



THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter for our Australian Alumni Community

ISSUE 7 | SEPT 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members & Partners,

In the last issue, we discussed about being cautiously optimistic about returning to normal. Considering easing restrictions, we had planned for smaller outdoor activities for more social, physical, and mental well-being. Unfortunately, we couldn't execute these activities as planned due to the heightened restrictions and guidelines put in place by the government.

While the lockdowns and social separation measures can reduce the risk of COVID transmission, it also affects the mental well-being. In April 2021, a Straits Times survey, conducted one year after the Circuit Breaker, found that people are socializing less, their social circles have shrunk, and their overall mental wellbeing has taken a hit. Based on multiple global studies, we are also starting to see increased cases of anxiety, stress, and depression. Human beings are inherently social creatures and mental wellbeing is equally important as physical well-being. With this in mind, we are organizing a Wellness Planning Workshop this month. Please feel free to invite your family, friends, and colleagues who you think might benefit from it.

As an organization, we need to be better prepared to react and respond to such external factors in the new normal. We will continue to work on the path we set earlier this year to engage our members digitally and in person when opportunities permit.

I am also excited to announce 2 new appointments within our Alumni Association Partner community. I would like to extend my sincere welcome to Linda Lee who has been elected as the Macquarie University Alumni Association Singapore President and Vivek Anand who has been recently elected as the President of James Cook University Alumni Association Singapore. Both Macquarie and JCU Singapore Alumni Associations have been long-standing AAS Partners, and I am excited to continue our joint engagements in the coming years.

As a strong community built to further business, social and cultural, the need for collaboration to drive our joint interests and wellness of our members is crucial now more than ever. Reach out to us and we will be more than happy to discuss this further.



Yours Sincerely,


Rajaneesh R Kurup
#forwardtogether

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AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION UPDATE

Sept 2021- It has been a busy month for the High Commission. Officials in Singapore and Australia continue discussions to advance a travel lane between our countries as soon as it's safe to do so, and when vaccination targets are met in Australia.

Our team played a central role in securing the 500,000 Pfizer doses earlier this month. This deal highlights the strength of our bilateral relationship. The deal was a dose swap, supporting both our countries' vaccine programmes. In return for the doses now, Australia will return 500,000 Pfizer doses to Singapore in December at a time when they will be needed here and when Australia has sufficient supplies.

Australia is also delivering on our commitment to supply vaccine doses to our region: to save lives, build economic recovery, and support health systems to protect against future pandemics. Australia will provide at least 20 million doses from our domestic supplies for people in neighbouring countries in our region. This complements the more than AUD \$600 million packages Australia has committed to help countries in the Pacific and Southeast Asia access vaccines, including through a partnership with UNICEF.

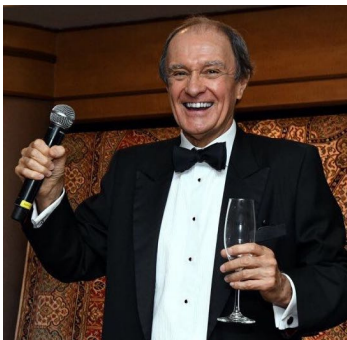
this month, we launched our Instagram page to share the very best of Australia in Singapore and celebrate the strong and warm friendship between our countries. And we'd love your help with this! Whether you're cooking with some great Australian produce, sipping one of our fine beverages, reminiscing about studying at one of our universities, or celebrating a great Aussie or Aussie alumni in Singapore, please tag @australiainsg and #GreatMatesAUSG!

We're working with the AAS to "hero" outstanding Singaporean alumni of Australian universities working across different industries and levels. Outstanding alumni like Curtin Singapore nursing educator, and University of Sydney and Curtin University graduate, Joelle Yap. After more than 20 years of working as a nurse in Singapore and on disaster relief projects, Joelle now teaches the current generation of Singaporean nurses. Learn more about Joelle on our Instagram page and follow the hashtag #ConnectedByDegrees.

Are you an outstanding AAS member currently working in the sustainability field in Singapore? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at Public-Affairs-Sing@dfat.gov.au and say "G'day!"

