

# NTU student graduates after suffering 2 brain haemorrhages

## Seven in 10 NTU students secure jobs before graduation: Survey

She returned to school after putting studies on hold to focus on recovery

LAKEISHALEO

She was two months from graduating when two brain haemorrhages – bleeding in the head – put her hopes of getting a degree in jeopardy.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) student Felicia Lim was at home one day in April 2017 when she realised she was unable to move her left arm.

Her father rushed her to Changi General Hospital where, after a brain scan, doctors found she had bleeding in the brain due to arteriovenous malformation, an abnormal tangle of blood vessels connecting arteries and veins that disrupts normal blood flow and oxygen circulation.

Her family was told that this was a condition she had since birth, but they had not known about it as there were no symptoms earlier.

Said Miss Lim, 25: “Apparently it was just a matter of time (before she had a brain haemorrhage).”

A second brain haemorrhage happened just before her surgery at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

This time, Miss Lim experienced numbness in her left foot.

She was rushed into emergency surgery.

While it was successful, Miss Lim woke to find she was unable to move her left leg.



NTU graduates Miss Felicia Lim (left, with her parents) and Mr Mark Yeap (above, with his mother). PHOTO: NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Her doctor advised her to “just focus on recovery”, so she put her studies on hold.

Thankfully, her cognitive functions and memory were not lost, although she had to undergo intensive therapy to regain her mobility.

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Miss Lim, who returned to NTU to finish her final semester last August after a year out, now has therapy sessions three times a week and requires a foot support and elbow crutch to help in her mobility.

“Although I was a bit disappointed that my peers were graduating without me, this was a blessing in disguise. I realised life was really fragile, and am

thankful for this second chance at life,” she said.

She graduated from NTU yesterday with a bachelor’s degree in information engineering and media.

She is getting job support from the SPD – a charity to help those with disabilities integrate into mainstream society – and hopes to start a career in the healthcare or social service sector.

At the university’s first convocation ceremony of the year, held at the NTU campus yesterday, 272 graduates out of a cohort of more than 9,000 received their degrees.

Another 19 ceremonies will be held until next Tuesday.

Altogether, 6,097 graduates

will be receiving bachelor’s degrees and 3,356 will get higher degrees.

Another graduate, Mr Mark Yeap, may have had to take the longer route of going to the Institute of Technical Education before entering NTU, but that did not stop him from graduating with a bachelor’s in electrical and electronic engineering with honours (highest distinction).

Mr Yeap, 29, who was diagnosed with autism when he was three years old, cites his parents as his biggest supporters.

He said: “I hope to look for a job in the public sector and support my family.”

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GOHYANHAN

Despite concerns about a bleak labour market, about seven in 10 Nanyang Technological University (NTU) students this year secured jobs before graduation, a preliminary survey of more than 5,000 graduates showed. This is similar to what graduates experienced in previous years.

More than seven in 10 found employment prior to graduation, according to a poll by the university last year, while two in three secured jobs before collecting their degrees in 2017.

The National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University do not conduct preliminary polls of its graduates and employment but contribute to an annual joint graduate employment survey by the six autonomous universities here.

At the university’s convocation ceremony yesterday, some of this year’s graduates revealed they were choosing to further their studies. Valedictorian Edward Yee, 24, secured the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship and will be heading to the University of Oxford in September to pursue a master’s degree in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation.

At the ceremony yesterday, President Halimah Yacob, who is the NTU chancellor, conferred honorary doctorates on Mrs Margaret Lien, 77, and Sir Keith O’Nions, 74, in honour of their contributions to NTU and the community in Singapore.

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