The World is your Oyster

What’s a secondment really like?

Top tips for internship

Top CBD cafes

Resume tips that will make you shine!
There’s a buzz around Deloitte Singapore right now as we gear up for the upcoming ASEAN Para Games in December 2015 where, following the 28th Southeast Asian Games, we are once again the Official Professional Services Partner. Just last month, I took part in the Gift-A-Nila initiative and sewed a personalized heart-shaped mini cushion which will be given as special gift to welcome athletes and officials to the Games.

It is also truly heartening for me to see our people making the most out of the volunteer opportunities that we offer to them. In this issue you can read about our Audit Volunteer Initiative and Impact Day, just two of the many programmes for our staff who want to make an impact that matters in our communities.

Our talent programmes are frequently recognised as leaders in Singapore and Asia: after being ranked as a top three most attractive employer in the Asia Pacific region by business students in the 2015 Universum Talent Survey, we were recently awarded both the Gold Award for ‘Excellence in Employer Branding’ across all industries for a second consecutive year, as well as the Silver Award for ‘Excellence in Employee Diversity & Inclusiveness’ at the Singapore HR Excellence Awards 2015.

Next up for us is the Winter Internship intake in December with our award-winning ‘Intern Experience’ initiative, designed to provide an experiential platform for undergraduates to experience the Deloitte culture first-hand. In this magazine, we offer tips for your internship and showcase insights and advice from our recent interns.

I wish you all a good semester ahead and the best in your upcoming exams… And for those of you joining us in December: see you soon!

Seah Gek Choo
Deloitte Singapore
Talent Partner

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Do you aspire to work overseas and travel around the globe? As the world becomes increasingly borderless in both the business world and the societies we live in, overseas assignments have become an important component of career progression and a key opportunity for personal and professional development. To cater to the aspirations of talent to work abroad and explore the world, Deloitte offers a wide range of mobility programmes to develop our people - one of which is the Deloitte Global Mobility Programme (GMP).

Embarking on the Global Mobility Programme journey

Last year, four Deloitte Audit Managers – Mark Koh, Zhong Guoxiang, Yeo Sheng An and Vivian Tay Shi Min – took up the opportunity to go on the GMP and embarked on their journey to live and work overseas. Mark Koh has been on a two-year secondment to the Deloitte London Office since November 2014 and is expected to return to Singapore in November 2016. Both Zhong Guoxiang and Yeo Sheng An are currently stationed in the United States (US) for eighteen-month secondments until March 2016, working in the Deloitte New York and Charlotte offices respectively. Vivian went on a six-month secondment to Deloitte Luxembourg and returned to Singapore in March of this year.

Backed by their consistent years of hard work over the years and strong interest for mobility opportunities, these Deloitte Audit Managers were selected as GMP participants and felt grateful for the chance. “I was pleasantly surprised and honoured to be given this opportunity by the firm to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience!” exclaimed Vivian. Sheng An felt jubilant to be given the opportunity as he believed that the selection process was definitely not easy, with several rounds of interviews with Partners from both the Singapore and US offices.

On top of their career aspirations to work overseas, they took up the GMP opportunity for several reasons, including the opportunity to travel, experience various cultures, gain global insights into the industry, expand their network of contacts and grow personally and professionally. Mark reflected, “I’ve always wanted the opportunity to live and work overseas in a foreign country and Deloitte has given me this opportunity through the Global Mobility Programme.”

Guoxiang shared the same sentiments, “After working in Deloitte for 5 years, I felt like it’s a good time and perfect opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and try working abroad in a different office to gain a different exposure both on a professional and personal level, which I believe will aid in my future career development.”
An eye-opening and enriching learning experience

All four of the GMP participants agree that there are many takeaways and benefits from the programme despite the challenges of living and working overseas. Vivian, who was a Senior Year 3 under the Audit Group for Investment Funds in Deloitte Luxembourg, experienced cultural and language barriers during her time in Luxembourg. Nonetheless, she gained invaluable knowledge and exposure in the investment funds industry and learnt audit from a different perspective. Sheng An and Mark find that the programme is an eye-opening and enriching learning experience for them. Working as an Audit Manager in Banking & Capital Markets in the Deloitte London office, Mark recognises that the programme has allowed him to learn how to navigate and work in different cultures. Sheng An said, “The GMP has given me first-hand experience of working with US clients and co-workers which expands my global perspective and helps develop my interpersonal and intercultural skills.” In addition, the GMP has offered him the opportunity to build a network of relationships with clients, co-workers and fellow assignees. Furthermore, Guo Xiang values the opportunity to work and interact with many different talented professionals from diverse cultures and backgrounds and expand his global network.

Forging invaluable friendships

Working and living overseas also gives the GMP participants many opportunities to meet people of different nationalities and to build friendships which they have come to treasure. “My teammates whom I interact with on a daily basis help me appreciate and adapt to the American culture, support me through challenging busy season and as well as relaxing over drinking sessions together. I will cherish these friendships forever,” said Sheng An. In a similar fashion, Guo Xiang has developed valuable friendships with his fellow GMP mates from across the world, including Spain, France, Belgium and Ireland. Forging friendships has formed one of the most meaningful and unforgettable part of their GMP experiences. As Vivian shared, “I made friends with people who came from all around the world, such as US, China, Hong Kong, Tahiti, France, Italy and many more. That was one of the hardest things to say goodbye to when I left Luxembourg.”

Travelling like never before

It wasn’t all work and no play as they also made the most of the opportunity to travel and enjoy the attractions in their host countries. Living in another country for an extended period of time has allowed Sheng An to explore the country more widely than a tourist, fully immerse in the country’s culture, as well as gain an understanding and appreciation of the host country’s work culture and way of life. “What I enjoy the most are my travels in the US! One year into the GMP I have covered 15 different States, driven on some of the most famous and scenic highways in the country and gone on breath-taking trails in the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park,” shared Sheng An. Guo Xiang is also hoping to explore more places in his remaining time in New York after travelling to 11 States so far. During their different exciting travel schedules, Mark and Vivian even met up together in London for a road trip, along with Mark’s family and other secondees, covering Cambridge, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, the Lake District and Liverpool in just 3 days.

Unforgettable experiences

Their GMP journey gave them an invaluable opportunity to see the world and gain new experiences as well as many interesting stories to share. “One of the highlights so far was the Manhattan skyline cruise during a five-day orientation programme held in New Jersey where we had the opportunity to meet and interact with other assignees, as well as to exchange gifts that represented the culture of our home countries,” shared Sheng An. The highlight of Vivian’s six-month secondment was the Deloitte Diversity Day, a multi-cultural Charity event organized by Deloitte Luxembourg, where the people were given a chance to represent their own countries and share their own local food and dishes. For Guo Xiang, the statue of liberty cruise that he went on during the first week of the programme was particularly memorable, as this was where he met Deloitte colleagues from all over the world and appreciated Deloitte as a truly international network.

