

Mastercard Nurtures Tomorrow's Female Leaders; Awards Scholarships to Students from Singapore's Top Universities

Singapore, 27 April 2017 – Committed to empowering women in business and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), [Mastercard](#) today announced the 2017 recipients of the Mastercard MBA Scholarships for Women at Singapore Management University ([SMU](#)) and the Mastercard Scholarship for Women at Singapore University of Technology and Design ([SUTD](#)).

Awardees Shaily Sharma (SMU), Zhou Yuzhen (SMU), Chen Jing (SUTD) and Debbie Lim Li Lin (SUTD), were selected for their outstanding academic achievements, keen leadership and entrepreneurial qualities and excellent community service records.

About the Scholarships

2017 marks the Mastercard MBA Scholarships for Women's seventh year of collaboration with SMU. Awarded to full-time female MBA candidates from Asia Pacific, it aims to develop their outstanding academic and entrepreneurship potential and nurture them to be socially-responsible women. The scholarship also includes an internship with Mastercard, which offers invaluable insight into the business and operations of the global payments company. To date, 17 young women have received this scholarship.

Leila Guerra, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Programmes, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, SMU said, "SMU's partnership with Mastercard is mutually aligned and beneficial. Both organisations are strong proponents of business innovation and diversity for integrated community growth and betterment. SMU has an edge in generating entrepreneurial and holistic leaders, who are adept in critical thinking, are socially responsible and global-ready. On average, close to 40 per cent of our MBA students are women and there are typically more than 15 nationalities in every class – embracing and appreciating diversity are values which we hold dear. The opportunity from this Mastercard Scholarship further empowers SMU and our MBA recipients to make a bigger difference in advancing more leadership roles for women, which in turn will help them make more meaningful impact in society."

Now in its third year, the Mastercard Scholarship for Women at Singapore University of Technology and Design is awarded to outstanding full-time female undergraduates pursuing their third year of studies at SUTD. To date, six women have been awarded the scholarship which aims to support women in developing strong technical, engineering and leadership skills to build female STEM leaders of tomorrow. This scholarship will help cover the cost of the recipients' annual subsidised tuition fees for one academic year at SUTD.

SUTD President, Professor Thomas Magnanti said, "SUTD aims to develop a new generation of technically grounded leaders and innovators who can help better the world by design and the Mastercard – SUTD Scholarship for Women aligns well with the SUTD woman's programme; it will go towards nurturing female leaders with strong engineering and technical abilities. In Singapore, women are under-represented in the field of engineering and we are grateful to Mastercard for their generosity

and earnestness in partnering with SUTD to attract more women to take up STEM as we value the important contributions women can make in technology and design.”

[Georgette Tan, Senior Vice President, Communications, Asia Pacific, Mastercard](#), said, “Engaging, encouraging and empowering women, particularly in their academic years, is a critical step in helping address the gender gap and changing the role of women in advancing our communities and economies. In fact, according to the latest Mastercard Girls in Tech survey, girls aged 17-19 told us that access to scholarships is the top motivator to pursue a career in STEM, a future career path where women continue to be underrepresented. Together with like-minded and well-respected educational institutions such as SMU and SUTD, we are committed to encouraging young women to pursue their passions and build their confidence to help them become leaders in their chosen fields and society at large.”

Mastercard Scholarship Recipients 2017



(Left to right) Shaily Sharma and Zhou Yuzhen (both from SMU)



(Left to right) Chen Jing and Debbie Lim Li Lin (both from SUTD)

About Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 10,000 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the-art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. For more information, please visit www.smu.edu.sg

About Singapore University of Technology and Design

The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) is Singapore's fourth public university, and one of the first universities in the world to incorporate the art and science of design and technology into a multi-disciplinary curriculum. Established in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), SUTD seeks to advance knowledge and nurture technically-grounded leaders and innovators in engineering product development, engineering systems and design, information systems technology and design, and architecture and sustainable design, to serve societal needs.

Also in collaboration with Zhejiang University (ZJU) and Singapore Management University (SMU), SUTD, a research-intensive university, is distinguished by its unique East and West academic programmes which incorporate elements of entrepreneurship, management and design thinking. Graduate opportunities include the SUTD Technology Entrepreneurship programme, the Master of Science in Security by Design, SUTD PhD programme and the SUTD-NUS Joint PhD programme. www.sutd.edu.sg.

About Mastercard

Mastercard (NYSE: MA), www.Mastercard.com, is a technology company in the global payments industry. We operate the world's fastest payments processing network, connecting consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. Mastercard's products and solutions make everyday commerce activities – such as shopping, traveling, running a business and managing finances – easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone. Follow us on Twitter [@MastercardAP](https://twitter.com/MastercardAP) and [@MastercardNews](https://twitter.com/MastercardNews), join the discussion on the [Beyond the Transaction Blog](#) and [subscribe](#) for the latest news on the [Engagement Bureau](#).

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