What is the Poly Goes UAS programme?

Are you a hands-on individual keen to pursue a career in engineering, and would you like to start work in an industry leader from Germany? If so, Poly Goes UAS may be for you! It is an initiative by German Mittelstand Champions to build engineering talent for their operations in Singapore.

The German Mittelstand Champions are a group of around 1,500 German companies who are world market leaders in their fields. They also share a common background and mentality – they are typically family-owned engineering companies with up to €5b in annual revenue. They are well-known to their customers, but less known to the public, as they produce industrial goods that are not available in department stores or in our homes.
In Germany, such companies have, for many years, been sponsoring students to complete their higher education degree under the Dual Studies programme. During the study period, students go “dual” by alternating between university and internships at the sponsoring company. Upon graduation, the student typically starts their first job with the sponsor.

In Singapore, the German Mittelstand Champions have been steadily expanding. Today, a sizeable number of them are setting up Engineering Centres in Singapore to better serve the Asian market. Now, with Poly Goes UAS, some of these companies have decided to extend the Dual Studies programme to deserving diploma-holders from polytechnics in Singapore – enabling selected students to obtain a degree, relevant work experience, and their first job back in Singapore at a German Mittelstand Champion.

**How is Poly Goes UAS different from a traditional route?**

The fundamental difference between the Poly Goes UAS programme and a traditional route in a research university lies in the approach to internships. In both cases, the university provides a rigorous academic programme during the semester. But in Poly Goes UAS, your sponsoring company accompanies you throughout the entire university degree program, and provides with you multiple internships in different departments of the same company, allowing you to experience greater continuity. For instance, you could have an opportunity to be rotated to product management, design, R&D and technical customer service in the same company, while completing your degree within 3 to 4 years.

In short, Poly Goes UAS introduces more opportunities for industry exposure in your studies, greater continuity in your internship experiences, and a deeper appreciation of your sponsoring company’s culture. Your proven performance in the company will give you a higher chance of obtaining a first job with them, compared to a candidate who has had no prior experience with the company.
How will I be supported by my sponsoring company in Poly Goes UAS?

Participating companies are prepared to provide the following to selected students:

- A series of meaningful internships throughout the period of study
  Students will undergo up to 6 internships in engineering departments and possibly different facilities of the same company during their term breaks. The internships will provide practical exposure to complement the student’s course of study.

- Monthly stipend for the duration of the Dual Studies programme
  This varies by region as it is pegged to local cost of living, but will be the same as is provided to German students. Typically, this ranges from €800 to €1,400 per month.

- Reimbursement for language studies
  Companies are willing to provide some reimbursement for successful completion of German language studies, as part of your preparation for studies in Germany. Please see Page 7 for details.

- Return airfare between Singapore and Germany
  Companies will sponsor at least one return airfare to Germany, to cover the cost incurred by students when travelling up for the Dual Studies programme.

- Consideration for job offer, on completion of studies
  If the student is deemed suitable for employment, the sponsoring company will make an offer for a relevant job in its Singapore operations no later than one month before graduation. Should an offer be made, students are expected to accept.

Shortlisted applicants are advised to discuss the details with companies directly, before making a final decision on the sponsorship offer.

The Poly Goes UAS pioneer programme is supported by Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP), Singapore Polytechnic (SP), and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB).

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What about tuition fees?
As of 2014, tuition fees at the universities in Germany have been waived by the German government. Note that a small amount of miscellaneous fees may apply.

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1 Generally, unless the student has performed poorly in internships, he/ she will be offered a job as long as he/she has graduated from the course of study within the allocated time period.
**Which are the participating companies?**