Expand your horizons

Besides the GMP, international opportunities are abound with Deloitte where our employees can expand their horizons. Whether they are looking to go on a short-term mobility project or a longer term overseas assignment, there are Deloitte offices in over 150 countries worldwide, including 25 offices in Southeast Asia, which enables our people to have fantastic opportunities to work overseas. As the largest professional services organization in the world, Deloitte really can offer more than any other firm.

Deloitte Singapore won the Singapore HR Gold Award for “Excellence in Cross Border HR Programmes” for our mobility programmes in 2014, including our Southeast Asia (SEA) Audit Mobility Program which takes our staff on cross-border assignments in the SEA region.

Mark shared that “With the GMP, you get a great deal of support from the Singapore firm, both financially and logistically, so that you only have to focus on your career there. I truly feel that Deloitte offers its people great opportunities to shine!”

For Vivian, Mark, Guo Xiang and Sheng An, it has indeed been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them to participate in Deloitte’s Global Mobility Programme!

The world can be your oyster – so where would you want to go?
Deloitte and you

Q. How did you get hired to work in Deloitte?
When I had completed my first year in NUS, I saw that Deloitte was offering a Scholarship to auditors-to-be who were motivated and passionate. Since then, I have done a summer internship in FSI and was also selected for the Accelerated Career Program (ACP).

Q. What is your current role?
I am currently an Audit Senior in the Financial Services Industry (FSI).

Q. How do you think Deloitte is different from the other Big Four?
I personally feel that what stands out for Deloitte is that it provides everyone an opportunity to grow by offering different paths that cater to your own personal and development needs.

Your advice to undergraduates

Q. What advice would you offer to undergraduates who want to pursue a career in FSI?
My advice to fellow undergraduates who want to pursue Audit in FSI is to be motivated and disciplined.

Q. What should one be prepared for when entering FSI?
In FSI, you need to keep abreast with the current affairs and the latest regulatory matters given how the banking industry in the world is complex and ever-changing.

Your Deloitte experience

Q. What is it like working in Deloitte?
Deloitte has a friendly and supportive working culture that helps to induce learning and development. More importantly, friendships are forged here. Deloitte is definitely a place for meeting and knowing more people and expanding your network. Through my time here, I have gotten to know people from the different Audit Groups, and also various departments like Tax, Enterprise Risk Services and Financial Advisory.

Q. What do you like about Deloitte?
It is definitely a place which recognises individuals for their performance.

Q. What are some of the opportunities that Deloitte provides?
I have been assigned challenging work that allows me to improve as a person in terms of managing expectations of myself, the team and clients. Outside of audit engagements, I have also been given opportunities to guide the interns through facilitating in the Intern Selection Workshop and also having a Welcome Tea Session during the last Summer Internship. I truly enjoyed the interaction with the interns and even weeks after the internship has ended, some of them continue to look to me for advice. I also have the pleasure to work with my other colleagues to organize Mentor Outings for my department. I like travelling and have always wanted to work in Big Apple (NYC). Deloitte has various mobility programmes, one of which is the Global Mobility Programme (GMP) which provides this opportunity, and I am doing my best to be on my way there.

Q. What is your career milestone in Deloitte so far?
Since the start of work last September, I have received numerous Applause awards, from various managers and my partner, Joshua Yan. I believe that I have reached all these “milestones” so far in such a short period with the guidance from my managers and partners to continuously drive for professional excellence.
Deloitte and you

Q. What is your background?
I graduated from SMU in 2013, during which I had an Audit internship with Deloitte in 2011.

Q. Why did you choose Deloitte?
During my Deloitte internship, I found the culture in Deloitte to be very pleasant and warm, and felt that the flat structure would provide great opportunities for learning and interaction with senior management. I was referred to the job by a friend who was also working in M&A Transaction Services (TS). I believe that my enthusiasm in joining a M&A-related job, a strong willingness to learn, and amicable personality enabled me to shine during the job interview.

Q. What is your current role?
I am currently a senior associate in MBA Transaction Services, one of the arms of Financial Advisory in Deloitte. My role includes conducting financial due diligence on Target companies to identify business trends and key transaction issues relevant to the potential acquirer. These include identifying adjustments to Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) which ultimately affects purchase consideration, as well as identifying potential purchase price adjustments from working capital and net debt computations. We work closely with the Valuation Services practice and thus have opportunities to be exposed to business valuation projects as well.

Your advice to undergraduates

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Q. What advice would you offer to undergraduates who want to pursue a career in Financial Advisory?
Attend campus recruitment events and speak to people who are currently employed in that role. Build up a strong network as working closely with the Valuation Services practice and thus have opportunities to be exposed to business valuation projects as well.

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Q. What do you like about Deloitte?
We work hard and play hard. Partners always try to maintain staff morale.

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Q. What is it like working in Deloitte?
Working in Deloitte has been an eye-opener and I am very grateful for the exposure that I have gotten in the past couple of years which includes several high-profile transactions in the region, as well as the people whom I work with. There is a sense of camaraderie among my colleagues which helps us get through long working hours, making my experience in Deloitte both challenging and fun at the same time.

Q. What can one expect when working in Financial Advisory?
Be prepared to perform mundane tasks like report inspections, risk admin and data entry when you first start off. Generally, performing these tasks well will increase confidence in your abilities and attitude and the likelihood of you being assigned greater responsibilities and more challenging work will increase, so don’t take these tasks lightly and perform them to the best of your ability. Also, it is a steep learning curve in my function with little room for error as transactions usually come with tight timelines and the work requires precision and speed. The deal process can be very challenging but there is nothing better than acknowledgement and praise from clients. Everyone is usually very busy so take the initiative to ask questions and discover technical terms and skills on your own. The culture in my function is very flat as even the new hires will get to work directly with Partners and Directors, so learning opportunities are definitely there, it is just up to the individual to make full use of them.

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Q. What are some of the opportunities that Deloitte provides?
Deloitte has provided me with challenging work in a friendly work environment. Learning is predominantly done on the job with guidance from managers and partners.

Q. What are some of your most memorable Deloitte experiences?
Within a week of joining Deloitte, I was whisked away to Myanmar for a project and made nine more trips to Myanmar in the next 3 to 4 months. It was a really interesting and exciting experience as we were working with colleagues from other functions like Corporate Finance and Consulting, in a country which has just recently opened up its economy to the rest of the world after years of military rule. On the sporting side, being part of the first team from Asia to join the annual global intra-firm Deloitte soccer tournament in Prague in 2014 was a hugely memorable experience where we got to pit our skills against offices from Europe and America.
Q. What can one expect when working in ERS?
Heaps of challenges! Other than working in different teams, we face different and sometimes challenging clients. However, as long as we have relatively high EQ and a positive attitude, there’ll be no fear!

Q. What is the best part of your job?
Knowing that I have encouraging colleagues, who have become my good friends, and who have my back is the best part of my job. Of course, when I get graded ‘High Performance’ for my engagement appraisals, that is also a very rewarding feeling!

