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Headline: New fund aims to give students venture capital experience

## Technology

# New fund aims to give students venture capital experience

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Entrepreneurship community Kairos Asean and Singapore Management University's (SMU) Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) have launched a new ven-

ture fund run by university students, for students.

Called Protege Ventures, it aims to give undergraduate and post-graduate students from Singapore-based universities a shot at "practical, real-life venture capital experience" in sourcing, analysing and investing in technology-en-

abled Asean start-ups with at least one student founder.

Protege Ventures is backed by a number of venture capital (VC) firms, including Wavemaker Partners, Venturecraft, Marvelstone and TSR Partners.

"We noticed there were multiple student venture funds in the United States, but none in South-east Asia. We wanted to fill a gap in the space and empower students to experience and learn more by doing," said IIE director Hau Koh Foo.

"We are excited to groom the next generation of venture capitalists and support innovative student ventures in South-east Asia," said Kairos Asean president Sim Jian Min.

Protege Ventures is looking for 15 full-time students who have a strong interest in the start-up and venture capital ecosystem. They are expected to commit at least one

year to the programme. The students will be taken through a 10-week training programme to learn real-world VC skillsets, which will involve access to industry events, networking with entrepreneurs and getting bi-weekly mentorship from industry leaders.

They will source for interesting student ventures, conduct due diligence, analyse potential deals, and pitch investment plans to the investment committee.

Selected student ventures will receive a \$20,000 convertible note investment from the supporting VCs, as well as post-investment support from SMU.

Applications to join Protege Ventures are open until Aug 31. To apply or for more information, visit <http://protege.vc>.

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