

## OPENING DOORS FOR YOU

# Sound foundation for building careers

BY VICTORIA BARKER

**T**HE construction industry in Singapore is one of the key pillars of the country's economic development.

It is no surprise, then, that SIM University (UniSIM) and the academy of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) have teamed up once again to develop a specialised degree programme that prepares students for the industry.

The Bachelor of Building and Project Management will focus on areas such as project management, quantity surveying and contract administration, said its head of programme, Mr Luke Peh.

"The overall focus is on enhancing productivity in the construction industry," he told *my paper*.

"We want to enable participants to better understand the responsibilities and roles...of the different professions within a construction project."

The first intake for the new programme is in January, with a second intake to follow in July.

Mr Peh, 31, is also head of the university's Facilities and Events Management programme - UniSIM's first collab-



**DOING MORE WITH LESS:** Mr Luke Peh, programme head of the Bachelor of Building and Project Management at UniSIM, says that the new degree programme's overall focus is on enhancing productivity in the construction industry. (PHOTO: ONG WEE JIN)

oration with the BCA Academy, in partnership with Singapore Polytechnic – which was first introduced last year.

“We are hoping there will be synergy between the two,” he added. Mr Peh has done his doctorate degree in Construction Management and is awaiting the conferment of his PhD.

Like other degree programmes offered at the privately funded UniSIM, the Building and Project Management programme encompasses the four Rs: It is robust, relevant, designed for recognition by accreditation bodies and, perhaps most importantly, ready for use.

“Traditional universities might

teach **theoretical knowledge** that is not necessarily easily applied in the real world. At UniSIM, we hope that what students learn today, they can put to use tomorrow,” said Mr Peh, who previously worked as a project engineer.

To ensure the programme’s relevance, Mr Peh and his team got input from a slew of sources, from accreditation bodies such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Britain to Singapore’s Construction Industry Joint Committee.

There are also courses in the programme that are **pertinent** to current trends and develop-

ments in the industry, such as Life-Cycle Costing and Sustainable Design and Construction. This course provides students with an understanding of life-cycle analysis and management of a construction project.

It touches on corporate social responsibility, the integration of sustainable design into construction and the business of green buildings – a trend for which Mr Peh foresees growing demand.

“We want to impart in our students knowledge on how to minimise wastage and reduce carbon footprint,” he said.

“Sustainability is definitely

becoming more important, and it affects the whole supply chain.”

Other interesting courses include Interdisciplinary Studies in Construction – which provides insights into the roles of main players in a project, from the developer to the **statutory board** to other relevant participants – and International Construction Project Management, which looks at global construction markets and mega-scale projects.

Ultimately, graduates of the programme can expect a wide range of job prospects, which may not even be limited to the construction industry.

“Students will also be able to pick up skills such as cost management and cost estimating, which can be used in other industries, such as oil and gas, health care and telecommunication,” Mr Peh explained.

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## HELPDESK 我的字典

**Construction industry:** 建筑业  
jiàn zhù yè

**Theoretical knowledge:**  
理论性知识 lǐ lùn xìng zhī shi

**Pertinent:** 相关的 xiāng guān de

**Statutory board:** 法定机构  
fǎ dìng jī gòu

## BACHELOR OF BUILDING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

WITH the Government’s support for Continuing Education and Training, and subsidies of up to 55 per cent for adult learning, SIM University’s (UniSIM’s) degrees are now even more accessible to adult learners.

The Bachelor of Building and Project Management is the latest degree jointly offered by UniSIM and BCA Academy.

The academy is the

education and research arm of Singapore’s Building and Construction Authority.

The new degree programme equips graduates with specialist knowledge and skills for the productive management of projects specific to the construction industry.

Graduates can look forward to career opportunities in the construction industry, in areas

such as Construction Project Management, Cost Management and Contract Administration.

UniSIM and BCA Academy also jointly offer a Bachelor of Science in Facilities and Events Management with Singapore Polytechnic.

Other programmes offered at UniSIM’s School of Science and Technology include:

- ◆ B Eng Aerospace Systems
- ◆ B Eng Electronics
- ◆ BSc Biomedical Engineering
- ◆ BSc Human Factors in Safety
- ◆ BSc Information and Communication Technology
- ◆ BSc Information Technology and Business (ERP)
- ◆ BSc Mathematics
- ◆ BSc Multimedia Technology and Design

*For more information or to sign up for one of UniSIM’s degree programmes, call 6248-9777 or visit the university’s website at [www.unisim.edu.sg](http://www.unisim.edu.sg)*

*Alternatively, you may wish to visit UniSIM’s open house at 461 Clementi Road next Saturday, from 11am to 5pm, for more information.*

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