Your Deloitte experience

Q. What is it like working in Deloitte?
It is a very fun and rewarding experience working in Deloitte, with good work-life balance. Other than my daily ERS work, I am heavily involved in the Deloitte Table Tennis team. At times when I get tired of my daily work, I know that I have table tennis to fall back on and be rebooted from the games!

Q. What do you like about Deloitte?
Its work-life balance. Also, I am fortunate to have great mentors who I can look up to. These mentors give me pointers not only in my work but also how I should grow as a person outside of work.

Q. What is your happiest moment at work?
Knowing that my clients and bosses are happy with my work, and having an enjoyable working experience with my teammates. Additionally other than work, I am very proud and happy that I have made many good friends who genuinely care for me and look out for me just like their little sisters! (I am pretty much the youngest among my peers.)

Q. What are some of the opportunities that Deloitte provides?
At Deloitte, every day at work is a challenge but I am excited to take them on! Without these challenges posed at me, life at Deloitte would be meaningless. Once they have been overcome, I am overwhelmed with satisfaction! ERS organises annual Residential, which provides us with sufficient trainings that allows us to learn and develop. We are exposed to things that we are not familiar with so as to broaden our horizons. Coming from a corporate governance background, I particularly believe in giving back to the society. Since I joined Deloitte in August 2013, I have been attending every IMPACT Day (an annual volunteering day by Deloitte professionals) so that I can contribute back to the society. In 2013, I had the honour of bringing some students from NorthLight School to Universal Studio to have fun. Again, in 2014, I accompanied some NorthLight School students to the newly opened Sports Hub to teach them Table Tennis!

Q. What are your career aspirations and how does Deloitte support you in achieving it?
I am motivated and inspired to enhance my professional skills so as to achieve advancement in the corporate ladder. Deloitte supports me by giving me opportunities to prove myself by granting me autonomy in organising events as well as offering sponsorships to complete extra certifications that are value-adding to my job.

Q. What are some of your most memorable Deloitte experiences?
I enjoy events that Deloitte organises and being part of the Table Tennis team. I also had the privilege of being the Captain of the Table Tennis team. Leading the team since 2014, I am always excited to go for inter-firm tournaments such as the annual Corporate Community Games (CCG) and Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) Games. Winning Gold in ISCA Games 2014 and 2015 was one of the more memorable events. Additionally, being a co-captain for Team Blue (comprising Enterprise Risk Services and the firm’s Internal Services groups including HR and Clients & Markets) at Inter-Departmental Games 2014, when we finally emerged the champion after a gruelling and intense IDG season. It was another memorable event I will never forget. I also particularly enjoy attending Deloitte’s annual Dinner & Dance as it allows everyone to let their hair down and have fun!

Deloitte and you

Q. What is your background?
I have a background in business and corporate governance back in university. Primarily, I am not a numbers person so my major was in marketing, management in undergraduate studies, and law and responsible business in postgraduate studies. After I joined Deloitte, I further in my studies by taking up an International Compliance Academy Certification. Now, I am Compliance qualified!

Q. How did you get hired to work in Deloitte?
I think I am different from the rest because other than being competent in my studies, I have a number of CCAs such as table tennis, as well as a bubbly character.

Q. What is your current role?
I am currently doing Internal Audit for mostly Financial Services Industry (FSI) clients.

Q. How do you think Deloitte is different from the other Big Four?
Deloitte is different from the other Big 4 because it balances work with interesting activities, like sports and Corporate Responsibility events such as the Singapore Youth Olympic Games in 2010, the SEA Games 2015, as well as the upcoming ASEAN Para Games.

Your advice to undergraduates

Q. What advice would you offer to undergraduates in terms of career choices?
With regards to career choices, be bold and risk it! You are young and have a long future ahead of you! Learn to be open-minded, then gradually focus on your expertise and interest. That’s how I ended up doing Internal Audit, focusing on compliance function.

Q. What advice would you offer to undergraduates who want to pursue a career in ERS?
I would encourage undergraduates to be proactive and enthusiastic! Don’t be afraid of meeting different people or winning across challenges.
**TOP TIPS FOR DEFINING YOUR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE!**

1. **Maintain a positive attitude**
   Carry optimism and show a genuine interest and eagerness to learn. Be motivated to excel and take the initiative to seek feedback when faced with challenges. Maintain a positive attitude, ask around for advice and take steps to overcome them.

2. **Do your homework and ask when in doubt**
   Be proactive in self-learning and acquiring useful information. Doing research like the company’s culture, history, industry, buzzwords, and what your colleagues do, will make you more knowledgeable and confident as a start. Be inquisitive. If you come across things that you are uncertain of, do not be shy, afraid or hesitant to ask your superiors and colleagues.

3. **Go the extra mile**
   Be a team player and show your commitment to help the team out whenever the need arises. Show a willingness to input the extra hours needed to get the tasks completed on time. This will help you stand out during your internship and prove to your employer that you are committed to doing a really good job and are an asset to the team!

4. **Build relationships**
   Do not neglect the importance of networking, making connections and establishing relationships with your co-workers and bosses. You never know who could help guide you along the way, whether for the future or who could even recommend you for a job. Attend networking events and talk to people as this can expand your knowledge, gain insights and even open up potential job ideas that you might not have thought about for your career! Make a good lasting impression so people will remember you.

5. **Join social events**
   Outside of work, join firm-wide social activities and team bonding sessions as much as possible. This will help you get to know people and your colleagues better beyond the desk and, of course, to make new friends. You will see in the future that forging invaluable friendships in social events is one of the fact, forges lasting friendships and strong bonds through social events is one of the most important aspects of any internal or external event. Meeting people from your work environment also greatly enhances your network and can help you in making connections which you might or might not have thought about for your career! Make a good lasting impression so people will remember you.

6. **Be professional**
   Whether it’s about punctuality or how you communicate and dress, professionalism is a huge thing. Don’t take extended lunch breaks or spend too much time on social media. Make sure you focus on work and make the most of the time you are there to develop your skills.

7. **Make an impact**
   Treat your internship seriously and find ways that you can contribute and make a positive impact in the organisation at any level, be it small or big. Remember that it’s your time to shine and it’s up to you to make the most of the opportunities available and define your internship experience!

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**My Deloitte internship**

“My Deloitte internship

I was intrigued by the family culture at Deloitte after speaking to some of my seniors who had gone through the Deloitte summer internship programme. As Deloitte is the largest professional services network in the world, I felt that an internship at Deloitte was a great platform for me to gain deeper insights into the accounting and audit industry. Deloitte is also known for its focus on diversity as well as career development programmes which I believe provide numerous learning opportunities for the interns.

