

EMPOWERING FUTURE TALENTS

The Mapletree-Ngee Ann Polytechnic Scholarship provides recipients with internship opportunities in a corporate environment. Two scholars studying Real Estate Business (REB) and interning at Mapletree, as well as their mentors, share their thoughts on the value of internships.

BROADENING PERSPECTIVES

See *Wei Shan, 22, who interned at Mapletree from March 2024 to August 2024, was attached to the VivoCity Property Management department.*

Why did you choose a diploma in Real Estate Business (REB)?

I have an interest in urban planning, and I like how the course has exposed me to various aspects of the real estate industry, such as valuation, marketing, urban planning and property management. Specialising in REB has given me better insight into how the different disciplines in real estate complement each other.

How did you feel when you were awarded the Mapletree-Ngee Ann Polytechnic Scholarship?

I was honoured and grateful as it signified a recognition of my academic efforts and presented me with diverse opportunities to interact with people who have vast expertise in the industry. I gained a fruitful internship experience and attended a meeting with the higher management, which enabled me to better understand Mapletree's business model and future directions in the real estate industry.

Tell us about your role as a Mapletree intern.

My primary duties involved daily mall inspections to identify defects and raise them to relevant personnel for rectification. I also assisted in researching and proposing ideas for mall improvement works. These are crucial job scopes in property management, as they contribute to a safer and more pleasant environment for consumers.

What valuable lessons have you learnt from this internship stint?

My biggest takeaways would be enhancing my communication skills and learning to look at things from a broader perspective. Since the job required me to engage with various stakeholders, such as technicians and contractors, I realised how vital communication is. Effective communication can lead to clear goals and methods to achieve desired outcomes. Instead of thinking one-dimensionally, broadening my perspectives has allowed me to think critically from different perspectives to resolve issues efficiently.

How useful is it to have a mentor guide you through the internship?

Having a mentor eased me into the working life at VivoCity, Singapore and provides feedback on my work, helping me understand the expectations of assigned tasks and improve the overall quality of my work.



Photos: Mapletree Investments

Wei Shan (left) and Ethan (above) have gained valuable experience during their internships at Mapletree.

MEET HER MENTOR

"My responsibilities as a mentor involved offering advice to Wei Shan if she faced any challenges or had any questions during her internship. I also shared with her the various career opportunities available at Mapletree and the industry.

The best part of being a mentor is sharing information and advice that benefits the mentee. Being able to value-add to Wei Shan's internship experience by sharing more about the job scope, the company and the industry has helped to crystallise the professional journey that I have been through so far. Mentoring a junior and witnessing Wei Shan's development has been very fulfilling.



William Chong, 28, Senior Executive, Investments and Asset Management, MPACT Management Ltd

A GATEWAY TO GROWTH

Established in 2023, the **Mapletree-Ngee Ann Polytechnic Scholarship** provides S\$55,600 in scholarship awards to support up to eight full-time, Singaporean students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Design & Environment over five years. Each year, two Year 2 students will be awarded a scholarship worth around S\$3,400 each. The scholarships are renewable in Year 3 if the students meet the renewal criteria. This industry alliance scholarship also provides awardees with internship opportunities in Mapletree, where they also have access to mentors from the company.

CULTIVATING A GROWTH MINDSET

Ethan Tan, 19, who is interning with Mapletree from September 2024 to February 2025, is attached to the VivoCity Leasing Team.

"I chose to study REB as I am fascinated by how businesses operate. My mother worked in a real estate investment trust, which further sparked my curiosity about the industry. REB offers a variety of modules ranging from facilities management, marketing, law, urban planning and finance-related modules, which provides diverse career options.

Receiving the Mapletree-Ngee Ann Polytechnic Scholarship was a pivotal moment in my academic journey as it opened doors to opportunities and experiences that will help me grow personally and professionally.

In preparation for joining the VivoCity Leasing Team, I refreshed my knowledge of leasing and read up more about Mapletree. I want to approach the internship with a positive learning attitude and pick up new skill sets that will make me a better contributor to the industry. It is all about trying to understand the company better, contributing wherever I can, and building strong relationships with the team I am assigned to.

I deeply appreciate having the guidance and support of my mentor, Kai Wen, during my internship journey. It is an invaluable opportunity to learn from him and gain insights into working life. With Kai Wen's help, I hope to better understand the department's expectations and broaden my understanding of Mapletree's culture and core business."

MEET HIS MENTOR

"I was introduced to this mentorship opportunity by the company's Human Resources department. This is my first time mentoring someone at work — it is a fantastic way to connect and support a junior on his journey.

My responsibilities are to give Ethan an understanding of the real estate industry, including Mapletree and our businesses. I also provide Ethan with knowledge and advice on university and career choices, and how he can excel in his first job or internship. I am particularly interested in identifying the specific areas Ethan hopes to grow — whether it is hard skills, personal development, or navigating the workplace. My aim is to provide practical advice and support tailored to his needs.

Being a mentor allows me to refine my leadership and communication skills. Guiding someone requires me to articulate my thoughts clearly and adapt my approach based on their needs and learning style. On a personal level, mentorship is an opportunity for self-reflection. As I share my experiences and insights, I gain new perspectives on my own journey and challenges. It can also be incredibly rewarding to witness Ethan's growth and accomplishments in Mapletree, which inspire me in my own pursuits."



Khor Kai Wen, 26, Executive, Mapletree Associate Programme