

Achieving work-life balance

Foo Xian Fong, 22, enjoys a well-rounded experience with the Singapore Management University Scholars' Programme

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What attracted you to the Bachelor of Laws at Singapore Management University (SMU)?
I chose to read Law at SMU because of the school's interactive teaching methods. As a lawyer, it is important to be able to speak and present well, especially since a large part of a lawyer's work involves presenting your client's case or demands to the judges or to the relevant parties.

SMU's programme was appealing as it works on a seminar-based system where students are encouraged to not only share their opinions, but to defend them with well-reasoned arguments.

What does the Singapore Management University Scholars' Programme (SMUSP) cover?

The SMUSP provides the following tuition fees for the duration of the degree: A S\$5,000 allowance per academic year, a one-off subsidy of S\$2,000 for a mandatory overseas study trip and a one-off subsidy of S\$2,000 for a laptop.

What kind of exposure does the scholarship provide?

The SMUSP requires the scholars to participate in a community service project (CSP) and to go for a subsidised overseas study trip that usually occurs during the winter or summer holidays.

I've completed my CSP in Year One and I intend to go for the overseas study trip at the end of Year Two. I look forward to the trip as it will provide me with an opportunity to meet scholars from the other faculties in SMU and give me exposure to the respective industries we're visiting.

Tell us more about your CSP experience.

The CSP was held at the Singapore General Hospital (SGH). The objective of the CSP was to fill eight canvasses with various types of artwork, which were then donated to SGH for display as a form of encouragement to the patients.

We had to set up a booth at the registration area and invite the public to join us in making the artwork. It was heartening to see strangers from all walks of life, both the young and elderly, bond over a simple activity of folding origami or painting paper maches.

What are some of your favourite modules?

Having gone through one-and-a-half semesters, I enjoyed the Law of Property module. The subject broached many aspects of our daily lives, such as the Housing Development Board, mortgages and leases.



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It also brought up many thought-provoking, unresolved controversies, which had the potential to drastically alter the property market. In addition, Professor Kelvin Low's passion for the subject inspired many of the students.

What is campus life like at SMU?

The student life at SMU is vibrant with a wide range of co-curricular activities (CCA). There are also opportunities for students to try their hand at organising school/CCA events. I've been a member of the SMUX Skating team since gaining admission into SMU. I've also recently taken up the position of Professional and Academic Development Director with the SMU Law Society.

With your busy campus life and studies, how do you cope?

The workload is really heavy but I believe that it is important to maintain a work-life balance. Fortunately, skating is not commitment-intensive.

That said, I try to go down for the skate sessions whenever my schedule permits. Being the Professional and Academic Development Director with the SMU Law Society allows me to organise activities that would enhance the reputation and visibility of SMU School of Law and its students in the legal fraternity.

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