I was interning at the Financial Services Industry (FSI) audit department, during which I was assigned to a couple of major engagements and had the opportunity to put my accounting knowledge into practice and perform actual audit procedures for the clients. My job scope included the handling of real accounts and tasks which are normally assigned to full-time audit associates. I feel that it was an enriching experience to be part of Deloitte’s summer internship programme as I got to learn a lot of technical knowledge and gain valuable hands-on audit experience through my engagements. I also had the chance to participate in numerous firm events to bond and forge friendships with my colleagues and fellow interns.”

**What I like about my internship experience**

“Being in the FSI department, I handled specialised accounts which demanded skill sets which had not been taught in the general audit curriculum in school. Hence, this was challenging at times when I was faced with a new account which I had not seen before. However, the seniors and mentors were always ready and willing to give their advice and guidance to help me overcome these challenges.”

**Challenges that I met during my internship**

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**What I learnt from my internship**

“I gained deeper insights into the audit industry and it has helped me significantly with my career planning. I developed a better understanding of the career path of an auditor through the internship, helping me to make an informed career decision. My biggest takeaway would be the new long-term relationships and connections which I had forged with my colleagues and fellow interns at Deloitte.”

**My advice for internship**

#1: Always take initiative in everything that you do.
#2: Make a log of everything which you have learnt at the end of each day of internship.
#3: Talk to new people and make connections, be it managers, seniors or fellow interns.

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My Deloitte internship

“I chose Deloitte for my internship as Deloitte is one of the Big 4 firms and I have heard many good reviews from my friends who have previously interned at Deloitte. I was interning in the Corporate Financial Advisory department and was fortunate to be exposed to both the Mergers & Acquisitions (M&As) and the Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) side of transactions. I learned to advise companies on M&A transactions as well as give independent opinions as an IFA when the need arose such as in an Interested Party Transaction (IPT), which entails transactions between the company and any member of Board of Directors, key executives or major stakeholders. At Deloitte, real responsibilities are handed to interns from Day 1 and this is something that I am thankful for as I got to add real value to my team and to experience as much as possible. To sum up my Deloitte internship experience in 3 words, I would describe it as “Learn, Fun, Contribute.” You will definitely learn a lot, but also have fun at Deloitte!”

What I like about my internship experience

“I think that the best part of my internship is the culture in Deloitte - people work hard, but don’t forget to enjoy themselves during the process, and they play hard as well. Some of my more memorable moments happened outside of the office. There were firm-wide events such as the Inter-Departmental Games (IDGs) where the interns were encouraged to join as well. I remembered trying my best to finish my work on time, along with our colleagues, getting down to Amoy Hawker Centre for a quick dinner, before rushing down by taxi to Turf City for our IDG Futsal team training sessions. I also joined a few IDG basketball training sessions. Within the Corporate Finance team, there were also many activities organized such as “chill-out” sessions at bars and KTV sessions, where we got the chance to know our colleagues better in an informal setting. Furthermore, the inclusive nature of the firm, where there is little hierarchy, not just towards the interns, but as a whole firm in general, is something that I look out for when deciding on a firm to build my career.”

Challenges that I met during my internship

“The more challenging parts would be the steep learning curve and the long hours in the Corporate Finance department due to the time sensitive client needs. However, I was fortunate to have helpful and friendly colleagues and mentors who would take the time and effort to guide me. There were also training sessions conducted by our colleagues for us interns to learn about the technicalities involved in the industry.”

What I learned from my internship

“I have learnt both the tangibles, such as the technical aspects involved, like the process that goes into a transaction, as well as the intangibles such as the strong work ethic and the high standards required of our work. The biggest takeaway for me would be the friendships and relationships forged through the internship. It is definitely important and beneficial to have confidants and peers that are in the same industry to give you advice and to offer you encouragement in one’s career, especially so in the competitive field of corporate finance.”

My advice for internship

#1: Be pro-active - Look for work so that you will have the chance to learn as well as to contribute.
#2: Interact - Make friends and contacts at work; you never know when an opportunity might present itself from it.
#3: Be yourself - Internships are a chance for employers to know you but also for you to understand your prospective employer and to decide if the both are a good fit for each other, be yourself so that you will be able to make an informed decision at the end of the day.

My Deloitte internship

“It was a dream come true when I got the opportunity to intern at Deloitte as I have always longed to work for an organisation that truly cares for the society and actively promotes equal opportunities to all. I was very impressed by Deloitte’s commitment to diversity around the globe and its active integration of Diversity & Inclusion policies into its workplace environment. I learnt about it when I took part in SMU-Barclays Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Business Challenge and used Deloitte as our case in point. Since then, I have ranked Deloitte as one of my dream employers as it was an eye-opening experience to intern at Deloitte and be a part of an inclusive workplace culture.

My Deloitte internship experience was truly amazing. I had the rare opportunity to try out two internship positions: one of which involves actively learning from the Internal Audit (IA) department; and the other from the Strategic Risk (Life Science and Innovation Service) department. Under the IA department, I was tasked to draft out specific components of IA reports. This was done after much in-depth analysis with the paperwork that my manager and I procured from the client’s office. Under the Strategic Risk department, my team and I were assigned the responsibility of conducting analysis on primary and secondary data. Also, I was in charge of procuring relevant consolidated information in a clear and concise manner to our upper management. In this department, I also got to sit in many important meetings and had first-hand experience on how meetings are conducted amongst top level management.

On top of the precious learning opportunities that Deloitte had provided me with, another takeaway was my group of intern friends. We worked hard together and enjoyed each other’s company, especially during company events! Indeed, Deloitte employees work hard and play hard.”

What I like about my internship experience

“There were a plethora of factors that contributed to my enjoyable internship experience with Deloitte. Under the leadership and guidance of my amazing mentors, I got exposed to many opportunities and learnt from the best. On a more personal level, my mentors really cared for me. They ensured that I got some time to rest after tough periods at work. My mentors played an important role during my internship stint at Deloitte. Also, I enjoyed working in an environment that provides you with almost everything. Deloitte’s office has a cafe, a rest & relaxation corner and even football table at the staff lounge for you to unwind during break time.

One of the most memorable parts of my internship was the Residential, which is a series of Enterprise Risk Services training programmes. My colleagues and I spent close to 5 weeks preparing for a dance item, in which we really bonded over the training sessions, preparation for the event and late night suppers together.”

Challenges that I met during my internship

“It was tough juggling between the two roles I was appointed with. I had to multi-task and often, working past the stipulated time to go home. However, I was really glad to be given this opportunity as it gave me the chance to develop myself through the various challenges presented to me.”

What I learned from my internship

“I realised that one should never be afraid to ask. It is only when you ask, then you will learn more and improve yourself there and then. The double exposure from working in both the Internal Audit and Strategic Risk department at Deloitte has given me one of the biggest takeaways and has taught me various important lessons. For Internal Audit, I got to understand how important it is to conduct internal audit to minimise the risk that a company faces. Also, I had the opportunity to practice the art of being detailed and meticulous with the clients’ documents. For Strategic Risk, I learned how to conduct a holistic analysis for the client (conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis). With all these takeaways from Deloitte, I am more prepared for working life in the near future.”