The following companies are participating in the pioneer *Poly Goes UAS* programme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Founded Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Festo</strong></td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Festo was founded in 1925 in Esslingen, Germany. As a world leader in pneumatics and electrical automation technology, Festo offers components and solutions for Factory Automation and Process Automation. With an annual turnover of €2.2 billion, Festo is supported by 16,200 employees in over 250 countries. In addition to its business in the Automation world, Festo offers training equipment and training courses through its Didactic arm. In Singapore, Festo has set up its sales office and two regional centres: the Regional Service Centre, for regionalised production, logistics and warehousing, and the Solution Engineering Centre, for regionalised designing and assembling of engineering solutions. This helps Festo stay closer to the market and optimise its regional support. Festo has always supported the Dual Studies Programme, and knows that its graduates are able to work as project engineers, design engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, technical support engineers, sales engineers and procurement engineers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pepperl+Fuchs</strong></td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Founded in 1945, Pepperl+Fuchs is a leading global provider of industrial sensors and explosion protection technology. Innovation and close attention to customer requirements are hallmarks of this family-run enterprise. Making customer applications as simple, efficient and secure as possible is at the heart of our work. Market-specific solutions dominate an extensive portfolio of industrial sensors for electrical automation including all types of functionalities. Technologies and products for use in hazardous areas are also designed for specific applications, and offer solutions for all degrees of protection. With 1,100 employees, Pepperl+Fuchs’s Singapore subsidiary hosts the headquarters for production and R&amp;D activities in Southeast Asia (SEA). The SEA sales organization for Factory Automation and Process Automation is also located here. We are always looking for top-notch candidates for our team worldwide – for both technical and administrative personnel. Visit our career site and see why 5,400 employees worldwide appreciate working for Pepperl+Fuchs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Rohde & Schwarz, our people are our focus. We value and nurture talents. We focus on developing our staff to the fullest, contributing to their personal growth and career aspirations.

We thrive on innovation and rank high among global technology leaders in all our business fields. Flat hierarchies, straightforward structure and a relaxed working environment give our people plenty of room to generate innovative ideas. This drives our success in our market segments, including mobile radio and wireless communications, broadcast, RF electronics manufacturing, aerospace and defense homeland security.

Being an independent and family-owned company, Rohde & Schwarz generates its growth from its own resources, and is not influenced by market forces, thus enabling the company to plan for the long term. Today, we have 9,300 employees in over 70 countries.

Company headquarters are in Munich, Germany. The company achieved a net revenue of €1.9 billion in fiscal year 2012/2013.

SICK – one of the world’s leading producers of sensors and sensor solutions for industrial applications. Founded in 1946 in Waldkirch, Germany, it has a global presence of almost 50 subsidiaries with over 6,300 employees. As a technology and market leader with sales revenue of €1 billion (2013), SICK holds over 2,300 patents and invests 10% of its revenue and personnel resources in R&D, to continue its legacy of successful innovation.

SICK established a Regional Product Center in Singapore in 2009 to address our growing customers’ needs in Asia. New products are developed by our R&D teams in Singapore and produced in our factory in Johor, Malaysia.

We seek talented engineers with creative aptitude, who dare to differ to drive our innovation journey in Electronics and Electrical, Mechanical and Material, Mechatronic and Optical engineering. Our goal is to deliver superior customer advantage and provide job satisfaction and security for our staff.
Which universities and subjects are involved?

The Dual Studies programme is run by Germany’s Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) in partnership with companies. Companies work closely with the UAS to ensure the curriculum’s relevance to industry, and typically have representatives on the UAS’ board.

The pioneer Poly Goes UAS programme is available for studies in Mechatronics, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Depending on their sponsoring company, students in Poly Goes UAS will study at one of two UAS alliances:

- Students sponsored by FESTO, ifm electronic, PEPPERL+FUCHS or SICK will study at Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW). DHBW has 8 campuses across the state of Baden-Württemberg, the heart of industry in Germany’s southwest.
- Students sponsored by ROHDE & SCHWARZ will study at Hochschule München (HM) in Munich, which is part of the Hochschule Dual alliance in the state of Bavaria.

What is a UAS?

A University of Applied Sciences (UAS), or Fachhochschule (FH), is a practice-oriented tertiary education institution, often specialising in specific subjects (e.g. engineering, technology or business). The UAS model was first introduced in Germany, and later adopted by Austria and Switzerland.

Under the European Union’s Bologna Educational Reform Process, UAS and traditional universities have, since 2013, awarded legally equivalent academic Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. Currently, UAS do not award doctoral degrees. This, and the requirement for professors to have at least three years’ industry experience, remains the main difference between UAS and the traditional universities.

The typical study period for a bachelor’s degree is 3 to 4 years, excluding the time needed to master the German language, and any additional preparatory courses needed. The winter semester usually starts in September/October, and the summer semester in March/April.

