

Joint Media Release

SMU Academy and TechFin Global unveil learning programmes to Japan, UK and US

*Four new innovation programmes aim to empower corporate leaders and SMEs
with future-ready skills in FinTech, AI, and Technology*

Singapore, 22 January 2025 (Wednesday) – In a world driven by rapid digital transformation, staying competitive requires more than just keeping up—it demands active immersion in innovation. [Minister Chan Chun Sing's recent call for fostering a robust "culture of learning"](#) underscores the growing need for individuals to remain agile and adaptive. Recognising this, SMU's professional training arm SMU Academy and TechFin Global jointly announced today the launch of four international programmes. These programmes aim to immerse participants in cutting-edge AI, VR, and fintech innovation across the world's top tech hubs: Tokyo, London, New York, and San Francisco.

With these new additions, [SMU Academy's established Internationalisation Series](#) now boasts a total of 21 programmes across 13 countries. These four programmes focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which is one of the [top three training areas among Singaporeans](#) utilising their SkillsFuture Credits. Designed to meet the shifting demands of a digital-first economy, they aim to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in an increasingly competitive global environment.

As participants embark on exclusively curated global journeys, they will have the opportunity to engage directly with industry leaders and explore cutting-edge innovations. A key highlight is the access to latest events and conferences, such as Nvidia GTC, Wall Street Journal Tech Live, NexTech Week Tokyo on transformative technologies including autonomous robotics, AI-driven health solutions, and sustainable innovation, through which participants can gain unparalleled insights into how disruptive technologies are reshaping industries worldwide.

In addition, participants will visit leading companies and engage in dialogues with thought leaders across ICT, FinTech, AI, and blockchain sectors. These interactions offer participants the unique opportunity to connect with global innovators, enabling them to gain transformative and actionable strategies which they can adapt and drive growth in their respective companies and fields.

Jack Lim, Executive Director of SMU Academy, said, "To thrive in today's fast-evolving landscape, companies must not only adopt new technologies but also cultivate a culture of continuous learning and innovation. These programmes provide corporate professionals and SMEs with unparalleled access to tech pioneers and transformative experiences in leading global cities. By equipping them with the relevant insights and tools, we empower Singapore businesses to innovate boldly and excel on the international stage."

Shaun Lai, Head of Programmes at TechFin Global, said, "The ultimate goal is to help organisations build a global outlook—navigating foreign markets, forging valuable partnerships, and adopting sustainable growth strategies. With knowledge and sharing from overseas partners, more local enterprises can seize this opportunity to future-proof their talent and capabilities."

About the Programmes

[A survey by the Singapore Business Federation revealed that 71% of businesses that have expanded internationally—or are planning to—view overseas growth as critical to their long-term success.](#) The four new programmes by SMU Academy and TechFin Global is strategically designed to equip corporate and SME leaders with actionable insights and strategies to thrive in the global market.

The four programmes (as follows) will be rolled out between March and May 2025:

- [Silicon Valley TechXperience - A Cutting-edge Immersion in Artificial Intelligence and Technology, San Francisco](#) – begins 11 March 2025
- [Next-Gen and Beyond - Navigating Japan's Gaming and VR Landscape, Tokyo](#) – begins 4 April 2025
- [Innovate London - Cultivating Sustainable Futures through the Dynamic Intersection of FinTech and Startup Ecosystems](#) – begins 22 April 2025
- [FinTech Frontiers - Exploring New York's Global Influence and the Unique Ecosystem of US Innovation in Finance](#) – begins 8 May 2025

The unique features of the programme are as follows:

- 1. Learn Directly from the Industry Leaders**
 - Gain insights from visionaries at top universities and leaders from S&P 500 companies, exploring advancements in AI, technology, and innovation.
- 2. Discover Tech and Startup Success**
 - Dive into exclusive sessions with venture capitalists and successful founders to discover how to invest in early-stage tech startups and scale AI-driven solutions globally.
- 3. Master AI and Digital Strategy**
 - Get hands-on with immersive tech demonstrations and actionable strategies to transform businesses, with marketing automation and data-driven decision-making for real-world challenges.
- 4. Immerse in Global Innovation**
 - Attend world-renowned tech events like Nvidia GTC in San Francisco, The Future of Everything Festival in New York, London FinTech Week, and AI EXPO Tokyo, featuring ground breaking AI technologies, expert keynotes, and live demos. Explore leading AI companies such as OpenAI, Anthropic, and Wordware AI, and learn how Silicon Valley's creative, risk-taking culture drives continuous breakthroughs.
 - Engage with VR and gaming leaders to uncover how immersive technologies are shaping the future of entertainment and engagement.
- 5. Build Global Network**
 - Expand connections with thought leaders, investors, and potential partners to drive sustainable growth and innovation for businesses.

Supported by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)

These internationalisation programmes are eligible for SSG funding, allowing Singapore Citizens to utilise SkillsFuture Credits or Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA) balances. Programme fees start from S\$2,243.

For more information, visit the programme pages below:

1. <https://academy.smu.edu.sg/courses/internationalisation-series-silicon-valley-techxperience>
2. <https://academy.smu.edu.sg/courses/internationalisation-series-japan-gaming-vr>
3. <https://academy.smu.edu.sg/courses/internationalisation-series-fintech-frontiers-new-york>
4. <https://academy.smu.edu.sg/courses/internationalisation-series-innovate-london>

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About Singapore Management University and SMU Academy

Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is recognised for its disciplinary and multi-disciplinary 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. Home to over 13,000 students, SMU offers a wide range of bachelor's, master's and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas of Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing, Law and Social Sciences, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas. It also offers a growing number of executive development and continuing education programmes.

As the professional training arm of the University, SMU Academy (SMUA) offers cutting-edge interdisciplinary programmes that support lifelong learning and help organisations meet reskilling goals to thrive in an ever-changing economy. SMUA integrates a practice-oriented, experiential, and interactive approach, integrating academic depth, real-world business cases, and interdisciplinary learning.

Through its city campus, SMU focuses on making meaningful impact on Singapore and beyond by fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. More information can be found at www.smu.edu.sg and <http://academy.smu.edu.sg>.

About TechFin Global

Techfin Global encourages individuals to equip themselves with the relevant skills needed to thrive in today's digital age. We provide accessible, high-quality, and industry-relevant training to working professionals. Unlock your potential with access to skilled training essential to achieve your career goals in this new era. <http://www.techfinglobal.com>