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OCBC internship to build a 'bank for the future'

By Siow Li Sen

lisen@sph.com.sg @SiowLiSenBT

Singapore

IN A slightly different twist to find innovative bankers, OCBC Bank has selected 26 students for a six-month internship to get them to build a bank for the future.

The internship, from May to November 2017, will not only introduce the students to the world of banking, but – unlike any other banking internship programme – feature the deliberate inculcating of entrepreneurship skills and knowledge, OCBC said on Monday.

The first bank-wide penultimate-year internship programme attracted more than 500 applications,

said OCBC. Only 26 undergraduates, who are in their second-last year from National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Social Sciences were chosen in a one-day selection process called Ideation Day on March 14.

OCBC said that while the interns -

called FRANKprenuers – will be attached to specific units in the bank, from retail banking, corporate banking and treasury, to fintech, technology and even human resources, they will be tasked with the future bank project.

"The problem statement requires students to come up with an innovative solution to 'build the bank for the new world economy' as they envisage what their ideal bank of the future will be like," said OCBC.

Working in groups, the students will have to pitch their ideas at the end of their stint to a panel of judges comprising OCBC Bank's senior management and line managers, as well as university professors.

The FRANKpreneurs will also be assessed during the six-month period for suitability to join the bank's management trainee programme, which offers outstanding young bankers an accelerated career in the bank.

The six-month internship does not replace the existing management trainee programme where OCBC selects new graduates for its Young Bankers Programme.

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