This Greek traded 6,000 isles for one red dot

When Kyriakos Mouratidis left Greece at the age of 22, bound for Hong Kong to do his PhD in computer science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, it was the first time he had stepped out of his country.

"I used to be one of those Greeks who would say, why go abroad? There's no place better than my country. I've since found so many other places better than Greece," says the university lecturer.

On that list must surely be Singapore, which he headed to after getting his postgraduate degree.

Now 27, he has been teaching data management at Singapore Management University's School of Information Systems since 2006. He is SMU's second youngest faculty member.

He gave the thumbs up to Singapore's nightlife, cleanliness, efficiency, year-round summer and, of course, food.

Weekends are spent sipping coffee in the Dempsey area. He also chilli out — when he is not grading students' papers — by having a drink at Emerald Hill or clubbing at the Ministry of Sound.

Despite his breezy good looks — he is SMU's poster boy and has appeared in several of its corporate photoshoots — he insists no student has passed him any love note...yet.

"I don't get such vibes when I'm wearing my professor hat," says the Macedonian, who is doing a Singaporean professional.

Q: What is your favourite Greek mythical character?
A: Ulysses (or Odysseus), the main hero in Homer's Odyssey. His resourcefulness, not the weaponry, led to Greece's victory in the siege of Troy.

After the 10-year Trojan War ended, it was again his cunning and strong will that helped him, a mortal, overcome the angry gods and traps of the gods, and return safely to his kingdom.

Q: What's the trick to "Kanaki", that charms some Greek men are supposedly so good at?
A: "Kanaki" literally means a sharp fishing tool, and I guess it reflects our view that flirting is like hunting.

The general rule is to be straightforward and make a smart introduction, as opposed to using stereotypical, silly pick-up lines.

Past the initial approach, the Greek sea and sun are natural aphrodisiacs that give us a great advantage.

A: Apart from thinking about job-related topics, I often spend time examining my life, usually over coffee or during an evening walk in solitude.

Q: Is there anything Greece and Singapore possibly have in common?
A: In an era of globalisation, both places are very successful in balancing modernity and traditional values. For instance, both Greeks and Singaporeans have a strong belief in the concept of family, and honour it devoutly.

Q: Which woman of today would you describe as a "Greek goddess"?
A: I am generally against idolising or obsessing with Hollywood stars and top models. I believe that one can find "godlike" beauties in everyday life.

In any case, if I were to describe the perfect female body proportions, I would have to refer to Aphrodite of Melos, an ancient Greek sculpture kept at the Louvre Museum in Paris.