

ISSUE 1 • APRIL 2022



Pre-U Edition

# THE EXPLORER

Education and Career Guidance e-Newsletter  
for Students

Dear Students,

A warm welcome to 2022's first issue of *The Explorer*, an Education and Career Guidance (ECG) e-newsletter written specially for you! Whether you are thinking about the next step in your education journey or exploring what's out there in the world of work, we hope you'll find *The Explorer* a useful resource!

For more on ECG, do speak with your teachers or your ECG Counsellor!

## TAKE A PEEK!

Industry Landscape  
- page 1

Explore the Digital  
Economy  
- page 2

Aptitude-Based  
Admissions  
- pages 3 & 4

Hear from Students!  
- page 5

*In the next issue...  
critical core skills,  
the Green Economy  
and more!*

## THE INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE

In order to help us gain insights and stay relevant in the future economy, SkillsFuture Singapore has recently launched its first-ever yearly "Skills Demand for the Future Economy" report. The report spotlights the priority skills and jobs in demand for three emerging, high-growth areas - the Digital Economy, Green Economy and Care Economy.

### Digital Economy

In Singapore, Digital Economy jobs can be found across many different sectors. Digital skills are increasingly transferable.

Most Digital Economy jobs here are **Tech-Lite** job roles which do not require advanced IT skills.

**Tech-Heavy** job roles help lead digital transformation in tech-reliant industries and organisations.

### Green Economy

The Green Economy is about how we live, work and grow while taking care of our environment and its limited resources efficiently and sustainably.

Companies are changing and creating new business functions.

New jobs and skills are required. Existing jobs will include new skills to support the **Singapore Green Plan 2030**.

### Care Economy

The Care Economy is driven by an ageing population, evolving demands for care, and the future of work and learning.

Technology enablement and community collaboration help to create new jobs and skills. Sectors include healthcare, wellness, community care, social service, early childhood, and training & adult education.

# EXPLORE THE DIGITAL ECONOMY



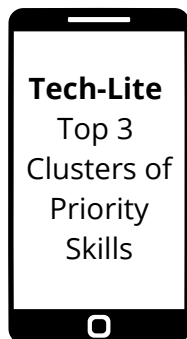
**DO U KNOW?**  
30% of new jobs globally will be in data, artificial intelligence (AI), engineering and cloud computing by 2022.

Source: World Economic Forum, "Jobs of Tomorrow: Mapping Opportunity in the New Economy", 2020.

The Digital Economy entails different types of skills, depending on the job role applications. It can be **Tech-Lite** job roles (e.g. UI/UX Designer, E-commerce Executive and Social Media Strategist) where the focus is on using tech products/solutions to achieve a business outcome. On the other hand, **Tech-Heavy** job roles (e.g. Cyber Security Penetration Tester, Data Scientist and Game Developer) focus on using existing products to deliver tech products or services and also use technology to create, build, and scale products.



What are the priority skills needed in tech-lite and tech-heavy job roles?



### Technology Application

Skills to operate, adopt and apply new technology.



### Market Research/Trend

Skills to enable businesses to make informed decisions on their business directions.



### Data Analysis/Analytics

Skills covering data collection, data management, data interpretation and data visualisation, applied in research or business.



### Technology Development

Skills to analyse, review, formulate and lead new digital transformation efforts with organisations' IT systems and technologies.



### Data Engineering

Skills to develop and implement data management systems and tools.

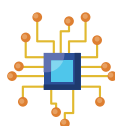


### Internet of Things Management

Skills to enable working with interconnecting computing devices, equipment and machine data, in a networked environment.



Say hello to Doreen Tan, User and Content Operations Manager at Tik Tok, gamely answering #tech career-related questions from students.



What really goes on behind the scenes of games development? Learn more about what a **Game Developer** does!



By IMDA and SG Women In Tech

#SGWomenInTech, #TikTok, #TechCareers

By National Youth Council

#ComputerScience, #GameDeveloper

Career opportunities abound in the Digital Economy and the need for women to fill these roles remains strong.



To learn more about careers in the Digital Economy and the skills required, click [here](#).

# ADMISSIONS TO UNIVERSITIES VIA APTITUDE-BASED ADMISSIONS

To assess students more holistically for university admissions, local universities have included aptitude-based admissions (ABA) as part of their admission process.

Under the ABA, students are assessed more broadly based on other merits and achievements, including their demonstrated ability and interest in the course, work experience, leadership, community service, and other exceptional talents. Read more [here](#).

Applicants may need to submit an essay based on a given topic, teachers' references and supporting documents. Shortlisted candidates may be required to attend an interview.

Here are some resources from MySkillsFuture Student Portal to give you a headstart in preparing for the [Interview](#) and in writing a [Personal Statement](#).