My advice for internship

#1: Always give your best shot. Don’t hold yourself back because to give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.
#2: Build relationships with your colleagues. They will make working in a competitive environment so enjoyable.
#3: When in doubt, never be afraid to ask! I found that my managers are more than happy to answer my queries.”
My Deloitte internship

“Deloitte has a reputation for placing huge emphasis on the growth and development of their interns and also a supportive work environment. It wasn’t a tough decision choosing Deloitte for my professional internship. I was in the Research & Development and Government Incentives (RDGI) team under the Business Tax Department. We assist companies performing R&D in Singapore to review documentation that substantiates R&D activities by matching the facts to the eligibility requirements of Singapore’s R&D tax incentives program. We then prepare R&D reports articulating the nature and progress of R&D activities undertaken, including how and why these meet the R&D tax eligibility requirements.

My Deloitte internship was a tremendous experience! It would not be made possible without my RDGI team which is cohesive and nurturing and I was comfortable seeking advice from my managers and my partner whenever in doubt. Besides work, I had plenty of fun with the Deloitte Dragon boat team and I got to meet many colleagues from various functions. As Deloitte was the Official Professional Services Partner for the SEA Games 2015, I participated in several events such as the Countdown to SEA Games and the Go 50 Run with the ultra-marathoners. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am thankful to have been part of it.”

What I like about my internship experience

“It’s the people; my managers are friendly and approachable and I benefitted from the mentor system in Deloitte. My mentor went the extra mile to guide me for work and non-work related matters. My RDGI team had outings on several occasions and it was really enjoyable! There were several events that stood out in my 8-months internship - rowing with the Deloitte Dragon boat team definitely topped the list. We achieved a respectable position at the annual Marina Regatta race despite being a relatively young team. I feel that Deloitte places huge emphasis on their interns and one of the ways Deloitte shows their appreciation for their interns is through awarding the Intern of the Week. I had a strong sense of satisfaction and it gave me an impetus to work and play harder during my internship.”

Challenges that I met during my internship

“As I am an Engineering student, the initial learning curve was steep and I had to learn the ropes fast. I had to learn and understand the basic Singapore tax legislations and the Research & Development Tax Incentives, which is part of the Productivity & Innovation Credit Scheme. These concepts are totally foreign to an engineering undergraduate. Nonetheless, the strong mentor system made the process truly enjoyable and enriching.”

What I learned from my internship

“I gained invaluable insight of the inner workings of a professional services firm and my internship gave me a taste of what I want to do in the future in my career. The biggest takeaway is definitely the friendships I have forged during my internship. They had been the bedrock of my internship and it was a huge reward. Also, I am thankful for the opportunities to participate in several Deloitte events and these experiences made my internship worthwhile. Internships are important as they enable you to take your career plan for a test drive. My experience in Deloitte is probably the most enriching and rewarding experience and I will highly recommend undergraduate students to be part of the summer internship programme in Deloitte!”

My advice for internship

#1: Stay humble with a positive attitude
#2: Be receptive to feedback from your mentor
#3: Be a sponge
Tan Cheng Cai Joshua
267 Pasir Ris Street 21 Singapore 246810
+65 123 4567
TanCC_joshua@dmail.com

EDUCATION
Singapore Management University | 2012 to present
• Bachelor of Accountancy
• A-REIT Study Award in 2013 and 2014
• Expected Date of Graduation: May 2016

Student Exchange Programme (SEP), University of Sydney, Australia | Aug to Dec 2014
• Compelled to work on and complete 2 major engagements with the engagement teams for publicly-listed group of companies
• Facilitated in the planning and execution of a team building event for an Audit Group
• Awarded ‘Team of the Week’ during third week of summer internship.

Temasek Polytechnic | 2009 to 2012
• Diploma in Business
• Dean’s List from 2010 to 2012
• Graduated with GPA of 3.97/4
• Volunteerism

EXPERIENCE
Deloitte Singapore | May 2014 – July 2014
Audit Intern
• Acquired knowledge of and applied IFRS and US GAAP and Audit Methodology
• Worked on and completed 2 major engagements with the engagement teams for publicly-listed group of companies
• Facilitated in the planning and execution of a team building event for an Audit Group
• Awarded ‘Team of the Week’ during third week of summer internship.

Citibank, Singapore | January 2012 – April 2012
Marketing Intern
• Assisted in marketing financial plans to clients with a success rate of 90%
• Developed four different charts for managers to use during customer-facing meetings
• Upgraded data entry system to ensure efficiency and a better presentation of data for every customer’s portfolio
• Was part of the team awarded for best achievements in Q1

SMU Overseas Community Involvement Program (CIP) | June 2013
• Organised a trip to Chiang Rai, Thailand for community work
• Convinced and recruited 100 students to participate in the community work
• Constructed a community classroom and taught basic English and Mandarin to 250 underprivileged students in Chiang Rai
• Raised $3,000 through a fundraising campaign prior to the trip

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
• Proficient in Microsoft office
• Proficient in English and Mandarin
• Basic proficiency in written and spoken Japanese
• Enjoys an array of team sports
• Participates in Run for Hope Singapore annually
• Volunteers at elderly home care centers weekly

TOP RESUMÉ TIPS
That will make you shine!

• Display your full name, contact details and address prominently at the top.
• Make your name eye-catching by enlarging and bolding.
• Ensure that your contact details are up-to-date.
• Emails should not sound funky but professional.
• Keep the formatting simple and clean so it’s neat and easy to read. Font style and size should be kept consistent in the body. Bigger font size can be used for headings.
• Keep your resumé concise and limit yourself to 2 pages.
• Omit age, religious or political affiliations, marital status, or other non-required personal data.

• Always tailor your resume when applying for different job positions. It should reflect the skills and competencies of the specific role you are applying for entails.
• List down your most recent qualification in reverse chronological order, including University, Junior College/Polytechnic. Name any scholarships achieved.
• Reflect your expected Year of Graduation so that employers can have an idea on when you can start work.
• Highlight relevant information and achievements during your course of study (be honest and authentic about it!). Any participation in research programmes can be added if it is relevant to the job that you are applying for.
• Flaunt your overseas study experience if you have got it! Employers like graduates who have been exposed to international experience and possess global skill sets.

• Internships are one of the top things to list down to show your work experience.
• Showcase any competencies you have developed while highlighting your achievements and contributions.
• Read the job description carefully, prioritise and focus on writing down the more important and relevant skills acquired information/description.
• Leave out the work experience that is unrelated to the prospective job.
• Use action verbs and quantify your achievements wherever possible. Prove your competencies through results.
• Remember to state all the transferable soft skills that employers are looking out for.
• Each point should not exceed more than 3 lines.

