

## Lifelong Learner Story Series ▶▶



### Somarajan Sunil Kumar

- ▶ CAD, PDM, CAE Engineer at Halliburton
- ▶ Pursued courses stackable to FlexiMasters in Supply Chain Engineering

#### Please share with us your professional life's journey and at which point in your career did you aspire to pursue this FlexiMasters?

Upon completion of my undergraduate studies at Singapore University of Social Sciences, I was exploring graduate courses that focus on Supply Chain Analysis. In fact, I was aiming to become a Supply Chain expert to manage an organisation's

supply chain activities. In my search, I managed to find the FlexiMasters in Supply Chain Engineering offered through PaCE@NTU, of which the completed courses are stackable towards the Master of Science in Supply Chain Engineering. I strongly believe this certificate would enhance my chance to become a potential candidate for a Supply Chain expert. So, I decided to sign up for the courses in this FlexiMasters.

#### What attracted you to your chosen FlexiMasters at PaCE@NTU?

This FlexiMasters is the best option for supply chain professionals who are looking to upskill for many reasons. It is designed flexibly to allow learners to pursue with their own time and pace. Hence, it provides everyone an equal learning opportunity and most importantly, the course credits earned are stackable to its relevant NTU Master's programme. Since Singapore is the regional logistic hub where the logistics and supply chain industries are key pillars of the Singapore economy, I believe this certificate would equip learners with the skills and competencies necessary to grab the exciting opportunities ahead.

#### Which aspect of this FlexiMasters do you like the most?

I like the stackable feature of this FlexiMasters, where the course credits earned could be transferred to its relevant NTU Master's programme. Moreover, most of the courses are heavily subsidised, and the flexibility allows me to balance time between work and studies. Furthermore, courses such as L6002: Quantitative Methods for Logistics Analysis allow me to simulate, analyse, and optimise a few manufacturing and logistics scenarios.

#### Could you share with us some interesting facets of the FlexiMasters you enrolled?

As part of the course outline, we had several interesting events such as group assignments, negotiation activities, etc. The L6102: Procurement & Supplier Development course was the most exciting, where learners experienced several group activities, interacting and sharing their thoughts with real-world examples. This, in turn, provided us a great insight into how real negotiations have taken place in the marketplace.

#### What were the challenges you faced when trying to complete this FlexiMasters?

Time management was the key challenge as learners need to spare considerable time and effort to fulfill the requirements such as submitting assignments, completing quizzes, etc. The online examination specifically for L6002: Quantitative Methods for Logistics Analysis course was a real eye-opener because examinations were conducted in two sessions under close surveillance due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Another challenge that I had was the traditional learning process is no longer relevant to me at this stage. I would prefer to correlate the material that I learned into my work whenever possible. Therefore, it was essential for me to get my organisation's support during my study.

#### Will you recommend PaCE@NTU's programmes to your friends and family?

I am an advocate of lifelong learning and pursued several courses while working full-time. At PaCE@NTU, the learning experiences were exciting, and I had the opportunities to interact with many personnel from various industries. Also, well-qualified professors provided us with real-world examples in their lectures that I could easily relate to my work. I would recommend PaCE@NTU programmes and courses to my friends and family members.