COUNCIL OF ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

PHILIP FORREST



Mr. Philip Forrest is an experienced independent director and career banker, who has lived in Singapore for 30 years, and in the ASEAN region for 40 years. Philip is a career banker and has worked in many senior roles across Asia. His roles included Asia Head at ANZ, Thailand Country Head at Citibank, Singapore Country Head at Westpac, Indonesia Country Risk Manager at Citibank, and South and South East Asia Head at NatWest. Philip is prominent in the Australian business community in Singapore/South East Asia and is considered an eloquent spokesman for the Asian opportunity. He is a former president of the Australian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, and of the Australia-Thai Chamber of Commerce. In October 2011 he was presented with the President's Medal by AustCham Singapore.

The President's Medal is the Chamber's principal award and is given annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Australian and Singaporean business community, or to the relationship between Australia and Singapore, or who has substantially facilitated investment or trade between the two countries. In 2004 he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Chamber.

Philip is currently an Independent Director of six private companies, with activities mostly in the ASEAN region and Australia, this includes Readymix Holdings International, GemStar Technology Asia, Evolve Agribusiness, Voyager Estate Singapore, Tellus Commodities Pte Ltd and TCIG Resources Pte Ltd. He is also Director of several Not-for-Profit organizations including Member of the Governing Council at Singapore Institute of Directors (SID), Director and Honorary Treasurer of the Australian-ASEAN Chamber of Commerce, Emeritus Ambassador (and former chairman) of University of Queensland BEL Alumni Council Singapore, Member of the Advisory Council, and chair of the Business School sub-committee at James Cook University Singapore and Chairman of the membership Committee at The Tower Club Singapore.

Philip believes that keeping physically active should be an important part of a director's life. He jogs about thirty kilometres each week (admittedly not at a record-setting pace), and has completed twelve half-marathons in the past two years...

SUPPORTING TEACHER TRAINING IN SOUTH EAST ASIA



The Covid-19 pandemic has presented additional challenges for teachers and learners in an already complex and highly demanding professional environment. To help accelerate the learning process, Study Melbourne* in partnership with FutureLearn.com, the leading social learning platform, is bringing a curated selection of 12 online modules to local and expatriate teachers, principals, and school counsellors in Southeast Asia. The project aims to strengthen engagement with schools in the SEA region and to promote Victoria's strengths in teacher education and as a world-class study destination.

The courses cover topics such as teaching children with additional needs, playful teaching, working with existing knowledge, using storytelling as a teaching tool, flipped teaching, and types of blended learning. The courses are designed to directly impact students' learning experience, and include topics that support teachers' mental health, well-being and confidence in communicating in English. A certificate of completion will be provided for each individual module and a final achievement certificate delivered in collaboration with FutureLearn and Study Melbourne upon completion of the course.

The showcase launches on Oct 11 and all the courses are free.

Rebecca Hall, Commissioner for Victoria to South East Asia says, "Study Melbourne's Teacher Training Showcase is a practical way to engage with teachers and learners across South East Asia at a time when classrooms and learning have been severely disrupted. We are delighted to partner with FutureLearn and our leading Victorian educators to share knowledge and practical insights that will deliver immediate benefit."

*Study Melbourne is a Victorian Government initiative providing information and support to international students.

The links to Study Melbourne Online Teacher Training Showcase will be available next month. Please look out for it.



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DESTINATION AUSTRALIA

Global Talent Visa Program Paving the Way for Permanent Migration to Australia

AshtonLegal

By Minh Nguyen – Registered Migration Agent at Ashton Legal Services

Amidst the rapidly changing context and economic impact of COVID-19, the Australian Government has committed numerous resources into developing the Global Talent Visa Program. The program is made up of the Global Talent Independent (GTI) program and Global Talent Business Attraction (GBTA) taskforce. **It offers a streamlined visa pathway, and priority visa processing, for exceptional and highly skilled professionals to work and live permanently in Australia.** The program is designed to attract the best and brightest global talent to work in ten industry sectors. The focus is to bring technological advancement and innovation to critical industries in an effort to support the Australian economy. The popularity of the program has increased over the last two years, so much so that the number of allocated visa quota for the 2021-2022 program year (01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022) has tripled to 15,000 places since its inception in November 2019.