For more information, you can refer to the following English-language websites:

- DHBW: [http://www.dhbw.de/english.html](http://www.dhbw.de/english.html)
**German language training**

To be admitted to a course of study at the UAS, students must be fluent in German. You will need to provide certification of your proficiency in German before the UAS course start date. Recognised certification includes **DSH 2** (recommended)\(^2\) or **TestDaF Level 4**, which are approximately equivalent to Level C1 in the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR).

To build up your knowledge of the German language, the following format is recommended:

- A 6- to 9-month intensive programme in Singapore to cover CEFR Levels A1, A2, B1 and B2. This would entail up to 4-5 hours of formal study per day on weekdays; and
- A immersion programme of up to 3 months in Germany to cover CEFR Level C1 and test preparation (e.g. a 4-week long DSH preparatory course offered by the UAS).

The total cost of language study and proficiency tests is estimated at $13,000 to $17,000 (inclusive of course materials and accommodation for immersion in Germany). Some companies may be willing to co-share and/ or reimburse students for these costs, if the students perform well on the proficiency test. Selected students are advised to discuss details of language training with their sponsor company.

For a start, the Goethe Institut in Singapore offers a comprehensive range of German language courses and support on learning German. See its website here: [http://www.goethe.de/ins/sg/sin/enindex.htm](http://www.goethe.de/ins/sg/sin/enindex.htm)

Your polytechnic’s Foreign Language Centre may also be able to offer language support.

**Additional Preparation**

Even though the UAS is a more practice-oriented track, capability in math and sciences will be critical to succeed. You may be required to take an entrance exam, and possibly a bridging preparatory course should the UAS require this. However, students with good academic achievements (e.g. Diploma with Merit) are likely to be exempted. Again, selected students are advised to discuss details with their sponsoring company and polytechnic.

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\(^2\) For more information on DSH, please visit: [http://en.dsh-germany.com/info/#dsh-generally/](http://en.dsh-germany.com/info/#dsh-generally/)
Application procedure and timeline

Who is eligible for the pioneer Poly Goes UAS programme?

Polytechnic students graduating in 2014, or who graduated in earlier years, may apply for this programme. Applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.0, and an interest in studying Mechatronics, Mechanical Engineering, or Electrical and Electronic Engineering. They should also be willing to learn German to a high level of proficiency.

The first batch of students under Poly Goes UAS is expected to begin their university studies in October 2015. Male Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents who have National Service (NS) obligations, and who will therefore only be able to start after 2015, may also apply, but should inform companies at the point of application.

How should I apply?

Students should first apply to the sponsoring company via a central portal administered by EDB. Students should indicate the company/ companies to which they would like to apply in the application form (first field). If the company makes an offer and the student accepts it, he/ she may then enrol in a German language preparatory programme, and apply to the UAS that partners his/ her sponsoring company.

Interested applicants must submit the following, preferably in PDF format:

- Application form (please refer to Annex 1)
  Please include supporting grade transcripts and (if relevant) graduation certificate; as well as your language scores in English, Mother Tongue and (if relevant) third language.
- Cover letter to the company (recommended length: not more than one page)
  Please explain why you are interested to work for the company, and why you would like to apply for the Poly Goes UAS programme. If you have relevant skills or experience, you may also highlight these in the cover letter. If you are applying to more than one company, you may choose to submit separate cover letters for each company.
- Letters of recommendation (optional)
  You may choose to include 1-2 references from lecturers who are familiar with your work, or, if you have had past internship/ job experience, from previous employers.

Please indicate the company/ companies to which you are applying in the application form as well as the email subject.

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3 Application is also open to recipients of the NPES scholarship and MOE tuition grants. If selected, such applicants should discuss their situation with their polytechnic and with EDB.
The closing date for applications is **11 April 2014**. Applications submitted after this date will not be entertained. We strongly encourage you to apply early so that the company can consider you early for this sponsorship programme.

Applications should be submitted in soft copy to the following address: PolyGoesUAS@edb.gov.sg

Please enter the email subject as:

“Application to Poly Goes UAS_[companies to which you are applying]_[your school - NYP/SP]_[your name]_[20xx; i.e. the year you are available to begin this programme, e.g. after your NS obligations are completed]”

Examples: Application to Poly Goes UAS_CompanyX_NYP_John Lim_2016

Application to Poly Goes UAS_CompanyX, CompanyY_SP_Jane Tan_2014

**What will the selection process be like?**

First step, submit your application, indicating the companies to which you are interested to apply. If the companies would like to interview you, you should expect to hear from them within about 4 weeks to set up an interview date.

