



## **Media Release**

### **SMU Audit and Assurance Work-Study Experience in collaboration with Deloitte**

***Aims to lay the foundation for long-term resiliency in accounting profession***

*Singapore, 21 June 2021 (Monday)* – The Singapore Management University's (SMU) School of Accountancy (SoA) has launched a new [Audit and Assurance Work-Study Elective](#) course. Students enrolled in this programme will have the opportunity to undergo a 20-week extended internship at Deloitte in Singapore.

Audit and assurance is one of the major career pathways for accounting graduates. Many of SMU accounting graduates started their careers as auditors in professional services firms. Digitalisation has transformed the audit profession in the last few years. The future of audit has also been evolving due to the various recent geopolitical developments and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

With the audit and assurance work-study collaboration with Deloitte, the School aims to make it more flexible for students to better interlace academic learning with structured on-the-job training and obtain greater exposure in practice. This work study experience will help lay the foundation for long-term resiliency in the profession by opening the door to the skills and capabilities required for accountancy students to thrive and continue to be of value when they enter the workforce.

This work-study elective follows two other work-study programmes (WSP) for SoA – the Accounting and Data Analytics WSP with EY introduced this year and the SMU Cyber Risk and Forensics WSP with KPMG which was introduced in 2020.

Yang Chi Chih, Audit & Assurance Talent Leader, Deloitte Southeast Asia, said, “We look forward to welcoming the students into our Deloitte family. Our ultimate goal, through this collaboration, is to provide the students a robust and holistic understanding of the real-world processes, so that they can be future-ready, be resilient in a world where change is the only constant and have the skills to position themselves in a good stead amidst the changes. This will go a long way to enhance their employability and readiness to thrive in full-time employment with Deloitte or with any other organisation.”

Cheng Qiang, Dean, School of Accountancy and Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Accounting, SMU, said, “An efficient and impeccable audit is of paramount importance to business health. Today's businesses are run differently and with changes such as the emergence of continuous auditing and data analytics used in audit, SMU is proactively retooling how we teach our students to prepare them for changes in the auditing field. We are very happy to partner with Deloitte to provide this unique opportunity for SMU students to gain a set of versatile technical skills in audit through this work-study collaboration.”

## **About the SMU Audit and Assurance Work-Study Elective**

Students who opt for this Work Study Elective can expect a well-rounded experience where they will acquire technical knowledge, develop a growth mindset through working with cross border and cross cultural teams, as well as be exposed to analytics and digital tools that can add value to their work. Students will get to witness first-hand from their team leaders and colleagues at Deloitte how these capabilities, skills and technology are enabling Deloitte to deliver as a team. Their mentors will guide them to gain valuable industry exposure and develop skill sets that place them in good stead for their career.

Previously, students embark on a 10-week internship during their vacation break. If they wish to take on an extended internship, students will need to apply for a leave of absence and may have to delay their graduation. Now, under the work-study arrangement, students will have the opportunity to experience an extended 20-week internship during the semester. They will work for four days at Deloitte and study two courses on campus concurrently.

The course is open to all SMU students and the school will be accepting applications in August 2021. The first run of the Work-Study Elective is planned for December 2021 to April 2022.

## **About SMU School of Accountancy**

Established in 2001 as the second school in the Singapore Management University (SMU), the School of Accountancy (SoA) offers the distinctive programmes; the Bachelor of Accountancy, Master of Professional Accounting, Master of Science in Accounting (Data & Analytics), SMU-Tsinghua Master of Science in CFO Leadership, SMU-Zhejiang Doctor of Business Administration (Accounting and Finance) and PhD in Accounting.

SoA pursues excellence by offering academic programmes that are responding to the needs of accounting and finance professionals. In particular, its Bachelor of Accountancy programme enjoys recognition from [11 professional and accreditation bodies](#).

SoA continues to receive international recognition for its research strength. In 2021, SoA is ranked first in Asia and second in the world for archival research in all accounting areas in the Brigham Young University (BYU) accounting research rankings. The achievement is a strong testament to the commitment of SMU faculty towards developing high quality accounting research and placing SoA as a global leader among accounting schools in renowned universities. [accountancy.smu.edu.sg](http://accountancy.smu.edu.sg)

## **About Singapore Management University**

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning.

Home to over 11,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and post-graduate research programmes, SMU, is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree

programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

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