armed with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biological Sciences from NTU, she was offered a job by multi-national firm Lonza Biologics Inc. well before graduation, and is now based at its US office, handling different aspects of pharmaceutical development.

Li Xuan is from SBS’ pioneer class of 95 students. Of these graduates, more than 30% chose to pursue a PhD in the exciting field of life sciences. Their research topics range from Malaria and Dengue, to stem cells and diabetes, just to name a few.

The remainder of the graduates, like Li Xuan, all found gainful employment within 5 months of graduation. The majority are working in research-related jobs in the life sciences industry locally and overseas.

With a rigorous curriculum that provides a strong foundation in biological sciences and includes technology and business elements, the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biological Sciences offers broad-based training for students. As the employment statistics reflect, the degree prepares graduates for challenging careers in life sciences research and industry and opens doors to post-graduate education as well.

The graduating cohort included 11 graduates on the prestigious accelerated programme, who graduated with honours in three and a half years instead of the usual four years.
Says Professor James Tam, Chair, SBS, NTU: “I am very proud to see our first batch of excellent graduates doing so well. With the tailored curriculum and unique pedagogy here, our graduates are well-prepared for any career.

“New discoveries generated in the field of biological sciences will have major impacts on healthcare, food and the environment. It remains an important segment and it is imperative that we continue to nurture students who can support its growth. I am especially heartened to note that 30% of our graduates have decided to pursue a PhD in this field. With Singapore’s push towards increased R&D, I believe our post-graduates will be contributing towards this area”.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.

NTU has 4 colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore’s life sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world’s top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities and Arts boasts Singapore’s first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, will be inaugurated in 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism.

NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore’s only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University in
USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

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