The Global Talent Visa Program, in particular the Global Talent Independent (GTI) visa is a streamlined, priority-processing visa pathway for highly skilled and talented individuals working in any of the key industry sectors, including: Resources, Agri-food and AgTech, Energy, Health Industries, Defence, Advanced Manufacturing and Space, Circular economy, Digitech, Infrastructure and tourism, Financial services and Fintech, Education

This new strategy from the Australian Government will create opportunities for Australians through: Development of technological advancements in key industry sectors; Promotion of digital transformation and innovation; transference of knowledge and skills; Job creation; Increasing Australia's competitiveness on the international stage and Contribution. Unlike other visa programs, like Employer Sponsored or General Skilled Migration, the Global Talent Visa Program offers a fast-tracked pathway to Australian permanent residency without the added difficulties of a skills assessment, points testing, or employer nomination requirements.

Candidates for the GTI program, however, would need to demonstrate that they have an international record of outstanding achievements in one of the key industry sectors, is currently prominent in their field of expertise, would be an asset to Australia, have the ability to earn at least AUD 158,500 (Fair Work High Income Threshold) annually in their profession in Australia, and also be endorsed by an Australian permanent resident, citizen, or organisation in the same sector as the candidate.

The process of application is two-fold; candidates must submit a Global Talent Expression of Interest (EOI) form (previously known as Global Talent Contact form) to the Department of Home Affairs and demonstrate how they would meet the eligibility criteria. If a candidate is successful they are invited to lodge the visa application on the Department's online portal.

The process, itself, seems simple enough. However, based on recent statistics from the Department of Home Affairs, only about 50% of EOIs submitted have received an invitation due to increasing competitiveness and number of high quality of candidates applying.

So, how do you make your EOI stand out from the rest? Some people opt to submit the EOI on their own. Some have succeeded in getting an invitation, but a lot of them have not been successful. As such, Ashton Legal Services has seen an increasing number of candidates using Australian immigration law practitioners, and registered migration agents, to assist with their Global Talent journey.

Ashton Legal Services, has been working with eligible candidates for the Global Talent Visa Program, from all over the world, since the inception of the program in late 2019. Our level of experience, expertise, and exposure to the program, puts us in a better position to: assess client eligibility; identify and avoid common mistakes; identify opportunities to enhance client profile; advocate for the client through the submission of the EOI; and work closely with clients to achieve a positive outcome. The Ashton Legal Services difference is also in our commitment to not only working with the client, but also working with key stakeholders – like Australian Universities, key industry bodies, state and territory governments, and the Global Talent Officers for Department of Home Affairs – to identify and help exceptionally talented professionals in these key areas to obtain permanent residency in Australia.

Since the program's inception, Ashton Legal Services has proudly helped to secure permanent residency for individuals and their families, in the key industry sectors under the GTI program. We are confident that we'll be able to assist more highly skilled professionals to settle permanently in Australia through the GTI program. If you'd like to find out more, please [get in contact with us](#).

PARTNER UPDATES

Get Pampered At Jem!

3 Sep – 31 Oct 2021

Treats of Lendlease E-Vouchers and fantastic E-Deals are up for grabs!



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3 Sep – 31 Oct 2021, L3 Concierge Desk

Shop with your Citi Credit Card and redeem an additional \$5 Lendlease Voucher^{2A} when you spend a minimum of \$80.

App-solutely Great Deals

10 Sep – 15 Oct 2021

Treat yourself a meal or well-deserved retail pamper with exclusive E-Deals of up to 75% off³, redeemable with as low as 1,000Plus\$!

Look out for these fabulous offers from CHICHA San Chen, Love, Bonito, PUMA and many more dropping every Friday at 12 noon on the Lendlease Plus mobile app.



Lendlease Plus Sign-Up Bonus

From now till 31 Dec 2021, new members will receive **5,000 Plus\$⁴** when you sign up via the Lendlease Plus mobile app or lendleaseplus.com with promo code 'LLP21JEM'.

