NEWS RELEASE

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Nanyang Technological University’s flagship Global Immersion Programme gains popularity as more students seek overseas exposure

280 Students from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will get to study and work overseas under the university’s successful Global Immersion Programme (GIP) come January next year. Up from 194 students at the programme’s inception, this is by far the largest number of students the university has sent overseas under a single exchange programme. By 2008, a total of some 1,000 students would have benefited from the university’s flagship programme since its inception.

In addition to increasing the number of students selected, NTU has enhanced the programme and increased its geographical coverage. In comparison to its inaugural launch, with students going to China and United States, these 280 students will be going to 14 cities in six countries under GIP with the inclusion of France, Switzerland, India and for the first time, Vietnam.

Professor Er Meng Hwa, Associate Provost NTU, explains about the GIP Vietnam Programme, “The GIP Vietnam Programme comprises two components. Students will first spend the first three weeks in Vietnam attending a specially designed course covering appreciation and understanding of Vietnamese language, history, culture, modern economic and political development. This is conducted by our partner university the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. Upon completion, they will be attached to companies in Ho Chi Minh City for internship for 22 weeks. Through immersion in both Vietnamese universities and companies, we want our students to gain a better and fuller understanding of the Vietnam market which will be beneficial to their future career.”

Apart from studying and work attachments in the various overseas universities and companies, some of these students will also get to undergo research attachments in three French universities.

The GIP was first launched in 2004 as NTU recognised the need to prepare students with the necessary skills, knowledge and exposure for the global challenges ahead. Since then, it has grown increasingly popular as this global education experience helps
students develop their potential and nurture their capabilities while giving them an edge in their career. In fact, a recent NTU Graduate Employment Survey showed that the first batch of GIP students earned higher monthly salaries than their fellow counterparts.

Goh Wei Cheng, a recent NTU Mechanical Engineering graduate who was one of the first batch of students on GIP, recalls his experience, “I did a semester-long academic exchange in Seattle and another semester of industrial attachment in Shanghai under the Global Immersion Programme. The year long stint was enriching and expanded the dimensions of varsity learning – much of what was learnt was beyond the classroom; a savoir faire of the host countries and an appreciation of the diverse native cultures and social processes. The acquired repertoire of skills and knowledge has also certainly opened windows of opportunities and widened my career choices and post-graduate options.”

Launched in July earlier this year, as a joint collaboration between NTU and Temasek Foundation, the Temasek Foundation-NTU Leadership Enrichment and Regional Networking Programme (TF-NTU LEaRN), will also commence next year as part of NTU’s efforts to provide equal overseas opportunities to all its students. Funded by the Temasek Foundation, this programme will offer some 140 study awards, worth close to a million dollars in total, to students from Singapore and various Asian countries. Through this programme, NTU hopes to enrich the leadership potential of the award recipients through overseas study, work and community attachments.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 20 technological universities. The university has two campuses in Singapore. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU's main campus, is located in the southwestern part of Singapore. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore's biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new infocomm and media hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four 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, Arts, & Social Sciences 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, was inaugurated on 1 January 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.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg