Find your ‘element’ to pick the right course and university

In this second of the AskST series on university education, The Straits Times looks at how to pick the right institution and course of study.

Schools at the National University of Singapore, where students on the farm in Information Systems Engineering, visit that many students are despondent because they feel they do not have enough options to choose from.

Q: Can you tell us about their experiences in picking the right course and university for success in their future careers?

A: Many students, especially those who are considering engineering courses, worry about finding the right university and program that will prepare them for their desired careers. The National University of Singapore (NUS) is one of the leading universities in Asia, offering a wide range of courses and programs. NUS has a strong reputation for producing graduates who are well-prepared for their future careers.

Q: What factors should students consider when choosing a university and major?

A: When choosing a university and major, students should consider their interests, future career goals, and the reputation of the program. It is also important to research the job market for the field and the opportunities for career advancement. Students should also look for universities that offer strong support for students, such as career counseling and networking opportunities.

Q: What advice do you have for students who are unsure about their career goals?

A: It is important for students to explore different career paths and gain experience in their chosen fields. This can be done through internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer work. Students should also consider taking courses that will broaden their knowledge and help them develop new skills.

Q: How can students prepare for the job market after graduation?

A: To prepare for the job market, students should focus on developing their skills and gaining relevant experience. This can be done through internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer work. Students should also network with professionals in their field and attend career fairs and conferences to build their professional network.

Q: What advice do you have for students who are interested in starting their own businesses?

A: Starting a business requires a lot of hard work and dedication. Students should start by researching their ideas and developing a business plan. They should also look for resources and support, such as mentorship and access to funding. It is also important to stay flexible and be prepared to pivot if necessary.

Q: How can students get involved in extracurricular activities that will help them develop skills for their future careers?

A: Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, sports teams, or volunteer work, can provide students with opportunities to develop new skills and network with other professionals. These activities can also help students gain experience and build their resumes.

Q: Can you provide some examples of successful careers that stem from engineering education?

A: Engineering graduates have gone on to successful careers in a variety of fields, including technology, healthcare, and finance. Some famous examples include Elon Musk, who founded SpaceX and Tesla, and Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon. These individuals have used their engineering education to start successful careers and make significant contributions to society.

Q: What advice do you have for students who are considering international opportunities?

A: International opportunities can be a great way to gain experience and exposure to different cultures. Students should consider factors such as the cost, length of the program, and availability of funding. It is also important to research the safety and security of the location and to prepare for the cultural differences they may encounter.

Q: How can students make the most of their time at university?

A: To make the most of their time at university, students should make a plan and set goals for their studies and extracurricular activities. They should also make time for social activities and spend time with friends and family. It is also important to take care of their physical and mental health.

Q: What advice do you have for students who are considering pursuing a master’s or doctoral degree?

A: Pursuing a master’s or doctoral degree can be a great way to deepen their knowledge and expertise in their chosen field. Students should consider factors such as the program’s reputation, the availability of funding, and the opportunities for networking and collaboration. It is also important to research the job market for their field and to consider the potential impact of their research on society.