

# SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR: GAIN YOUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Prince George's Park Residences, National University of Singapore

Date and Time: 10am—3pm, 7th August 2004

## ABOUT CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE CENTRE

Cambridge Alliance Centre is a unique initiative undertaken by a group of Cambridge professionals with support from an Advisory Board consisting of select leading practitioners in their professions and highly regarded members of the academic community. Its mission is to facilitate and accelerate knowledge transfer between academia and industry, and to broaden the perspective of students in an increasingly globalised world.

## SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Scholarship Training Seminar ("STS"). We hope that you will find this Programme a gateway towards striving for your best in the process of scholarship applications. More importantly, to refine the soft skills that will be crucial in meeting the requisition of not only excelling at school academically, but at all stages of your life, irregardless of your chosen tertiary undertakings or career paths.

This Programme is intended for you as students to build on the skills and competencies developed in school or otherwise to excel and to succeed in any circumstances that are demanded of modern day students – be it a school project, inter-school competitions, scholarship interviews, and many more.

Every year hundreds of students from Singapore apply to Oxbridge in the United Kingdom and Ivy League schools in the United States. Most, if not all of them possess both excellent academic results and equally impressive extra-curricular achievements but only a select few will be admitted. Such is also the case when faced with the competitive nature of applying for a scholarship, or a place to study the course of your choice at a reputable university. Academic success is no longer the sole precursor to successful university admissions and scholarships. It is the soft skills, the preparation beforehand, and the right kind of exposure that will guarantee an opportunity for each of you to realistically compete to become the best in your generation.

The STS further includes a special segment on " PERSONAL ANALYSIS: KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE GOOD AT AND HOW TO USE IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE". Finally, the STS also explores the different interview styles and how it can be possible for you to secure that \$200,000 scholarship!

## SEMINAR REFERENCES

### MR. WHITNEY D. PIDOT B.A. (HARVARD), J.D.(COLUMBIA) MBA (COLUMBIA)

*Asia Managing Partner, Shearman & Sterling*

Graduated from Harvard University, magna cum laude 1966, with a MBA from Columbia Business School and subsequently studied Law at the same school, Mr. Pidot is a member of Shearman & Sterling's Executive Group and is the firm's Asia Managing Partner with the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the firm's Asian offices, including Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo. He served as the Managing Partner for the entire Firm from 1998 to 2001 and has also served as a member of the firm's Policy Committee. Mr. Pidot is also the Managing Partner of the Singapore office and practices in the bank and structured finance area. He has extensive experience in general corporate and private client corporate matters. Mr. Pidot joined the firm in 1970 and became a partner in 1979.

### MR. CY LIM B.A. (CAMBRIDGE), M.ENG. (CAMBRIDGE)

*Consultant and Fellow of Cambridge Alliance Centre*

Having graduated from Cambridge, with a Master of Engineering on a full scholarship from the Commonwealth Trust, CY Lim has worked both in academia and industry. This includes his sabbatical on policy recommendation on the electronics industry in Europe, working together with Institute of Manufacturing, University of Cambridge and DG Research of the European Commission. He has also worked with Cambridge University's overseas undergraduate admissions team (Malaysia and Singapore). His experience in industry includes firms such as Invensys, Grant Instrument and Granta Design, dealing with business strategy and manufacturing systems issues. His other working experience includes Change Management with Accenture. He is also a consultant to a number of companies in both Singapore and Malaysia dealing with strategy and operations matters, particularly on supply chain management.

**SEMINAR OUTLINE****PERSONAL ANALYSIS—KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE GOOD AT AND HOW TO USE IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE**

Certain capabilities are crucial for succeeding in your scholarship application or any other form of application process that requires the demonstration of your soft skills. The beauty of these skills is that you can acquire them from the classroom settings; responsibilities you hold in school, or in your everyday life experience, and apply them to another. For this reason, these skills are often labelled as "transferable skills". Teamwork, leadership, initiative, adaptability, communication, analytical and organisational skills are valued across many fields and can be developed through education, extra-curricular activities and hobbies.