During the interview, you may be asked to share about yourself, your interests and your aspirations. You may also be tested on your engineering knowledge and analytical skills.

After the interview, company will take some time to assess your suitability and potential. They will take 2-3 weeks to reply you on the interview outcome. They may also call you back for a second or third round of interviews.

If your interview outcome is positive, you will receive an offer from the company. Please take note of the reply deadline. Usually you will have about 3 weeks to consider this offer.
What is it like to live and study in Germany?

Meet our Dual Studies ambassadors!

You will not be the first students from polytechnics in Singapore to have continued their studies in Germany! Here are some people we met who have also been through, or are currently in, Germany’s Dual Studies system:

TAN Chun Kwang  
Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences  
MSc in Autonomous Systems

Chun Kwang is at the end of his first semester at the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg UAS, where he is studying for a Masters degree in robotics. He graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a Diploma in Computer and Network Technology in 2004, and obtained his Bachelors in Computing and Information Systems from the University of London at Singapore Institute of Management in 2010. He worked for two years before deciding to apply for the programme in Bonn.

Chun Kwang says, “I prefer a practical approach to this field [robotics], hence the choice of a University of Applied Sciences. Here, they focus a lot on implementing theory. The workload can be a bit heavier than at traditional universities, as we are expected to know the theory and implementation. Lots of programming is required to write the software for the robots.

“The environment here is very conducive, because collaboration, instead of competition, is encouraged between students. Well, we are not called students, but colleagues.”

Harry TAY  
Technical Manager, Central Process Engineering  
Pepperl+Fuchs

As Technical Manager, Central Process Engineering at Pepperl+Fuchs, Harry is responsible for Process and Technology Development in Singapore, as well as for the alignment of production processes across Pepperl+Fuchs’ Southeast Asian subsidiaries with Germany.

Harry obtained his BSc (Hons) in Automation Technology from Mannheim University of Applied Sciences in 2004, and his MSc in Automation and Energy Systems from the same UAS in 2013. Before that, he studied Mechatronics at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

“I was attracted by Germany’s reputation for technical education, engineering and innovation,” explains Harry. “I also thought about doing something more challenging and different while I was still young. I motivated myself to complete a degree in German so that I could secure an
engineering job in a German company. My goal was to secure employment with a niche advantage.

“The learning methods in the UAS are quite different from those in Singapore. Most lectures I attended were conducted in small classes of about 30 students. There was a lot of discussion and exchange between students and professors during lectures. My experience taught me to be more independent, to think critically and to solve daily problems in my job.”

Today, Harry is a fluent German speaker. “It takes a lot of discipline, time and effort,” he says, “but the important thing is to keep on practising and never stop.”

For a perspective from the other side, here is what a German student from Rohde & Schwarz had to say about her Dual Studies program. She also interned in Rohde & Schwarz in Singapore in 2013, experiencing Singapore for the first time.

Stefanie JOHAM
Dual Studies student with Rohde & Schwarz

“Hello everybody, my name is Stefanie, and I am a dual studies student in Germany with the company Rohde and Schwarz. As I understand, this program will be called Poly goes UAS in Singapore.

“The idea behind the program is simple - I am enrolled at the UAS for a normal program in engineering, but unlike most other students, during all my semester breaks, I work with different engineering departments of Rohde & Schwarz. Most of my internships have been in Germany, but recently I also completed an overseas internship in Singapore. I was responsible for developing a technical manual for a customer for my project in Singapore.

“A main advantage of the program is that there is a high chance for the sponsoring company to offer you a job, in an area that you have studied in and are good in, if we do well in our studies and for our internships. That aside, the studies are very practice oriented and less theoretical, although we still need math, programming and problem-solving to do well.