• Share with us what makes you an all-rounder besides your academic achievements.
• Include activities that show leadership skills and other qualities you think employers would find valuable e.g. team player, project management skills.
• Display your differentiating factor through your CCAs, but do not overload your resume with CCAs. It is not meant to be exhaustive.

• What else makes you different? Be it your sports, hobbies, interests, community projects and skill! This will help you stand out and grab the attention of employers who will be looking through hundreds of resumes.
• Proofread your resume to ensure that you do not have any spelling, grammatical errors or typing errors.
• When submitting your resume, convert it to pdf format so that the formatting doesn’t run, but pay attention to the specific file formats if given.
• Finally, ask yourself: Is your resume easy to read and does it look attractive? Ask for a reliable second opinion.

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Joshua Yan, now an FSI Audit partner in Deloitte Singapore, enjoyed a rapid rise through the ranks of the firm. We asked him to share with us the key moments of his Life Journey that got him where he is today...

“My Journey to Success

1979
• Born, Kandang Kerbau Hospital

1992
• Chinese High School
  • O Levels: 8 As, 1 B

Student’s Council (Social Department Chair)

1996
• Hwa Chong Junior College
  • A Levels: 5 As

Near death experience in early 1996 (JC year 1), when I had both lungs collapse simultaneously. Doctor termed my “just in time” arrival at A&E and survival as “near miracle”.

2000
• NTU Accountancy course
  • Dean’s List
  • Accountancy & Business Club

Various roles include being the logistics officer for the freshmen orientation camp, pageant coordinator in the Nanyang Business School Ball management committee and social subcommittee member. The roles gave me memorable leadership experiences and also were great avenues to build bonds with fellow business school mates and widen my network of friends.

• Welfare Services Club

Various roles include regular volunteering in teaching the hearing impaired, being part of the social subcommittee and being the chief planner for an annual outreach camp. Involvement in WSC allowed me to reach out to the less privileged through various means and work together with fellow undergraduates to achieve the common objectives.

2003
• Graduated with BA (HONS) Accountancy
• Joined Deloitte in September 2003

2004
• First work travel after a year in the firm, mainly in Southeast Asia. Thereafter covered the region extensively, including UK, Switzerland, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Guam, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Brunei, Malaysia and Myanmar.

2005
• Married at the age of 26

2006
• Secondment to Monetary Authority of Singapore

2007
• My son, Josiah is born
• Promoted to Assistant Manager in 3.5 years

2008
• Global Development Programme – New York City (September 2008 to April 2010)
  • Experienced different cultures and the heartbeat of NYC. Right during the heart of the financial crisis period, the work environment was also made much more challenging and enriching. It also presented me with unprecedented personal travel opportunities in North America covering major sights of Niagara Falls, Las Vegas, Washington DC, Orlando, Miami, Bahamas, Alaska, California, Seattle, Vancouver, Canadian Rockies etc. A total of 22 states of USA covered in my 18 months.
  • Promoted to Manager in 4.5 years

2010
• Admitted to partnership after 10 years with the firm

2011
• Second son, Isaiah is born
• Rec Club
• Made Senior Manager in 7 years

2012
• IMPACT Day on an annual basis

2013
• Admitted to partnership after 10 years with the firm

2015
• SEA Games volunteer
• My new baby girl, Kaelynn, just born in November

Joshua Yan, now an FSI Audit partner in Deloitte Singapore, enjoyed a rapid rise through the ranks of the firm. We asked him to share with us the key moments of his Life Journey that got him where he is today...

“Personally, having benefited from my own Deloitte experience, I’m a key believer of talent management to ensure our professional staff get the best out of their career with Deloitte.

Deloitte provides a professional path for aspiring undergraduates, and is definitely a good first company to join as they provide a key building block for your future long term career; it provides the right level of training both technically and professionally for longer term career success. I strongly believe that to make an impact in our career and workspace, it entails more than delivering professional work. We focus on being a good coach, being deeply involved in firm initiatives, being impactful and inspiring in our teams and contribute to the society.”

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A dedicated team of Deloitte audit staff made a trip to Chiang Rai in two batches from 16 August to 11 September 2015 to carry out their volunteer project called ‘Gracious Hearts II’, which involved teaching students conversational English and Mandarin. The trip is part of Deloitte’s Audit Volunteer Initiative which allows auditors to make an impact during the audit off-peak season from July to October by opting to take half-paid sabbatical leave to do volunteer work either locally or overseas, with financial support from the firm. This allows Deloitte auditors the opportunity to spend their time meaningfully on worthy causes during the audit off-peak season and to make a difference in the communities around us!

Project ‘Gracious Hearts II’ is a continuation from last year’s pioneer project, dubbed ‘Gracious Hearts’, which saw nine audit volunteers taking sabbatical leave to teach children in rural areas of Chiang Rai where there is a shortage of English teachers due to lack of funds. The pioneer team felt that the project was fulfilling and meaningful as they taught the students basic English and Mandarin which would be beneficial to them in the future. Subsequently, Project ‘Gracious Hearts II’ expanded the team to 21 volunteers, working with five schools in Chiang Rai to teach students between ages of 7 and 12. In addition to the half-paid sabbatical leave and financial support given by the firm to help groups carry out their volunteer projects, Deloitte people also showed their utmost support to the volunteers by donating during the fund-raising activities before the volunteers embarked on their journey. Project Gracious Hearts II volunteers held a donation campaign the week before their trip with the goal of raising funds to purchase stationery and breakfast sets for the students in Chiang Rai.

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Your chance to win*!

In this issue, we shared the story of a group of Deloitte audit staff who went on sabbatical leave, supported by the firm, to do their ‘Gracious Hearts II’ volunteer project. But in which country is Chang Rai, where they did their charity project?

Simply send in your answer to the question above to sgcampusrecruit@deloitte.com by 8 January 2016 and all entrants with the correct answer will be entered in a lucky draw for the chance to win a pair of admission tickets to Universal Studios Singapore. Winners will be notified by email by 15 January 2016.

*Entrants who are Deloitte staff as at 31 December 2015 are not eligible to win the prizes.

Congratulations to Ang Wei Wei from NTU who won a pair of Golden Village vouchers by answering Issue 1’s pop quiz correctly!
Upon their arrival at Santhanoon School, Gracious Hearts II volunteers presented the school with the stationery sets collected from their donation campaign. The volunteers were greeted with a warm welcome from the students with wide smiles all around their faces. During the time spent at the school, the volunteers taught the students basic English such as the alphabet and the days of the week, coming up with lesson plans which incorporated games, along with charts and posters to aid the children’s learning.

After Santhanoon School, the volunteers headed to the other four schools namely San Thaad School, San Khong School, San Luang School and Thung Kliang School. They also involved singing and dancing in their Mandarin lessons to help students pick up the language effectively since it was the first time Mandarin was introduced in the schools. For example, the volunteers taught them the song “Two tigers” in Chinese to teach them about animals and numbers, which the students enjoyed very much.