The STS will also review scholarship organisations' most sought after attributes. Which you choose to highlight depends on the particular requirements of a scholarship board, its academic expectations from its scholars, and its culture of each organisation you are targeting. At the end of this session, you will begin to question what competencies you possess, how to identify them and which can use to gain that competitive advantage.

**WRITING SKILLS**

Undergraduate school admissions committees look to the essays and personal statements for additional insight about the applicant's motivation, experience, and vision. As an Ivy League Admissions Officer puts it, "I want people to have some ideas why they want to spend \$100,000. I want to know where they've been, what they've learned, and why they want to pursue this path." Likewise, the sponsoring organisations would want to know more about the special qualities of each individual applicant in order to reach their final decision on who the scholarship recipients should be. Personal statements are an opportunity to share important information about the applicants in a distinguishing way. This module offers participants a look at their writing skills and a chance to think through their strategies and their plans for completing this important part of any form of application process; what to include and what not to include in the open-ended questions section of any application form.

**APTITUDE TESTING**

Many sponsoring organisations use aptitude tests as part of their selection process. The tests are usually pencil and paper or computer-based and have multiple-choice answers. Aptitude tests (usually timed) aim to measure the skills needed to be successful in a challenging university environment or even at the career stage. They are designed to measure your intellectual capabilities for thinking and reasoning, particularly your logical and analytical reasoning abilities. This module will be focussing on the verbal and numerical logical reasoning aspect and also diagrammatical reasoning skills (which is still rather uncommon at present). Many applicants would welcome the opportunity to find out what selection tests involve.

**LUNCH (1 HOUR – INTERACTION WITH PROFESSIONALS AND FORMER FULL SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS)****INTERVIEW SKILLS—HOW TO GET THAT \$200,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

Interviewing skills can either "make or break" your chance of receiving an offer from the organisation you are applying to. This module will focus on the dynamics of conducting a winning interview. Topics include how to effectively prepare and research for an interview, and how to handle difficult and "illegal" questions. This session will also provide strategies for students who wish to "free" their voice. The focus will be on increasing self-confidence and managing anxiety of the interview process through discussion in a supportive group context.

**PRESENTATION SKILLS—HOW YOU MAKE A CASE FOR YOURSELF**

Confident presentation skills are proven to pave the way for career success. Whether you will be making presentations to clients or colleagues, you will master the basics of creating and delivering a confident presentation. This dynamic module will be divided into two sections: The first section is constructed to help you organise your presentation material. The second is focussed on the delivery of your message, as 93% of the success of your presentation is not based on content, but in the manner in which you deliver your content. Interactivity is encouraged.

**TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISE—HOW TO BE THE PERFECT TEAM PLAYER**

For the purposes of awarding scholarships, assessment centres are increasingly being used by more organisations to evaluate a candidate's skills and competencies (such as team working, leadership, initiative and other inter-personal skills). Through specific group tasks or case study workshops, students are examined on their range of competencies required to work towards a solution. Many candidates often misunderstand the objective of the sponsoring organisations - it is not so much as being able to produce the best solution to a given problem or task; in fact, the most crucial factor lies within the process of working towards the solution. This module will allow students to explore the dos and don'ts in this particular stage of most competency-based evaluation process.

# SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR: GAIN YOUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE REGISTRATION FORM

The registration fee includes refreshments and lunch for the one-day event.

**Fees** : Student Applicants (\$100), Non-Student Applicants (\$200)

**Application Deadline** : 5.00pm, 27th July 2004

**Group Discounts** : Groups of 5 or more registering together qualify for a 20% discount

**Cancellation** : There will be no refund of fees. However, delegates may be substituted if organiser is informed 48 hours prior to the commencement of the seminar

## PAYMENT DETAILS

*(Places cannot be guaranteed unless payment is made before stated deadline)*

Send cheque/bank draft made payable to "Cambridge Alliance Centre" to our mailing address

_____ Name	_____ School
_____ Address	_____ Main Subjects Taken in School
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____ Postcode	_____ Special Dietary Requirements
_____ Phone	
_____ Email: <i>(Please write legibly)</i>	

Send all applications to:

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