Digital dream come true

by ahmad osman

SIT scholar Tng Ren Qi’s learning experience in his digital art and animation degree course has exceeded his expectations

MRTNG Ren Qi enjoys drawing and the aesthetics and technical aspects of creating and developing interactive digital games.

A Temasek Polytechnic graduate with a Diploma in Games and Entertainment Technology, he is studying for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Art and Animation on a Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) scholarship. The degree, which can be completed in two years, is offered by SIT in partnership with Digipen Institute of Technology.

“Digipen is a longstanding pioneer and global leader in interactive digital media education with a bench mark. His ability to combine the technical aspects of art and code will open the door to many career possibilities after his graduation. He can be, for example, a technical or three-dimensional (3D) artist.”

“I will love to work on shaders and game art,” says Mr Tng, adding that the learning experience in the challenging first semester of his degree course exceeded his expectations.

Inspired to improve and adapt

He has learnt a lot from his experienced and approachable teachers who provide the fundamentals for him and his classmates to progress to more advanced topics such as computer graphics and 3D animation.

Interdisciplined topics for each module are designed for students to become better artists. They learn about design and other elements to build a bigger visual vocabulary.

The vocabulary, coupled with the fundamentals of perspective, enables students to learn to draw dynamic poses and layouts. They also get insights into how to tell a good story, Mr Tng says.

Discarding your old work flows and habits can open your mind to other possibly better work flows. This is useful in the ever-changing digital media industry.

— Mr Tng Ren Qi, SIT scholar

He adds: “If it does not look right, it is probably not right. So you keep doing it until it looks right.”

“It took a lot of time for me to revise certain animation and perspective drawings.

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The SIT scholarship awarded to Mr Tng is for outstanding first-year students pursuing their first-degree with SIT and its overseas university partners.

The aim of the scholarship, which is for citizens or permanent residents of Singapore, is to cultivate a group of SIT student leaders.

Applicants must have strong leadership qualities and potential, a good record of co-curricular activities and outstanding polytechnic academic results.

There is no bond period for the scholarship and the SIT scholar does not have to pay the tuition fees. He feels that this benefit allows him to concentrate more on his studies so he can do his best to maintain his scholarship requirements.

His advice for students aspiring to win the SIT scholarship: “Doing what you love to do is probably the best thing you can do.

“You will be motivated and eager to be in your school even on a weekend. Be excited about what you are doing in your school.”