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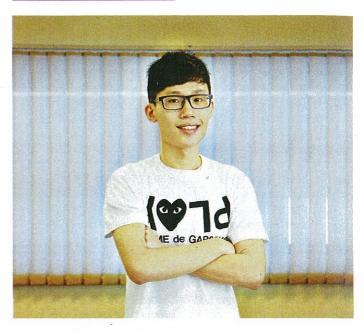


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A promising future

By Zafirah Salim

When he was a teenager, Law Wei Cai had a clear view of his future career road map: He was interested in Mathematics and Science, and engineering would allow him to synergise the two.

The first step he took after obtaining his O-level certification was to sign up for a Diploma in Aerospace Electronics at a local polytechnic. Keen to expand his horizons, he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree that offers specialisations in other aspects of engineering, after graduating from the polytechnic in 2008.

He explained: "The job scope of an aerospace engineer is rather narrow as it only revolves around the maintenance and overhaul of aircraft."

At the recommendation of his friends and polytechnic lecturers, he read up on the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology offered at the Technische Universitaet Muenchen Asia (TUM Asia), in collaboration with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

From researching online and attending the institute's open house, Wei Cai was convinced that the programme was a good fit, and he signed up for it in 2009.

"TUM is an elite university, it

is among the top three universities in Germany. And as the degree specialises in electrical engineering and information technology, it offers graduates more options — I can specialise in microelectronics, integrated circuit design or automation," said the 22-year-old, who is currently a first-year student.

"Graduates with related diplomas from local polytechnics are granted exemptions, so that they can complete the programme within two years."

As a prerequisite, he had to attend a 12-week bridging course before the start of the semester, where he had to attain satisfactory results for Advanced Mathematics, Physics and Circuit Theory modules.

On the bachelor's programme, the first four semesters cover fundamental modules while the final two semesters allow students to specialise according to their interests. "At the end of the final semester, students get to go on an overseas exchange programme. We will visit TUM's campus in Munich, attend classes and discuss our thesis projects with the professors."

Summing up his learning journey thus far, he said: "It has been great, especially with the friendly and approachable staff and professors."