“I look forward to have the first Singaporean friends join us in this program, not just in Rohde and Schwarz, but also in other partner companies, in which the programs are quite similar. I really enjoyed myself very much in Singapore learning about a different culture, and I hope you will enjoy Germany too.”
**More resources**

There are many resources on the internet with information on living and studying in Germany. Here are some that might be especially useful for you:

- Singapore Students’ Association of Germany ([http://www.ssag.de/](http://www.ssag.de/))
- German Academic Exchange Services ([http://www.ic.daad.de/singapore/study.html](http://www.ic.daad.de/singapore/study.html))
- Deutsche Welle – Germany’s Official International Broadcasting Channel special highlight and resources on education in Germany
- Young Germany ([http://www.young-germany.de/topic/study](http://www.young-germany.de/topic/study))

Queries regarding application for *Poly Goes UAS* may be directed to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NYP</th>
<th>Mr Lim Kim Bah John</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manager, School of Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lim_Kim_Bah@nyp.edu.sg">Lim_Kim_Bah@nyp.edu.sg</a></td>
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<th>SP</th>
<th>Dr Daniel Lim</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Lecturer, School of Mechanical &amp; Aeronautical Engineering</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jslim@sp.edu.sg">jslim@sp.edu.sg</a></td>
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| EDB       | PolyGoesUAS@edb.gov.sg |

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I would like to apply to the following companies:

1. PERSONAL PARTICULARS

(a) Name in Full (Surname in CAPS):

(b) Address:

(c) Residential no.:

(d) Mobile no.:

(e) Email address:

(f) Nationality:

(g) Place of Birth:

(h) Date of Birth:

(i) NRIC / FIN / Passport No:

(j) Gender:

2. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

(a) Highest qualification obtained in English (e.g. GCE ‘O’ level grade – please state grade):

(b) Highest qualification obtained in Mother Tongue (e.g. GCE ‘O’ level grade in Chinese/ Malay/ Tamil – please state grade):

(c) List any other languages / dialects spoken:

(d) List formal qualifications, if any, in the German language:

3. EDUCATIONAL DETAILS

(a) GCE ‘O’ Levels / School Certificate / Others

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Secondary School</th>
<th>Year of Graduation</th>
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<th>Subjects Taken</th>
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</table>
(b) Polytechnic (Please attach certificates and transcripts)

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<tr>
<th>Name of School</th>
<th>From Mth/Yr To Mth / Yr</th>
<th>Diploma Title and GPA</th>
<th>Did you graduate with a Merit award?</th>
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List down **up to 5** Math-based courses that you have taken, and indicate your grades:

(c) Do you have an existing bond with any other organisation?

(d) Co-curricular activities – please list **up to 3** activities that you enjoy and/ or to which you have contributed significantly

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Positions of responsibility held, awards and/ or prizes</th>
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(e) Other academic information (optional) – e.g. awards received

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4. **INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

(a) Relevant work experience or internships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Brief Description of responsibilities</th>
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<th>To (dd/mm/yy)</th>
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(b) Earliest date available to start language studies and/ or internships if selected

5. NATIONAL SERVICE RECORDS (if applicable)

(a) Are you expected to complete National Service? Y/N

(b) If you are serving or have completed National Service, please state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From (mm/yy)</th>
<th>To (mm/yy)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name of Camp</th>
<th>Commanding Officer</th>
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(c) I am exempted from National Service because

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<th>(tick if applicable)</th>
<th>Please specify</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Reasons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

6. REFEREES

Give particulars of two persons who are not related to you. They should be responsible persons who know you well with regards to your character and work or academic performance. Both referees should be gainfully employed. The company may contact either or both of the referees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>First Referee</th>
<th>Second Referee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Name of referee</td>
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<td>(b) Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Telephone</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) Email Address</td>
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<td>(e) Occupation</td>
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<tr>
<td>(f) Name of Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>(g) No. of years referee has known you</td>
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</table>

7. DECLARATION

(a) Please answer all questions by selecting “YES” or “NO”. If “YES”, please give details below
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have criminal record in Singapore? (By this, we refer only to a criminal record of a conviction under the Registration of Criminal Acts) If “YES”, please give details</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you ever been convicted in a court of law in any other country (excluding parking offences or criminal records disclosed above)? If “YES”, please give details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you at present under any financial embarrassment? If “YES”, please give details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have any physical disability (e.g. sight, hearing, heart) or major illnesses? If “YES”, please give details</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) I declare that the particulars stated herein are true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge, and that I have not wilfully suppressed any material fact.</td>
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_____________              _______________
Date                       Signature of Applicant