Terms and Conditions: All redemptions are while stocks last and available on a first-come-first-served basis. ¹Limited to the first 10,000 redemptions. 1 redemption per member per day. Receipt to be submitted via the Lendlease Plus mobile app on the same day as purchase. ²Limited to the first 1,064 redemptions. 1 redemption per Citi Credit Cardmember per day. Redemption must be made on the same day as purchase and available at the L3 Concierge Desk only (last redemption at 9.30pm). ³Limited to 3 redemptions per member per E-Deal type throughout the promotion period. ⁴Limited to first 4,000 new and eligible sign-ups. ⁵Maximum of 3 same-day receipts per redemption and double spending required for FairPrice Xtra receipts. Receipts used to qualify for one redemption item can be re-used to qualify for another redemption item. Other Terms and Conditions apply. For more details, please visit www.jem.sg.

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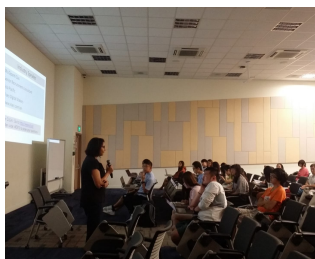
DIPANTI DAS, SENIOR RECRUITMENT LEADER FOR APAC REGION



Dipanti is currently working as Senior Recruitment Leader for APAC region, for a French IT Consulting company VISEO. After graduating from JCU in 2012, she embraced the life of an HR/Recruiter as a profession. She had been involved with different social causes for children, differently-abled persons and animals through various social organizations in Singapore.

She's also passionate about sports and had been playing rugby for the last 6-years with the Blacks Rugby & Football Club. She's also actively involved with her University and from time to time can be seen in the HR classes in JCU Singapore giving lectures as a guest lecture.

Outside of her professional career and social involvements, her favourite pastime is reading, travelling and writing. She has her own poetry blog and some of her writings had been published in some of the poem compilation books. She's also a full-time cat mum to a "fluffy monster" named Coco.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - VIVEK ANAND



PRESIDENT, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE | PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE, SELARANG HALFWAY HOUSE | BACHELOR OF ARTS, PSYCHOLOGY



Vivek currently works as a Programme Executive at Selarang Halfway House. He strives to create a safe and supportive environment that supports and guides his residents in their desistance from crime and reintegration journey before they progress to the next phases of the Mandatory Aftercare scheme. Prior to his current occupation, Vivek worked as an Assistant Manager (Social Assistance) at the Ministry of Social and Family Development to provide ComCare assistance for those in need. Vivek is also pursuing his part-time Masters in Guidance and Counselling at James Cook University Singapore. Outside of his professional career, Vivek spends most of his time volunteering at various organizations and spends whatever time he has left with family and friends. If you do find him alone and free, which would be very rare, you would be likely to see him drawing portraits, watching a movie or series from his favorite genre which is Horror!!.

Vivek was recently elected to be the President of JCU Singapore Alumni Association (JCUSAA).



The objectives of the association are

- To create and develop opportunities for the alumni members to maintain contact through meaningful events, activities, and social platforms.
- To promote and foster the continuing involvement of the alumni members.
- To promote and enhance the reputation of the alumni members.
- To promote activities that meet the needs of the members of the Alumni.

Join the JCUSAA online community on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jcusaa/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Online Information Day for Master of Business Administration - Part-Time

5 October 2021, SGT 7-8pm via Online Webinar



Overview

Interested in studying for a part-time Master of Business Administration? Join us at our Online Information Day on the Master of Business Administration to learn more about the different specialisations offered by the Singapore campus of James Cook University, and get your questions answered live*. To RSVP, please click on this [LINK](#).

Available Specialisations

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration (Majoring in Analytics and Business Solutions)
- Master of Business Administration (Majoring in Creative Marketing)
- Master of Business Administration (Majoring in Global Talent Management)

Online Information Day for Information Technology Courses - Part-Time

7 October 2021, SGT 7-8pm via Online Webinar



Overview

Interested in studying for a part-time Information Technology related Degree? Join us at our online information Day on Information Technology courses to learn more about the part-time degrees at the Singapore campus of James Cook University and get your questions answered live. To RSVP, please click on this [LINK](#).

