



Home > Singapore > Scholarships for SIT's hospitality students

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Scholarships for SIT's hospitality students



by **Ng Jing Yng**

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SINGAPORE - The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) has received S\$2 million for scholarships for its hospitality students.

Partnering the Overseas Union Enterprise Limited, SIT will be given S\$200,000 annually over a period of 10 years. Students will also get training and employment opportunities at Meritus Hotels & Resorts - hospitality division of Overseas Union Enterprise Limited - which could take them to places including Europe and China.

Speaking at the signing ceremony yesterday to mark the collaboration, Minister of State (Defence and Education) Lawrence Wong said having such a scholarship proves to be "very timely" as Singapore raises its international profile and will attract more tourists in time to come.

"To sustain the growth in the hospitality sector, we must continue to uplift the manpower capabilities in this sector through education," said Mr Wong.

The SIT-Overseas Union Enterprise Limited Scholarship is open to all of SIT's current and future hospitality degree programmes. To date, SIT offers two hospitality degree programmes: the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' (UNLV) Bachelor of Science in Hotel Administration, and The Culinary Institute of America's (CIA) Bachelor of Professional Studies in Culinary Arts Management.

Future hospitality degrees are in the pipeline as SIT continues discussions with potential overseas university partners.

Said Overseas Union Enterprise Limited executive chairman Stephen Riady: "Travel and tourism continue to be an integral part of Singapore's economy, and we at OUE are committed to nurturing this exciting growth by equipping deserving hospitality students with the educational development they need to become tomorrow's industry leaders."

SIT President Professor Tan Chin Tiong said: "We have consistently said that being with SIT promises an industry-relevant education and we reinforce this by actively seeking industry support for our students. The SIT-Overseas Union Enterprise Limited Scholarship is testament to the belief that our industry partners have in the quality of our students."

SIT currently offers about 1,000 university places, largely for polytechnic graduates who aspire to get a degree. They are aiming to double this intake to 2,000 places a year by 2015.

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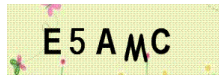
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