More information on Aptitude-Based Admissions @ [SMU](#), [NTU](#), [NUS](#), [SIT](#), [SUSS](#), [SUTD](#), [LASALLE](#) and [NAFA](#).

**WHAT IS APTITUDE-BASED ADMISSIONS?**

ABA take into account students' passions, interests and strengths.

- AWARDS**  
Significant awards in relevant programme or winner at the International Olympiads or in National Science & Talent Search
- COMMUNITY**  
Active involvement/participation in community services and/or volunteering work
- SPORTS/ARTS**  
Carded athlete or represented Singapore in Arts and/or Sports such as Olympics, SEA/ASEAN/ ASIAN games, etc.
- EXPERIENCE**  
Made significant contributions or attained outstanding achievements in area of work or internship relevant to the programme applied.
- EXCELLENCE**  
Demonstrated excellence in areas such as leadership, entrepreneurship, arts & culture, sports, etc. during competitions, project and activity in the related field of study.

Photo Credit : [NTU Office of Admissions](#)

## 3 TIPS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED ON APTITUDE-BASED ADMISSIONS

**1** **Discover**  
your Purpose.  
Explore your Values,  
Interests, Personality  
& Skills

Think about why you are applying for the particular degree programme. Is it aligned with your VIPS and purpose? What are some areas you would like to learn more about or contribute in?



*If you require some help exploring your interests, book a session with your school's ECG Counsellor.*

**2** **Explore**  
and research various  
opportunities and  
possible pathways

Different institutions offer different degrees and programmes.

Explore and find out what's available and what suits your interests and learning styles. The more you know, the better your decisions will be!

Click [here](#) to research about courses and programmes available in the various universities.



**3** **Prepare**  
your Application

Get ready your personal statement and portfolio as you may be required to attend an interview for the institution to learn more about you! Prepare yourself for the interview by going through the [SLS lesson on interview skills!](#)

*Seek feedback from family members, teachers or ECG Counsellor as you prepare for your personal statement and portfolio.*



# POINTS TO CONSIDER AS YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR:

Demonstrate you've relevant soft skills:

- leadership
- teamwork
- time management
- communication, etc.

1. Personal Statement
2. Portfolio\*
3. Interview

Give reasons for course choice:

- Motivating factors
- Source of Inspiration
- Dreams & Aspirations

Connect to your experiences in:

- CCA
- VIA
- personal pursuits
- work experience
- leisure etc



Show how and why you are a good fit for the course!

Explain how it aligns with your:

- Values
- Interest
- Personality
- Skills
- Purpose

\* A portfolio showcases your skills, experiences and accomplishments in and outside of school. It can be presented in different formats depending on the contents, e.g. certificates, video, collage, blog, digital album, etc.

## SAMPLES OF PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY PROMPTS



SINGAPORE  
MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY

"Describe the highlights of your most outstanding achievements or contributions."

(Maximum :  
300 words)



A 500-word reflection essay on the following topic:

"From your personal experience, select ONE quality that you have acquired. Describe how you acquired it and why this quality is important to you."



**LASALLE**  
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

BA(Hons).  
Arts Management

"In 500-800 words, describe your experience or involvement in the arts through practice, studies or work in the past two years. Arts experience can include work done with arts organisations or arts events, such as performances, exhibitions, concerts, films or design projects."



# STORIES OF RESILIENCE, ADAPTABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

**Hear from individuals who took different pathways and created stories of success in their education and career journey.**



**Geok Shan** shares how she took on various job roles and honed her skills after the A-Levels, and how that helped her "grow as a person" and secure a place in her desired course in the University. She went on to excel in her course and was awarded a scholarship. Read more about Geok Shan's journey [here](#).

**Rae Fung** shares how she discovered and pursued what she was good at despite self-doubt and parental objections. Whilst in University, she worked hard to build her portfolio and decided to have an "honest conversation" with her parents who now fully support her entrepreneur dreams. Read more about Rae [here](#).



From a young age, **Zulhaqem Zulkifli** 's journey was fraught with difficulties and challenges. His family struggled with making ends meet and having a proper roof over their heads. As the oldest child, Zulhaqem took on multiple odd jobs to supplement his family's income. Yet, he was determined to finish and excel in his studies, even if it meant taking a longer route. Despite his challenges, Zulhaqem always found time to read, as well as volunteer his time and energy to help the needy and give back to society. After his A-levels, Zulhaqem went on to University and thereafter completed his Master's degree under a PSC scholarship. Be inspired by Zulhaqem's story of soldiering on in spite of the odds!

**Take charge of your education and career journey today!**

Enjoyed reading the newsletter? Let us know what you think!

Click [here](#) to give us your feedback!