Information Technology Courses

- Diploma of Higher Education (Majoring in Information Technology)
- Bachelor of Information Technology
- Bachelor of Cybersecurity
- Bachelor of Science (Majoring in Data Science)
- Bachelor of Science (Majoring in Internet of Things)
- Master of Information Technology (Majoring in Business Informatics)
- Master of Information Technology (Majoring in Interactive Technologies and Games Design)

Online Admissions Day

19 October 2021, SGT 7-8pm via Online Webinar



Overview

Interested in studying and applying for a part-time Degree. Join us at our online admissions day by Singapore campus of James Cook University and get your questions answered live*. To RSVP, please click on this [LINK](#).

*Recording will be taken during the online event for news and various publicity purposes



Australian Global Talent Visa Programme (Season II) by Ashton Legal

13 October 2021, SGT 5-6pm via Zoom Webinar



Ruobing Yang
Legal Practitioner
Director of Ashton Legal



Andrey Kotov
Energy Consultant at
Cornwall Insight Australia



Ar Kar Oo
Cyber Security
Practitioner

Australia is keen to attract high value businesses and exceptionally talented individuals to bring their talents to Australia.

We had great success with our last Global Talent visa webinar in June covering the Global Talent & Global Business Talent Attraction Visa Programme general requirement.

In this webinar, Mr Ruobing Yang from Ashton Legal - Australian Immigration Law will focus on specific target sectors i.e. DigiTech and Energy.

We are pleased to have two guest speakers who are Global Talent visa grantees Mr Ar Kar Oo and Mr Andrey Kotov to join us for this session. If you would like to hear about their GTI journey, life experience and job opportunities in Australia, please RSVP and join us for the session.

Kindly note : AAS Members who engages Ashton Legal for professional immigration services will enjoy Exclusive Discount.

To RSVP, please click on this [LINK](#)



Wellness Planning Workshop by The Total Wellness Initiative Singapore

28 October 2021, SGT 8-9pm via Zoom Webinar



Jonathan Kuek
Mental Health
Researcher at University
of Sydney

Last year has been a difficult one for many of us, and brought into focus how we might be experiencing different forms of mental well-being challenges - be it from anxiety, loneliness, or burnout.

During these challenging and uncertain times, maintaining our physical and mental wellbeing is of utmost importance, but doing so may not be as intuitive for most.

Through this workshop, participants will be introduced to various concepts of wellbeing, learning about the various domains of well-being and why it is important we be proactive and take a more intentional approach towards maintaining our well-being.

They will also gain a better understanding of the various steps involved in crafting a comprehensive well-being plan by partaking in a guided session to help them through the process.

This workshop will be a guided process and cover the following:

- Various definitions and domains of wellness
- Wellness Toolbox Construction
- Identifying life triggers and solutions
- Understanding downward spirals
- Formulating crisis plans

To RSVP, please click on this [LINK](#)

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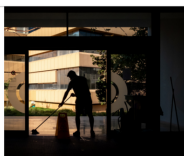


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Thomas Ang
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Founder & CEO
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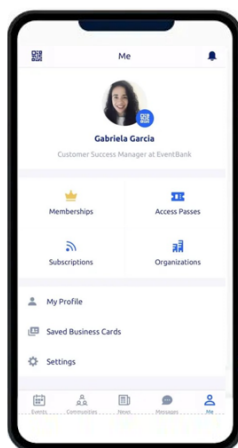


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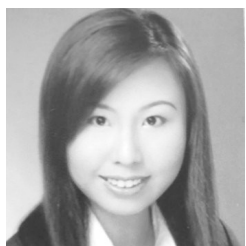
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Google Cloud Platform is changing the way the world uses cloud computing by exposing our infrastructure. We're growing very fast and looking for a Solutions Architect to join the Cloud Platform Business Unit at Google. In this role, you will use your knowledge and leadership of product management, industries, software and cloud computing to design solutions and take them to market. You will help drive awareness of our solutions at leading industry conferences and Google events. Your enthusiasm, technical and business depth, and excellent presentation skills will help decision makers understand the benefits of Google Cloud Platform to drive growth and customer success.

