



Recipients of The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant enjoyed tea with Dr Stanley Quek, Chairman, The Ireland Funds Singapore (back row, middle), along with Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (back row, extreme left) and Assoc Prof May Lim, Programme Director, SIT.

Not Just a Change of Scene

Recipients of The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant gain new perspectives and deeper understanding on how to apply the knowledge they've learnt

Ms Sharifah Rawiah binte Matnor, 24, has fond memories of weekend travels around Ireland when she was on her Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) as a student from the Bachelor in Science (Occupational Therapy) degree programme. But more than that, the holistic nature of rehabilitation programmes in Ireland has provided her with new perspectives that remain beneficial even after graduation.

"When I started work, I was able to share about the various programmes that I saw in Ireland and provide suggestions to improve on our current programme structure," said Ms Sharifah, who is now working as an Occupational Therapist at SPD to help rehabilitate adults who have suffered a stroke or spinal cord injuries, so as to reintegrate them back into the mainstream workforce.

She added, "My knowledge with regard to the theoretical aspects of occupational therapy has improved, and I am able to better explain concepts or ideas to my colleagues. With the OIP experience of seeing how some theories have been applied to programmes that have been running for some time, I have gotten a better picture on how to improve my own interventions with my clients."

Ms Sharifah was able to benefit from these experiences after receiving The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant, which provides support to academically promising but financially disadvantaged undergraduates for their OIP in Ireland.

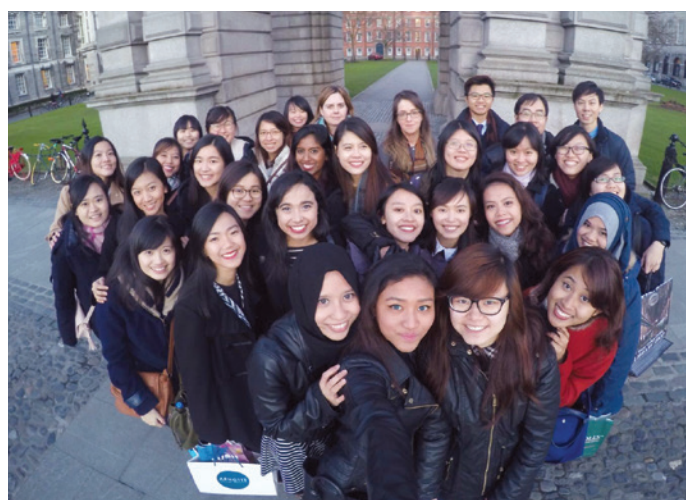
The Grant was established at SIT in 2013 with an endowed gift from The Ireland Funds Singapore. Valued at \$6,000 each, it has been awarded to 10 deserving students since Academic Year 2014/15.

On 28 February 2017, five of these recipients including Ms Sharifah were able to express their personal appreciation to Dr Stanley Quek, Chairman of The Ireland Funds Singapore.

Dr Quek was invited to tea at the SIT@Dover campus with the grant recipients alongside Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, as well as SIT faculty and staff.

Ms Shilin Lim, another grant recipient, said getting to chat with Dr Quek was a great experience. "I don't come from a well-to-do family and the Grant has helped to alleviate some of the financial burden my family faced," she said, adding, "I felt fortunate to be able to get the grant and I really appreciate the motivation for The Ireland Funds Singapore for establishing the OIP Grant."

Currently still on her OIP, Ms Lim is scheduled to return to Singapore only in early June. In the meantime, SITizen received a text message from her, in which she shared the excitement of her learning journey. "During the attachment, we had the chance to see surgery performed in the operating theatres – something that we don't get to do in Singapore!"



Ms Sharifah Rawiah (first row, extreme left), who received The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant, with her classmates at the Trinity College Dublin campus.