

App to help NUS students work towards dream jobs

NUS career+ app can help them select right modules, and it gives info on job opportunities

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Students from the National University of Singapore (NUS), who have a dream job in mind, will soon have a convenient and smart tool that will help them select the right modules to prepare for the job.

The NUS career+ phone app will also scour job postings in Singapore to give students “live” information on how many jobs are available in their chosen field. About 2,800

School of Computing undergraduates will be the first to use this app starting this month.

NUS Senior Deputy President and Provost Ho Teck Hua said: “We want to help our students pursue their dream careers and we want them to make smart choices along the way. To do this, education and career planning must go hand in hand.

“The goal is for every student to acquire highly-coveted skills that would give an advantage in getting a dream job upon graduation.”

Jointly developed by the NUS De-

partment of Computer Science and JobTech, a local start-up that provides job matching services using artificial intelligence, the app informs students about possible jobs for the degrees they are pursuing.

After a student has indicated his preferred career domain, the app extracts and analyses the student’s academic record, before generating a personalised skills profile.

Together with the specified career domains, a career readiness’ progress bar is generated for each job.

A short progress bar means the student needs to take more relevant modules to close the skills gap.

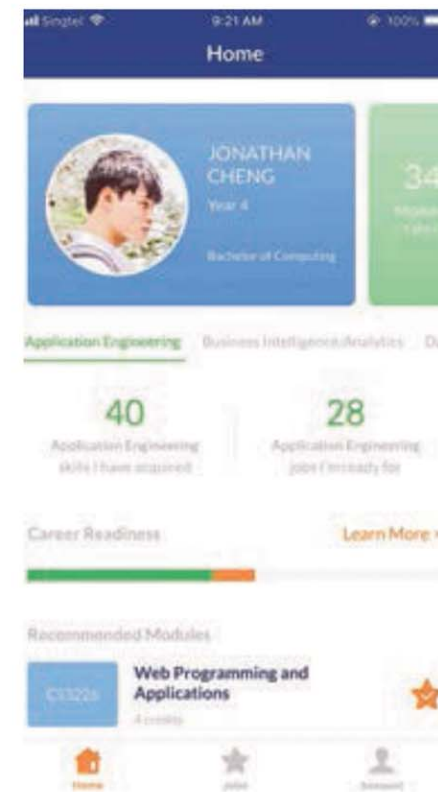
The NUS career+ app then taps real-time data insights from the Singapore job market to offer advice

on module selection and job opportunities, taking into consideration a student’s unique skills profile and career interests.

Students can also add new skills acquired from activities and experiences outside of the classroom, such as overseas stints or job attachments.

JobTech co-founder Ang Wee Tiong said his firm’s AI engine analyses millions of online job postings daily to learn and understand the skills demand of the fast-changing labour market.

The app will be made available in phases to undergraduate students in other NUS faculties and schools, and eventually to NUS alumni pursuing Continuing Education and Training courses at the university.



A sample account from the NUS career+ app, which informs students about possible jobs for the degrees they are pursuing. PHOTO: NUS

Plans are also under way to develop a more advanced version which will automatically generate a skills-based resume that is customised to each student and each

job application.

Professor Ho said the app is not meant to replace the face-to-face career guidance offered by the university but rather, to complement it.

The NUS Centre for Future-ready Graduates, for instance, runs career preparation courses, provides career advice and organises career events for NUS students. Faculty-based career advisers also guide students on their personal and career development.

NUS third-year computing student Vanessa Loh, 21, who has tested the app, said it was very useful in giving her an idea of the jobs available for app developers in large and small companies.

She also liked the progress bar, which tells her if she is on track to meet the skills required.

Second-year computing student Pratyay Jaidev, 22, said the app will help students focus on career preparation.

“With so many options of courses, job attachments and other activities, it is easy to get lost and lose focus. So it is useful to have an app that keeps you on track,” he said, adding that he found the app easy to use and seamless.

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