

# Path to independence

"I WAS initially torn between two choices – fulfilling my father's dreams of becoming a chartered accountant or pursuing mathematics. While accounting and mathematics seemed interesting, I wanted a more meaningful career," said Foo Hui Shee on her choice to pursue the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies at Sunway University.

"During an open day sharing session at Sunway University, I learnt more about the actuarial field and realised that actuaries help people get the protection they need.

"That was when I learnt that I did not have to give up mathematics to have a meaningful career."

Her twin sister Foo Hui Sze also chose to pursue the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies.

"I initially planned to enrol in a music school. Music is something I enjoy, but I want a career that is beyond my comfort zone. Like my sister, I want a meaningful and impactful career that I can proudly

share with my future children.

"As my sister commenced her undergraduate studies earlier, I got to see how she enjoyed the programme. Not long later, I decided to join her," said Hui Sze.

Both sisters graduated last year and are now working as actuarial analysts. Hui Shee is attached to Actuarial Partners Consulting, an actuarial consulting firm with nearly 100 years of combined consulting experience, while Hui Sze is working with Hannover Re, the third largest reinsurer in the world.

Both concurred that the best part of the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies was the endless support and motivation from Sunway University's lecturers and staff in their pursuit of passing external examinations.

"Our lecturers were friendly and easy to approach. Despite their busy schedules, they always found time to help us understand the materials for our external examinations.

"We would like to thank them for

welcoming us to the faculty so warmly and for encouraging and reminding us to pick ourselves up when we fall. They were always patient with us.

"Even though our time in the programme has ended, they continue showing us support and love," Hui Shee said.

On the programme curriculum, she said: "We liked the fact that each core subject was delivered in three ways – lectures, workshops and tutorials. The syllabus content was delivered through lectures, applied practically during workshops and theoretically during tutorials.

"Our assignments were also specially designed to build a strong foundation in technical skills before we entered the workforce.

"Workshops conducted by people in the actuarial industry were also often organised by the faculty. The programme does not only emphasise examinations, but also strives to strike a balance between studies and



Sisters Hui Shee (left) and Hui Sze had an enlightening study experience at Sunway University.

real-life applications."

For the sisters, their most important take-away from the BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies was the ability to be flexible.

They found out through a lot of disappointments that their expectations might not always become reality. Although they found it difficult to embrace mistakes in the beginning, they soon learned not to dwell on them.

Having received the Jeffrey Cheah Full Entrance Scholarship for their degrees, both sisters also worked part-time to pay for their external professional papers (Society of Actuaries (SOA) qualifications), which they started in their second year.

"Our experience at Sunway University provided us with exposure to how working life would be – juggling family, work and studies at the same time.

"We would not say that our experience has been the same, but it has definitely helped prepare us for work."

The sisters concluded that their experience at Sunway University was a great one and that "from the lecturers to the facilities, Sunway University did not disappoint us".

The BSc (Hons) in Actuarial

**From the lecturers to the facilities, Sunway University did not disappoint us.**

Foo Hui Shee and Foo Hui Sze

Studies under the School of Mathematical Sciences at Sunway University is accredited by the Education Committee of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA), UK.

The programme is also recognised by the SOA, United States, through the Validation by Educational Experience and is fully accredited by the Finance Accreditation Agency, an international and independent quality assurance and accreditation body for the financial services industry.

The School of Mathematical Sciences at Sunway University recently expanded with the introduction of the Masters in Actuarial Science (by Research).

For details, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.

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