

## How do I Decide? Choosing a Course

You're fresh out of Form 5/pre-u, and it's time for the big league: College/University. If you just finished High School, it's time to dump the uniforms. Either way, it's a brand new world, with new freedoms and new choices. No more spoon-fed education. But how to choose?

Throwing a dart at a list of universities generally doesn't work out, so try out this checklist:



### 1: Know Yourself

If you're completely not interested in an area of study, cross it out! A performing arts degree won't help you become a doctor (except in a musical). This is a good time to take career or interest assessments, but in the end you decide, not the test. More than one or two preferences is fine, but don't overdo it or you'll end up back at square one with too many choices.

### 2: Know Your Options

Wishing on a star doesn't fly on a university application. So with your results in hand, you can make a list of options. Look first at what is usually required for your industry. You obviously need maths for engineering, but others may not be so obvious, and some may surprise you. Do your homework! If you have your sights on Harvard, check out their website for information. Two things to watch out for: prerequisite subjects, and your specific Pre-U scores (ie. the aggregate).

### 3: Know Your Limits

In a perfect world all schools are the best schools.....ok. Back in real life, you need to consider environmental factors. Having a shortlist of options based on #1 and #2, you can cut the list down based on these things: Budget, Geography, and Time.

Normally your parent(s)/guardian(s) take care of budget, but you might as well know how much money is going into your education. If you can't afford to go overseas, you can still check out twinning or 3+0 programs. Geography is basically travel; does it take hours just to get to class, or would a campus hostel be better? Lastly, look at Time invested. Some courses take years to complete (eg. Medicine), some require post-graduate accreditation, or technical courses. Find out and see if you're willing to commit.

### 4: Know What To Do

Hopefully by this time, the list will be pretty short. It is now just a matter of selecting from these few choices rather than the overwhelming selection that the education world offers. From here, you can go back to #1; know yourself and decide. All the best in choosing your course!

**"This is a good time to take career or interest assessments, but in the end you decide, not the test."**

**Protip:** A company visit is an excellent way to get an idea of what a certain industry is like.



# Surviving Life after School: Adapting to Campus Living

Entering Year 1 of university for some is like first day at Hogwarts; activity all over the place, all sorts of people, at every moment of the day. Some thrive on it, some find it all too much. Either way, adjusting to campus life is something every university student has to adapt to.

After a while, you'll wonder how you ever lived any differently. One of the biggest changes will likely be time; all that extra time, and what to do with it, especially if staying away from home. Four-day weeks are fairly common, and three- or even two-day weeks are not unheard of. No more hand-holding or spoon-feeding. It isn't like the workload is less though, just that you get to choose how to deal with it; those assignments won't do themselves.

What this means is unless you have the discipline of a Spartan, you'll need some sort of time-management plan. You'll have to plan out time for classes (as you may get to choose when your classes are), study schedule, assignments, family, friends, and partying. It may take some time to adjust to the new rhythm of the academic year\*.

As you grow into uni life, you'll come to realise sooner or later that you have a great degree of independence, which means you are free to do as you wish, but also free to fail. One of the biggest obstacles common to every university student is Procrastination. As they say, do not put off 'till tomorrow what you can do today. Cliché, but so true. The first delayed assignment leads to the next, until the backlog of work can and will be overwhelming. Start early and finish early for peace of mind, and a buffer zone in case of emergency. A well-known phenomenon of university life is that computers, laptops and printers always break down just around assignment time, and USB drives always get lost.\*\*

Sometimes things may seem a little overwhelming, or you just need someone to talk to. Make friends! University is a social place, filled with people with similar dreams, problems, and interests. Find a few and keep in contact. Perhaps join some clubs that interest you. A journey with friends is far less lonely. Besides, who else will you go to karaoke with?

Lastly, learn to ask for help. Although this is a time of independence, it's also a time of interdependence. Most universities have a student services department that offers a variety of services, including advice, counselling, sports and clubs-related activities, and other support. Just ask.\*\*\*

\*Ps. Study breaks are actually meant for studying; plan as necessary.

\*\* You MUST keep backups. Keep at least one, if not two backups, online or in physical storage.

\*\*\* Sunway University's Student Services Dept. is located inside the Student Centre, just off the cafeteria.



## Quick Assignment Tips

- Start assignments early
- Read the question carefully
- Read it again
- Plan for unexpected delays
- Ask for help if you need it
- Discuss with friends
- Keep backups!
- Don't procrastinate
- Do Not copy-paste aka. Plagiarise



# How I spent my Summer Vacation:



## Part-Time Jobs?

What is a part-time job? Why bother? Does it pay well?

... Are your parents bugging you to get one?

We had a chat with one of our students working in our very own SSD as a part-time student helper, Kyle Yap. Here's what he had to say about working part-time.

**Q:** What is your reason for choosing to get a part-time job?

"To get some experiences in the workplace/office and earn some pocket money."

**Q:** Why student helper at Sunway SSD?

"Because this is more convenient compared to others (such as shopping complex), as I am studying in the same university."

**Q:** Have you previously worked any other part-time jobs?

"Nope."

**Q:** Can you tell us a little about the specifics of the job?

"Actually, I worked as a receptionist in the reception counter. Basically, my job in SSD is to assist students whom want to borrow games and refer them to the particular staff regarding their enquiries. My working hours varies from time to time just to fit into my available slots in my schedule. I've worked in SSD for 3 months, specifically from September to December 2011."

**Q:** What have you learned?

"Working in SSD has given me a better insight, perhaps a cornerstone about the real workplace. Other than assisting students who need help, I have also learned better communication skills with others."

**Q:** Would you recommend any student to get a part-time job, or only certain people? Why?

"Yes, I would recommend the majority to get a part-time job only during their break or holidays. Some people might not be able to cope with their studies and part-time job if they are working within their study period. Hence, I personally suggest that students can go for a part-time job whenever they have long breaks or holidays because it is always better to utilize our time to do something beneficial such as gaining experiences from being a part-timer rather than dawdling at home."

**Q:** Would you work here again in the future?

"It depends. I will need to arrange my schedule and make sure I can handle my studies." - **Smart! (ed)**

**Q:** What's the best thing you've experienced here, and/or the worst?

"The best thing working here in SSD is meeting all the friendly and nice staffs in the office. :) Besides, it also gave me a chance to meet more people and interact with students from different courses."

**Editor:** A summer/part-time job is one of the most fun experiences of campus life and is highly recommended. More spending cash is always nice, and no experience is ever wasted. Small things you learn will come in handy, and it makes your first CV look that much fuller.

# WHO OR WHAT IS SSD?

**SSD IS:**

**THE SUNWAY STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
CONSISTING OF:**

**ALUMNI  
COUNSELLING  
PREPARE CAREER SERVICES  
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & SPORTS  
SCHOLARSHIP AND SUPPORT SERVICES**



**WE ARE OPEN MON-FRI  
8:30AM - 5:30PM  
LOCATED @ STUDENT CENTRE  
COME VISIT!**

**ALSO...**

**STILL UNSURE ABOUT YOUR COURSE?**

**eXplore EDUCATION FAIR**

*Search > Discover > Explore*

**MARCH @ SUNWAY ENERGY HUB & STUDENT CENTRE**

Comments/Questions/Suggestions  
for JUMPSTART?  
email: [marksaw@sunway.edu.my](mailto:marksaw@sunway.edu.my)

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