NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

SAP® UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH SAP SOLUTIONS

"SAP workshops gave me direct exposure to real-world business processes. . . . SAP certification has been a catalyst for me, accelerating my learning on the job."

Samuel Ho, Graduate, School of Computing, National University of Singapore

QUICK FACTS

University
- Name: National University of Singapore (NUS) School of Computing
- Location: Singapore
- Industry: Higher education and research
- Products and services: Education
- Revenue: N/A
- Students: 2,000 (undergraduate and graduate students)
- Web site: www.comp.nus.edu.sg

Objectives
- Integrate academic excellence with knowledge of industry best practices
- Provide trained and certified SAP professionals to meet the growing demand

SAP® Software – Curriculum
SAP® ERP application

Program Highlights
- Opportunities for students to interact with real enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions in the marketplace
- Hands-on experience that exposes students to actual business issues

Opportunities
- Enhance students' IT knowledge
- Develop students' industry-related experience

Why SAP University Alliances
- Experience with industry best practices
- Students' acquisition of critical ERP skills that they will use in the workplace
- Students that are highly trained and ready for professional positions

Benefits for the Students
- Robust context in which students relate academic studies to industry
- Exposure to market-leading ERP software
- Increased opportunity for rapid career advancement

Benefits for the Employers
- Available pool of graduates who are SAP certified
- Access to graduates with a grounding in redesigning business processes using SAP-supported and industry best practices
- Increased availability of highly trained talent

NUS National University of Singapore

A leading global university centered in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university that offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment.

Established in 1998, NUS School of Computing (the School) provides a stimulating environment that amalgamates the best of educational traditions for its 2,000-strong student population. Since its early days, the School has produced distinguished alumni, including the chief executives and technology architects of multinationals and government agencies. As part of the enhancement possibilities that the School provides to its students, it collaborates with SAP to offer hands-on learning experience with SAP® software in a simulated business setting.

SAP Program Provides Students with Enhancement Opportunities

Associate Professor Khoo Siau Cheng, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies) for School of Computing at National University of Singapore reflects, "To meet the increasing demand for enterprise resource planning professionals, we wanted to give our undergraduates exposure to industry best practices. So we offer hands-on experience in addition to their academic learning."

When Professor Khoo was introduced to the SAP University Alliances program in early 2007, he saw a new avenue of enhancing the experience of students in the School. The program is designed to provide trained and certified SAP professionals to meet the marketplace's growing demand. The SAP University Alliances program does this by giving students direct access to and providing them with a critical understanding of the SAP ERP application. Equally important, it teaches students how technology enables integrated business processes and strategic decision making. The SAP University Alliances program also provides curriculum materials such as business simulation games, hands-on exercises, and case studies. It further imparts invaluable information on other growing key areas such as business intelligence and mobility to improve the students' understanding of cutting-edge business processes.

Program Beneficial to Students and Businesses

NUS School of Computing subsequently signed up to participate in the SAP program, with two technical staff being trained and given access to a training system running SAP ERP. Ten School of Computing undergraduates initially enrolled for the 15-day Integrated Business Processes in SAP ERP (BPERP) course, based on best practices supported by SAP, which is part of the SAP University Alliances program. Certification examinations were held in July that year, with NUS recording a 100% pass rate for the first batch of students. According to Professor Khoo, introducing innovative programs that include SAP certification is mutually beneficial to the students and businesses. "As the job market for professionals trained in SAP software intensifies, we're providing a holistic education that integrates academic excellence with industry knowledge," he observes.

Professor Khoo adds, "SAP is a global brand and recognized for its enterprise resource planning software. The SAP University Alliances program is an ideal platform to connect our students in School of Computing, as well as in our business, science, and engineering faculties, to leading industry practices. Such an arrangement is also a great opportunity for students to kick-start their job prospects and realize success earlier in their chosen career path."

"Gaining SAP certification while I was still an undergraduate has been my passport for a wealth of amazing opportunities."

Samuel Ho, Graduate, School of Computing, National University of Singapore

Following the initial success of the first certification course at NUS, some of the better program graduates became workshop trainers for subsequent groups of School of Computing undergraduates. Certification training at the university has now been upgraded to SAP Certified Business Associate with SAP ERP (TERP10). Students who complete the intensive three-week course and pass the certification examination are duly acknowledged as globally recognized SAP associate consultants.

Since the program's inception, approximately 800 students have completed the workshops, with more than 200 students gaining certification each year.

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Clear Career Pathways

According to Professor Khoo, courses that offer a clear career path continue to attract quality students. "Courses such as those introduced by our staff in collaboration with SAP go well beyond the traditional campus perimeter. They offer hands-on experience to students who are eager to enrich their learning experience. It's the first step to becoming a fully fledged SAP consultant, and it's helping to meet the growing demand for SAP-trained professionals."

NUS School of Computing graduate and SAP Certified Business Associate with SAP ERP, Samuel Ho, couldn't agree more. "SAP workshops gave me direct exposure to real-world business processes. Gaining SAP certification while I was still an undergraduate has been my passport for a wealth of amazing opportunities. I was offered an SAP consulting internship at a major consulting firm, where I applied my hands-on learning almost straightaway."

While an NUS student, Samuel became a TERP10 workshop trainer and went on to become the chief trainer of the student trainers' team. Through this role, Samuel was directly involved in promoting the courses, using e-mail marketing and flyers and hosting introductory seminars. He also successfully delivered the TERP10 workshops to a large number of students. Under his guidance, more than 250 NUS School of Computing students have achieved certification.

"When I achieved SAP certification, I was encouraged to become a trainer," says Samuel. "I found this role particularly fulfilling, as I realized that I had developed a real understanding of the integration of business processes and SAP technology to solve real business challenges. Becoming a trainer meant that I could assess my own understanding. After all, they say the best way to see how well you understand something is to teach someone else."

Trailblazing Career Success

After graduation Samuel was offered attractive positions at two world-leading firms in consulting services. The hardest decision, he says, was choosing between the two elite consulting firms.

In his current role as an SAP consultant at a leading global IT company, Samuel has found that he has a big head start compared to other recent university-graduate recruits at the company. "While my counterparts were still learning how to do things, I was already involved with face-to-face discussions with clients and directly involved with solving business problems.

"SAP certification has been a catalyst for me, accelerating my learning on the job," Samuel adds. The training at NUS has given Samuel a high level of confidence in his role, and he believes he will be able to advance swiftly up the career ladder. As for future ambitions,

Samuel is on track to attain full proficiency in SAP consulting in a few more years and is looking forward to stepping into the prestigious role of project manager within six years.

SAP undergraduate certification training at NUS School of Computing is recording high marks with the School, successfully producing more in-demand, highly trained SAP professionals.

www.sap.com/contactsap

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