



SMU collaborates with Accenture and AWS to launch a new Work-Study Elective Programme to develop next-generation cloud talent and provide internship opportunities to students

Singapore, 21 March 2023 (Tuesday) – The Singapore Management University’s (SMU) School of Computing and Information Systems (SCIS) today announced a collaboration with global professional services company, Accenture, and cloud provider, Amazon Web Services (AWS) to launch a new Work-Study Elective (WSE) Programme. The Programme is a six-month commitment from students to learn the latest AWS Cloud technologies and apply classroom knowledge to innovate cloud-based solutions that address real-world challenges.

The WSE Programme is open to all SCIS students annually, and comprises two key components – an Accenture internship qualification and a Cloud Solutions Development course supported by Accenture and AWS. Over six months, students will learn and apply AWS Cloud technologies via associate-level courses and certifications from AWS Academy, a free, ready-to-teach cloud computing curriculum for higher education institutions that prepares students to pursue industry-recognised credentials and in-demand technology jobs. Selected courses in SCIS are conducted using AWS Academy teaching and learning resources that prepare students to build industry-aligned capstone projects on AWS Cloud and achieve AWS certifications.

Students will also work on problem statements designed by Accenture and innovate on solutions built on AWS Cloud, addressing these challenges. Those who successfully complete the WSE Programme, along with SMU’s courses in IT solution architecture and enterprise solution development, will be eligible to apply for an internship opportunity with Accenture.

According to recently published [Accenture research](#), there has been an increase in cloud investment over the last two years, with more than 86% of global companies reporting an increase in cloud initiatives. An [AWS-commissioned industry report](#) highlights Asia Pacific businesses that employ cloud engineers and software developers report annual revenues 150% higher than those that rely on workers with basic digital skills. As cloud becomes more prevalent in organisations, there is a growing need for skilled professionals who can manage and optimise cloud environments, and also a need for upskilling and reskilling programmes.

Professor Pang Hwee Hwa, Dean, School of Computing and Information Systems and Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Computer Science, Singapore Management University says, “The momentum of digitalisation remains unabated and employers are seeking more highly skilled digital talent. As a key business and technology hub in Asia, Singapore needs to ensure a high quality, digitally-skilled talent pipeline. This is borne out by the strong performance of our graduates in the recent [Graduate Employment Survey](#). Preparing our students does not stop at the curriculum, we want to equip our students with the right skills and be workforce-ready. SMU’s Education and Career Guidance brings together students and industry collaborators like Accenture and AWS to help students better understand the cloud job roles. The WSE Programme supported by Accenture and AWS is a great example of industry leaders coming together to deliver a learning and working environment that strengthens the industry relevance of our students, specifically in high-demand cloud skills.”

Ng Wee Wei, Southeast Asia Market Unit Lead and Singapore's Country Managing Director, Accenture says, "Technology is transforming societies and economies, but to realise its potential, we need the right talent. Cloud, data, and AI skills are crucial for thriving in the digital economy. The WSE Programme with SMU and AWS expands on Accenture's commitment to talent creation through retraining, skills prioritisation, and combining technology with human potential. Our 'hire to train' approach quickly upskills talents on emerging technologies. We are proud and excited about the potential of this collaboration which offers hands-on cloud technology experience and real-world project work for students to build a future-ready, resilient workforce for Singapore's growing digital economy."

Elsie Tan, Singapore Country Manager, Public Sector, Amazon Web Services says, "The WSE Programme highlights the importance of academic and industry collaborations to co-design and co-deliver cloud skills training and development, directly addressing the [Singapore Government's call for action](#) to skill, reskill, and upskill workers. AWS is honoured to support world-leading universities like SMU and trusted AWS Partners like Accenture to enable students to earn industry-recognised certifications, secure potential employment, and ramp up their career readiness to successfully transition from academia to the workforce. AWS has trained over 200,000 individuals in Singapore on cloud skills since 2017 and we look forward to deepening our commitment to support even more industry collaborations to digitally skill more learners."

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About Singapore Management University

Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is recognised for its disciplinary and multidisciplinary research that address issues of global relevance, impacting business, government, and society. Its distinctive education, incorporating innovative experiential learning, aims to nurture global citizens, entrepreneurs and change agents. With more than 12,000 students, SMU offers a wide range of bachelors, masters and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with six of its eight schools - Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing, Law and Social Sciences. Its seventh school, the SMU College of Integrative Studies, offers a bachelor's degree programme in deep, integrative interdisciplinary education. The College of Graduate Research Studies, SMU's eighth school, enhances integration and interdisciplinarity across the various SMU postgraduate research programmes that will enable our students to gain a holistic learning experience and well-grounded approach to their research. SMU also offers a growing number of executive development and continuing education programmes. Through its city campus, SMU focuses on making meaningful impact on Singapore and beyond through its partnerships with industry, policy makers and academic institutions. www.smu.edu.sg

About School of Computing and Information Systems

Real-world industry sectors provide our School of Computing and Information Systems (SCIS) with a testbed and laboratory for experimentation, as well as a fertile breeding ground for new ideas. Our faculty and students apply their research results to solve real problems in a variety of industry settings and to create IT applications and systems. At the same time, our faculty actively publish in top-quality Computer Science and Information Systems conferences and journals. Our research areas include Cybersecurity; Data Management & Analytics; Human-Computer Interaction; Information Systems Management; Intelligent Systems & Optimisation; Machine Learning & Intelligence; Multimedia; Pervasive Sensing & Systems; Software Engineering & Systems. SCIS offers a suite of degree programmes. Our BSc (Information Systems), BSc (Computer Science), BSc (Computing & Law) and BSc (Software Engineering) SkillsFuture Work-Study Degree have been remarkably successful in demonstrating educational innovations and SMU Classification: Restricted creating a culture of learning, establishing external linkages and partnerships with industry, government and the social sector, and with job placement. We run a highly ranked Master of IT in Business degree, with specialisations in Analytics; Artificial Intelligence; Digital Transformation; and Financial Technology & Analytics. Our doctoral degrees, including PhD (Computer Science), PhD (Information Systems) and Doctor of Engineering, have produced graduates who moved on highly sought organisations in academia and industry.