

# Charting A New Course

Part-time actress and model, Stephanie Loh, 25, hopes to go places with her newly minted mass communications degree from MDIS.

INTERVIEW: JESSEY BEH PHOTO: JOEL LOW

When she was not acting or modelling, Stephanie was busy with her mass communications degree at the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS). Graduating this year, she wants to work in PR and marketing when she moves to Canada next year.

## Why did you choose to study mass communications?

I have a passion for the media industry and I think it suits me because I am a people-person. After 'O' Levels, I took a diploma in film and media studies and have been acting and modelling ever since. I've always thought that if I don't act, I would like to do something related to PR and marketing but I haven't really tried the industry before. Since mass communications is pretty broad, I can learn about the different aspects of media and PR, including marketing, advertising and more. After enrolling for the programme, I now understand more about the field. When I move to Canada next year, I am interested in exploring the fields of PR and marketing for a full-time job.

## Why MDIS?

I like the way they structure their course. We would do an intensive one- to two-week study on a specific subject, break to prepare for examination before moving on to another module. It keeps us very focused on a subject without worrying about other modules. Plus,

MDIS offers a three-week residency in Oklahoma City University, USA. Over there, we took three modules and had the chance to experience hands-on production at the OKCU-TV Studio. The exposure is not something you can find in Singapore.

## What else did you take away from this learning experience?

I learned to be more disciplined as it forces me to focus at all times. Due to the small class size (about 16), our lecturers knew every one of us and would personally monitor our progress, which is a good thing. I also learned how to work in a team. For example, we had to create an entire PR campaign in groups to present to the class. It was challenging because we had to complete the project in a short time and everyone was stressed out, wanting to excel. I learned to manage relations with my teammates in order to do well as a group.

## What would you say to someone who's also considering returning to books?

Keep an open mind and don't think of school as a burden that you have to get over with because school is really the best thing. Enjoy the learning process.

Find out more about MDIS and their courses at

[www.mdis.edu.sg](http://www.mdis.edu.sg).



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