I feel really privileged to be back with Project Gracious Hearts II as our team took on new roles, expanding our reach to more beneficiaries and being the first group of Mandarin teachers for the students. The experience has not only touched the hearts of the students but ours as well and we are deeply moved by the sincerity of the people we have met on the trip. I hope that more people will be interested and get involved in this meaningful project!”

Grace Low, Audit Senior and organising committee member

With the funds raised from their donation campaign, the team was able to purchase not only stationery and breakfast sets, but also dictionaries and sports equipment for the five schools they visited. They also had the chance to visit an orphanage, where some of the students come from, and bought them a month’s worth of food supplies.

Besides Project ‘Gracious Hearts’, Deloitte also supported another group in 2014 whereby they carried out ‘Project Lamok’ that involved teaching conversational English skills to young adults and high school students in Luang Prabang, Laos. They also imparted basic computer and English literacy skills to young children.

“Travelling to make a difference in the lives of others has impacted me in a way like no other.”

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At Deloitte, we challenge our people to do what matters most for our society and communities. We believe that each of us has a responsibility to contribute back to our communities so we offer various opportunities where Deloitte staff can make an impact that matters.

**IMPACT Day**

IMPACT Day is an annual event where Deloitte staff around the world volunteer in their communities. It is one of our key corporate responsibility events every year and an embodiment of the firm’s longstanding commitment to contributing back to the communities that we work and live in.

Deloitte’s fourth SEA-wide IMPACT Day, held on the 28 August 2015, saw over 560 Deloitte Singapore staff and partners volunteering and engaging in various community activities across Singapore, to make an impact that matters to our communities.

**Ground-Up Initiative:**

Creating a sustainable future with organic farming

An eager group of 35 volunteers got up bright and early to harvest organic vegetables at a farm located at the former Bottle Tree Park in Khatib, a 26,000 square metres community learning campus that is managed by Ground-Up Initiative (GUI). These vegetables were delivered to the Willing Hearts soup kitchen to prepare the meals for the needy.

**Serving up Daily Bread with Willing Hearts**

A group of 44 volunteers helped in the preparation and delivery of food packs, better known as ‘Daily Bread’ at Willing Hearts soup kitchen at the Kembangan-Chai Chee Community Hub. The freshly prepared hot food that they prepared were delivered to the needy and elderly in Bedok and North Bridge Road. In addition to the organic vegetables harvested at GUI, Deloitte also donated another 210kg of frozen breaded fish to the soup kitchen to supplement their menu items.

**Having fun with our Pioneer Generation at Tung Ling Community Services**

At Tung Ling Community Services, 35 of our volunteers arrived sorted and packed over 250kg of groceries, which were distributed to the elderly living in the nearby flats at Dakota Crescent. They also set up games stations to engage the elderly in some fun and keep them active, including bowling, darts, basketball, fishing and picking marbles with chopsticks. After the games, the elderly were treated to a buffet spread before our volunteers accompanied the elderly home with their bag of groceries, which contains items such as rice, cooking oil and canned food.

**Volunteering at GUI was a good experience and we should definitely do it again! For most of us living in a high-rise environment, it was a good opportunity to be on a farm and to spread awareness of a sustainable way of life.”**

Noeline Keiser, Clients & Markets Manager

“**It was my first time helping out and I must say I was really impressed by the spirit of all the volunteers there! Everyone at Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen was jovial and fulfilled their responsibilities well, be it cutting or washing the vegetables, or cooking and delivering the food packets. Our effort in preparing food for the elderly to enjoy was definitely worthwhile.”**

Koh Kai Ling, Audit Manager

**“My volunteering experience at Tung Ling was very fulfilling, especially seeing the wide smiles on the faces of the elderly!”**

Angeline Huang, Audit Associate

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Volunteer Club activities: Making an IMPACT all year-round

The Deloitte Volunteers Club coordinates year-round Corporate Responsibility activities and encourage Deloitte staff to participate. There is a wide variety of activities to cater for the different volunteering ambitions of our people. Not to forget, Deloitte was the Official professional Service Partner for the 28th SEA Games with over 160 Deloitte Volunteers who helped out during the Opening and Closing Ceremony of the Games as VIP ushers, meeting and greeting Heads of States and politicians. In the upcoming Para Games 2015 in December, we will also have volunteers committing their time to be part of the exciting Games!

**Partnership with NorthLight School**

In 2011, we partnered with NorthLight School (NLS) who became one of our main beneficiaries of our Corporate Responsibility efforts. Students at NLS form the bottom 5% of Singapore’s education system, and despite being academically weak, each child possesses a unique talent that NLS seeks to nurture. Engagements with NLS have since spanned many areas in educational journeys and sports where we give our people opportunities be the student’s pillar of strength to motivate and inspire them to succeed in their own way. For example, the annual NorthLight School’s Great Outdoor Experience offers the platform for Deloitte staff to volunteer and join the students in outdoor activities such as running, inline skating, kayaking to help students build their confidence levels.

**Great Outdoor Experience offers the platform for Deloitte staff to volunteer and join the students in outdoor activities such as running, inline skating, kayaking.**
The Green dot is the most recognizable brand asset after the Deloitte logo and represents Deloitte’s 360-degree approach to client service, our multi-functional offering, and our truly global nature. With its depth and breadth of multi-disciplinary services, Deloitte is able to meet all the needs of our clients.

The Dot symbolises that all clients need is ‘Deloitte, period.’ or ‘Deloitte, full stop.’ The green colour shows an innovative and contemporary approach, contrasting with the blue part of the logo which is a more traditional accounting colour. The Green dot always portrays an insightful, dynamic and unique viewpoint of Deloitte.

Did you know…?

Now you* have the opportunity to bring our Green Dot to life!

Capture examples of green dots around you and stand to win attractive prizes! Entering the photograph contest is easy and multiple entries are allowed. All you have to do is follow these three simple steps:

Step 1 – Observe your surroundings and spot the Green Dot.
Step 2 – Snap your best Green Dot photo using your phone camera or DSLR.
Step 3 – Send an email to sgcampusrecruit@deloitte.com latest by 8 January 2016 with the following details:

i) Your name
ii) Your university
iii) Attach your photo submission
iv) Location where your photo was captured (optional)

The more creative and distinct your photograph is, the better your chances will be. The person who submits the best photograph will win a pair of admission tickets to Universal Studios Singapore! The winner will be notified by email by 15 January 2016.

Good luck spotting the Green Dot and start snapping away!

