

Publication: The Straits Times (Pg B4)

Date: 3 Mar 2015

Headline: Universities helping undergraduates get off on right footing

Universities helping undergraduates get off on right footing

By **CALVIN YANG**

BESIDES the National University of Singapore, the other five universities have also come up with various initiatives – from compulsory internships to dedicated career counsellors – to help students start their careers on the right footing.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has recruited 13 con-

sultants, all former human resource professionals with hiring powers from diverse industries such as engineering, banking, consumer business and digital entertainment.

These full-time NTU staff members will mentor students over the course of their studies and give advice to better prepare them for their chosen industries.

Mr Loh Pui Wah, director of NTU's career and attachment office, said: "Through their professional networks, the consultants will be able to reach out to potential employers (and) seek out career and internship opportunities for our students."

They will also be able to share their knowledge of hiring trends with faculty members and help or-

ganise career events.

Besides assigning career advisers, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Technology and Design have students take on compulsory internships and participate in workshops in areas such as resume writing and effective networking.

The Singapore Institute of Technology also has an integrated

work-study programme for its students, who will be immersed in a real work environment for eight to 12 months.

At SIM University, full-time students are required to document their learning process at each stage of their university education through a personal e-portfolio, which is meant to complement their professional resume.

The initiative is on top of a mandatory 24-week work attachment programme set by the university. Professor Koh Hian Chye, its assistant provost of full-time programmes, said: "The e-portfolio provides a more detailed articulation of their achievements. It also allows our students to monitor their personal growth."

✉ calyang@sph.com.sg

Source: The Straits Times © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.