新大设衣柜服务

学生面试可打扮美美

为了应付面试，新大生赵晓是经常到校内的职业中心借用大衣和皮带，而一般上都有专人从旁提供指导，帮助学生在面试时能留下好印象。右为新大生就职业务与辅导处处长郑凤玲。

为了向国大生提供更完善的职业发展服务，两年多前设立的国大职业中心将在8月新学年正式开设“受雇能力与个人成功策略培训班”（STEP），供各个年纪的国大生参与。现在，报名参加职业发展工作的学生都以即将毕业的毕业生为主。国大职业中心主任王宇轩表示，“国大生的就业市场和受挫情况已经改善，求职竞争变得更为激烈，每个人都必须为自己将来的事业发展负责。因此，最早让学生了解自己的优势和不足是必要的。”他说：“这个宗旨不仅有助于学生在求职的技巧。”
SMU provides wardrobe services

STUDENTS GET TO DRESS UP FOR INTERVIEWS

Third-year business management student Elvis Chiu is not at all frantic even though he realizes he may not have an appropriate jacket and tie for a coming interview. The 22-year-old SMU student knows that the university’s Office of Career Services offers a slate of services including loaning jackets, trousers, ties, shoes and cosmetics to students for free. Besides, the career centre also has professional staff giving advice to students to prepare them for job interviews.

“SMU requires all students to do internship. Hence, we have to source for interviews and internship openings. The services provided by our career centre help us a lot. I can save a lot from not having to spend out of my own pocket purchasing expensive jackets,” said Elvis Chiu.

Elvis has also attended career talks organized by the career centre as well as completed a course in grooming, interview skills and writing of resumes. “I am a regular customer at the career centre and I know the staff of the career office very well. These courses and services have helped me understand movements in the job market. I am now more knowledgeable of my future directions. Early planning is always a good thing,” he shared.

All three universities said that their career centres have diversified their offering of services and made them more professionally-run. This is to help students net jobs in the increasingly competitive market with a large number of graduates flooding the market each year.

Like many top universities in the world such as England’s Cambridge University, Warwick University, America’s MIT and Australia’s Adelaide University, local universities here have also built facilities to allow employers to come in and interview students. This is in addition to the regular services such as job-matching, career counseling, training and a library of books.

Job portals

Career centres here have also set up electronic job portals to provide a bridge between employers and graduating students, helping them get jobs more quickly.

According to statistics from NTU’s career centre, there is an increase from 27.8% to 40% of graduating students who successfully get jobs through the university’s career services.

The career preparation seminar organized by NUS drew 2,304 students, 60% more than the previous two years.

There are also some 72% of SMU students who used the university’s job portal and 41.4% who attended career talks and fairs.

SMU’s Director of Career Services, Mrs Ruth Chiang said that since the career centre was set up in 2001, the objective was not only to help students secure employment but also to imbibe in them adaptability and survival skills so that they can be employees who will add value to the organizations they work in.

“Right from their first year, we will encourage them to use services provided by the career centre so that they will have a sense of what the job market is like. At the same time, they can master skills in writing their resumes,” said Mrs Ruth Chiang.

In addition to grooming and etiquette skills training, Mrs Ruth Chiang also pointed out: “The first impression is very important. The moment that your employer sees you for the first time would determine 55% of the outcome of the interview. Subsequently, it will depend on how you carry the conversation, your body language and the way you answer their questions.”

Each year, SMU will compile the resumes of its graduating batch of students into a booklet and CD. This year, some 363 resumes have been compiled into a publication to be sent to employers to increase the chances of students getting jobs.

NTU’s career services said that their career centre has been the number one stop for students seeking jobs. The centre is increasing awareness of its services as well as strengthening the quality of their courses and diversifying the type of services.

NTU’s spokeswoman said: “Our graduates have no problems getting jobs. Our main objective is to provide personalized guidance and counseling services to students to help them analyse their personality and job fit.”

NUS to roll out new course in employability skills

Come August, the two-year-old NUS career centre will launch a new course in employability and personal success planning (abbreviated as STEPS). This is to provide career development training for their students. This is open to students of any year of study. Right now, the focus has been on graduating students.

NUS’ career services spokeswoman said that the job market and employability situation have changed drastically. Competition for jobs is very keen and each individual has to chart his or her own career plans. Hence, the earlier students are prepared, the better it is for their future.

The five polytechnics are also providing similar career services but because most polytechnic graduates aim to go to university and male polytechnic graduates are enlisted for national service, the demand for career services is not as great as in the universities.

A 25-year-old fourth-year computer engineering student in NUS has secured a job he likes even before graduation. Four months ago, he went online to the NUS job portal and was offered a position as an engineer with Toshiba.

He said: “This channel is very useful for students. For example, it has helped me write my resume as well as gain some interview skills. Without the career centre, I may not have found the job so quickly.”