*Entrants who are Deloitte staff as at 31 December 2015 are not eligible to win the prizes.
#1: Vanilla Bar and Café

Recommended by Sarah Chen, Deloitte Enterprise Risk Services Associate

“After a long day at work, the thing I look forward to (besides sleep!) is to chill out over dinner and Vanilla Bar and Café is definitely my top choice. I chanced upon this amazing place while café-hopping with my friends some time back and have been going back there ever since on a bi-weekly basis. At the door step before you enter, you will see a trophy placed on the display glass shelf which says “Star Chef Competition 2013 Winner.” My favourite main course from Vanilla Bar and Café has got to be the Creamy Parmesan Prawn Linguine ($15.90). The awesome combination of fresh prawns, silky cream sauce and springy spaghetti will definitely leave you wanting for more. If you crave for an extra flavour to go with the pasta, Half Wings is the best choice. The tasty home-marinated fried chicken wings are not too salty and add a crispy twist to your main dish for only $13.90! For desserts, you can never go wrong with the Molten Chocolate Cake with French Vanilla Ice-cream ($11.50). The ice-cream is light, aromatic and fully complements the oozing rich chocolate from the cake, leaving you in absolute bliss. Other than delicious food, what makes Vanilla Bar and Café different from the others is its quiet ambience in the evening. Its soft lighting and wonderful instrumental music is ideal for a romantic date or a get-together session with friends! Vanilla Bar and Café is located near the Deloitte office, at Boon Tat Street.”

Address: 3 Boon Tat Street #01-01, Singapore 049612
Opening hours: Monday – Thursday 10:30am – 11:00pm; Friday: 11:00am – 12 midnight; Saturday 11:00am – 9:00pm; Closed on Sunday and Public holidays

#2: 6oz Espresso Bar Coffee

Recommended by Inez Lau, Deloitte Audit Senior:

“A coffee a day, keeps all tiredness away.” Coffee is exceptionally important in my everyday routine. Carefully tucked in the lobby in Tokio Marine Center is a hidden gem, 6 oz Espresso Bar. 6 oz is well known for their milky coffee using European coffee blends. The best thing? It’s only a 5 minute walk from office so you can get your coffee fix at any time of the day. I highly recommend the Latte or Flat White ($4.60)! The limited seating can be a problem during lunch but takeaway coffee has never been a problem for me. There is also an array of sandwiches for foodies out there to try!”

Address: Tokio Marine Centre, 20 McCallum Street, #01-K1, Singapore 069046
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 7.00am – 5.30pm; Closed on Saturday & Sunday

#3: The Plain

Recommended by Lian Junxin, Deloitte Audit Senior

“The Plain is a café which exudes a chilled vibe and is a great place to catch a breather from the busy CBD area. It is a Melbourne-inspired cafe which, as its name suggests, is simple and no frills. They have a small selection of sandwiches (priced $10.00 - $12.00) which are simple but really yummy! But the real hero has definitely got to be their coffee. I always get a flat white to go at $4.00 a cup, and the smooth cuppa never disappoints! For great coffee and some comfort food, I highly recommend The Plain! It’s located just a 10 minute walk from the Deloitte office.”

Address: 50 Craig Road, #01-01, Singapore 089688
Opening hours: Mondays to Fridays 7:30 am – 5:30 pm; Saturday & Sunday 7.30am – 7.30 pm
#1: Fitness First
Recommended by Brynner Loke, Deloitte Tax Senior and Deloitte Dragon boat captain

“With a few outlets located around the CBD area, its convenience is appealing to people working in the area like me. I have been visiting the recently-opened branch at 100AM Shopping Centre near the office about 3 to 4 times a week. There are attractive corporate rates available for Deloitte employees (I pay $150 per month for my package). One is spoilt for choice on what workout to do as the gym boasts so many types of equipment and classes for working executives from all walks of life to join. Spin, Yoga, Zumba, Body pump, Body balance, group exercises and more. You even get access to the Amara Hotel pool if you would like a tan or swim. There is also a steam room in the changing area and a members’ corner which provides complementary drinks like coffee, tea, other dispenser drinks, as well as computers and newspapers for members to rest and relax before, in between or after a workout. They also have a smaller gym in Capital Tower, a 5 minute walk from the office.”

Recommended by Tian Chuan Yew, Deloitte Tax Senior Manager

“To maintain my fitness level, I visit the gym at Fitness First at least twice a week. Although Fitness First is a bit pricey, it is really worth it. The clubs are spacious and brightly lit, and their equipment and facilities are generally better than the others that I have been to too. Plus the great music they play and strategically-placed digital clocks (so you can track your rest time) instead of analog ones – yes, it’s the details that count. Most of their clubs also provide work-out attire and towels, so if on a whim, you feel like breaking out into a sweat or go for a yoga class, you can do so! Oh, and the One Raffles Quay outlet offers a view of the Marina Bay Sands area and the Marina Bay Financial Centre outlet has the best sea-view.”

#2: True Fitness
Recommended by Teo Zhihao, Deloitte Audit Associate

“I go to True Fitness 2 to 3 times a week and in times when I want to be extra hard-working by working late and still maintain my fitness, I will take a short break from work and head to the gym for a 1 to 1.5 hours of workout. I visit the nearby branch at Chevron house which is a 15-minute walk away from the Deloitte Office and also another one at Suntec City Mall. I chose True Fitness as it is cheaper than other gyms like Fitness First. Their equipment is well-maintained for use and they have a variety of classes for different levels. There are 4 main category of classes: Aerobics, Spinning (Cycling), Yoga and Dance. Within each category, there are lots of different classes targeted at different levels and body parts. There is an introduction of new classes every now and then and then the classes are in groups. Group exercise is one of the most effective ways to keep in shape. Members can help to push one another and most importantly, you can go with your friends who will keep you motivated! For those who like to swim, the facilities at Suntec City Mall include the use of the swimming pool at Suntec City Mall which is located 1 level above the gym. The $70 package that I pay per month, for a period of 3 years, include the use of all True Fitness gyms in Singapore, the classes and access to swimming pools.”

#3: Vivafit (Women Only Gym)
Recommended by Goh Jo-Lin, Deloitte Audit Senior

“I exercise at Vivafit at Tanjong Pagar (near Tanjong Pagar Market). The activities at Vivafit fit into my busy schedule and they also provide very personalized services. On the first visit, they will provide a fitness test where they measure your height, weight, BMI, body fat percentage, etc. They helped me set a realistic fitness goal and monitor them closely. After every workout, they will revisit the fitness goal, updating me of my progress thus far. If I skip training or lessons, they will actually call to check in on me. This reminds me to work out and keep fit even during the busy peak period. They have a 30-minute power circuit training that I can squeeze in before going to work or during lunch break. The 30-minute work-out combines hydraulic machines and recovery platform and the staff will guide you on how to use them. Sometimes, I will opt for fun classes like Pilates or Zumba. After a quick and efficient workout, I am all recharged, refreshed and ready to get to my daily routine. Did I mention that it is also a woman-only gym? No more sweaty muscle men that intimidate me at the weights or bench press area! I feel very much comfortable and at ease at Vivafit. The price worked out to be around $95 a month with a commitment period of 12 months/24 months. Fret not, there are always promotions on Groupon such as $38 for a month of unlimited circuit training and classes at Vivafit. You can start off by signing up for a 3-classes trial at only $49 today!”

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