

## 5 Tips for guiding your child in choosing the right degree



"When there are so many degrees available, how do you know which suits your child? How can you be sure? What if they don't have any interest in it?" These are the questions parents ask themselves when guiding their child in choosing the right degree.

Choosing the right degree programme can be a daunting task for many students and parents. To help make the right decision, here are 5 tips to help make the right decision:

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### 1. Know what gets them excited

Which subjects area are they interested in and are good at? What are they passionate about? When they are genuinely interested in the course they're studying, they will naturally enjoy it more and be driven to deepen their learning. Knowing their preferred learning style can also help them perform to their best abilities.

### 2. Do research

Now that you have a better idea of their interests, start the research exercise by understanding the individual university's profile, such as the university's ranking, profile of lecturers, majors that the university is strong in and lastly, current and past students' experience with the university.

A good start will be the QS World University Rankings 2022, where you will be able to find the information that you need. One good example will be the University of Birmingham, a university partner of SIM Global Education (SIMGE). A Russell Group universities, the University of Birmingham constantly ranks amongst the top 100 university in the world.

There are other rankings that will be useful for your research, such as the Times Higher Education World University Ranking and the Shanghai Ranking.

### 3. Talk to the people that matters

Studying overseas is a massive step for your child's future. So, take your time to know everything to make an informed decision. Attend university open houses and speak to faculty members and staff about the institution and available programmes. The quality of the faculty and the support from a school plays an important part in the success of the student's journey.

"Teaching is both a science and an art. It is a science because a teacher in schools must have the right qualifications, and it is also an art because a teacher must have the right innate qualities to motivate and inspire students to be managers and leaders in an unpredictable world" – Mr. Nageb, Lecturer at SIMGE. Mr. Nageb has been teaching at

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SIM for the last 30 years. He was featured by the University of London in the celebration for 35 years of partnership between SIMGE and the University of London<sup>1</sup>.

#### **4. Do your sums**

For most families, the cost of living and studying overseas is one of the hurdles when considering overseas education. Do your sums and work out what is feasible.

A quick guide to understanding the cost of living in Singapore can be found in the StudyAboard with digibank by DBS Bank Singapore website<sup>2</sup>. Through the page, you will be able to have a good idea of the living expenses for your child in Singapore.

#### **5. Keep in mind career prospects and emerging job trends**

It's never too early for them to start planning their career path so stay informed on emerging job trends. Know what skills will be relevant in the future job market. According to the Robert Walters Salary Survey 20223, the top tech roles in demand are data scientist and engineers, cybersecurity specialists, and developers.

Take Cybersecurity for example. It is something that everyone knows, but only knows it on a surface level. We will associate cybersecurity to 'setting a complicated password for my laptop', but many do not know the danger of free Wi-Fi hotspots that are available everywhere.

The Bachelor of Computer Science (Cyber Security) offered by the University of Wollongong (UoW), offered in Singapore by SIMGE is one highly respected and in demand programme. In this programme, students will gain basic understanding of end-user cybersecurity protection such as setting up a secured home internet network to advanced current and emerging technologies related to Cybersecurity, such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, multimedia security, internet of things security and obfuscation.

This programme is jointly taught and delivered by faculty members from UoW and local practitioners of cybersecurity. SIMGE's strong partnership with the industry has allowed

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students studying in the programme to be kept up to date with the latest development and updates on the programme that they are studying.

Students who have successfully completed the programme are well sought after in the industry. The degree that they have obtained is accredited by the Australian Computer Society, and it has mutual recognition of qualifications with:

- Singapore Computer Society
- International Federation of Information Processing
- Southeast Asia Regional Computer Confederation
- Malaysia National Computer Confederation
- Seoul Accord – mutual recognition between ABEEK (Korea), ABET (US), BCS (UK), CIPS (Canada), HKIE (HK and China), IEET (Taiwan), JABEE (Japan)

Understanding such information may help you guide your child decide which degree is more suitable for them for career progression.

SIMGE is a provider of private tertiary education and professional training in Singapore. To learn more, please visit website at <https://regional.simge.edu.sg/hongkong>.

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<sup>1</sup> Teaching is both a science and an art: <https://london.ac.uk/news-opinion/london-connection/feature/teaching-both-a-science-and-art>

<sup>2</sup> Cost of Living in Singapore: <https://www.dbs.com/digibank/in/study-abroad/countries/study-in-singapore/cost-of-living-in-singapore>

<sup>3</sup> Tech talent most in demand as Singapore hiring picks up in 2022: Surveys: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/jobs/tech-talent-most-in-demand-as-singapore-hiring-picks-up-in-2022-surveys>

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