Google Cloud helps millions of employees and organizations empower their employees, serve their customers, and build what's next for their business — all with technology built in the cloud. Our products are engineered for security, reliability and scalability, running the full stack from infrastructure to applications to devices and hardware. And our teams are dedicated to helping our customers — developers, small and large businesses, educational institutions and government agencies — see the benefits of our technology come to life.

Responsibilities

- Provide expertise and leadership regarding Solutions Architecture in the infrastructure and applications space.
- Define the business case for solutions. Assist in the design of solutions in order to help with prototyping and development; take solutions through to launch.
- Demonstrate thought leadership in cloud computing across multiple channels and become a trusted advisor to decision makers. Write and publish reference architectures, technical articles and create reference implementations (open source code) to scale technical best practices globally.
- Provide customer and market feedback to the product and engineering teams, and influence product direction.
- Attend various meetings, technical reviews and onsite delivery activities.

Key Requirements

Minimum qualifications:

- 5 years of experience as a Solutions Architect/Developer, designing and implementing cloud based solution architectures for PaaS, IaaS or SaaS.
- Experience with one or more general purpose programming languages such as C/C++, Python, Java, or Go.
- Ability to speak and write in English and Bahasa fluently to foster and develop relationships with new and existing Bahasa-speaking customers and partners in Indonesia.

Preferred qualifications:

- Experience in all aspects of cloud computing (infrastructure, storage, platforms and data), as well as cloud market and competitive dynamics.
- Experience in the business technology market and expertise in working closely with sales and marketing teams in cloud computing or related technical fields.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the current infrastructure automation, continuous integration/deployment, SQL/NoSQL/NewSQL, Networking, and cloud-based delivery models.
- Ability to craft a compelling message and tailor it for a given audience. Ability to mix deep technical expertise with simple, everyday language to deliver a story that is memorable and useful.



Strategic Partner Manager, SAP, Google Cloud

As a Strategic Partner Manager for SAP, you will ensure that SAP products run effectively on Google Cloud Platform (GCP), product portfolios, and product roadmaps, while building and maintaining relationships with key decision makers with Product, Engineering, Support, Partner, and Customer teams within Google Cloud. You'll also work closely with key customers and partners, liaising with SAP Product and Engineering functions. Through understanding customer needs and landscape, you will define the product portfolio and Go-To-Market (GTM) strategy of SAP for the Google Cloud business and build strategic partnerships that help differentiate our SAP on Google Cloud product portfolio. You will also develop and execute the commercialization strategy globally, as well as resolve business issues and identify trends and growth opportunities.

Google Cloud provides organizations with leading infrastructure, platform capabilities and industry solutions. We deliver enterprise-grade cloud solutions that leverage Google's cutting-edge technology to help companies operate more efficiently and adapt to changing needs, giving customers a foundation for the future. Customers in more than 150 countries turn to Google Cloud as their trusted partner to solve their most critical business problems.

Responsibilities

- Drive key SAP Partnership topics like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning product integrations with SAP and SAP Ecosystem partners.
- Work with our customers and partners to create incremental value through SAP integrations and use cases.
- Define the product portfolio and GTM strategy for our SAP Google Cloud business.
- Understand customer needs and the industry landscape to build strategic partnerships that help differentiate our SAP on Google Cloud product portfolio and grow the business.

Key Requirements

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent practical experience.
- 10 years of experience in partner management, product, or solution management in enterprise software, SaaS, or IT infrastructure businesses.
- Experience driving product vision, crafting and executing go-to-market strategy, and partnering with cross-functional teams.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree or equivalent practical experience.
- Experience dealing with strategic partners, analyzing, and structuring complex correspondence.
- Experience in partnership consultation and execution.
- Ability to work independently in a fluid, dynamic environment with limited guidance.
- Ability to build relationships and deliver results in a cross-functional/matrixed environment.

Sash Naidu

The University of Western Australia
[linkedin.com/in/sash-naidu-sgd](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sash-naidu-sgd)



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1 RAFFLES PLACE TOWER TWO
LEVEL 19, SINGAPORE 048616
+65 9295 7977

MEDIA CONTACT :
SECRETARIAT@AAS.ORG.SG

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