Singaporeans Losing Jobs to Foreigners with Fake Degrees?

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Some of you might have heard the breaking news recently about IDA having hired an employee with a fake MBA. Combining Singaporeansâ?? unhappiness over losing jobs to foreigners with our struggle with high tuition fees in education, it is no wonder the locals are unhappy with this matter.

Locals losing jobs to foreigners is bad enough, but losing jobs to foreigners who have faked their â??superiorityâ?• to us?



Ray Ng Those in singapore's IT industry would know that application to IDA requires applicants to submit a 9 PAGES questionnaire with questions ranging from aptitude to personal ones. This is followed by 2-3 rounds of interviews with higher management at both IDA and clients (mainly other statutary boards).

I am asking behalf of my friends who graduated from NUS/NTU/ other unis with a bachelor in IT with CITPM and PMP certs and have 10+ years of SDLC project under their belts but were not selected.

They would like to know what superb skills that this Indian IT consultant possesses so that they can go for the releveant courses at WDA, e2i so that they can upgrade themselves in the hope of getting selected next time.

Like · Reply · 42 · 20 April at 17:29

I highly doubt that IDAâ??s response was crafted by a PR professional, or if so, then that person must have been not that good at his/her job. A good PR response is supposed to help you mitigate the crisis, not escalate it further. But take a look at what happened:

1. IDA defended their hire by claiming they hired her based on her degree, which they stated was from a â??reputable universityâ?•



B4 | HOME

IDA probes claim about employee

She's said to have fake MBA; agency said she was hired based on her BA

By FENG ZENGKUN

THE Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) is investigating a claim that one of its employees has a fake master's degree.

In a Facebook note yesterday, the IDA said it is continuing to look into the case of Ms Nisha Padmanabhan, who joined the agency last year with a master's degree from online-based Southern Pacific University.

The university has been alleged to be a "degree mill" – an institution selling non-accredited educational credentials or diplomas for a fee – and was closed in the United States by a court order. It is now apparently operating in Malaysia.

The IDA has been criticised online after a netizen accused it earlier this month of hiring Ms Padmanabhan despite her allegedly phoney qualification.

Last week, the IDA said on its Facebook page that Ms Padmanabhan, a Singapore citizen, has a bachelor's degree from "a reputable university".

According to her LinkedIn page, she has a bachelor's in electronics and telecommunication from the University of Mumbai in India, and worked for nearly 14 years in various firms before joining IDA.

"She was recruited because of this bachelor's degree, extensive past work experience and good track record," the IDA said.

"Nisha pursued an MBA out of personal interest, and it was not a relevant certificate for her position in IDA though she was open about the fact that she had obtained it."

In fact, 93 per cent of IDA staff at the level of applications consultant were hired because of their bachelor's degree.

The criticism against IDA continued, however, with several people hijacking its Facebook posts on other subjects to comment on Ms Padmanabhan's hiring and the agency's handling of the case.

In its latest post on the matter yesterday, the IDA said: "We understand your sentiments and concerns, and we are continuing to look into the matter."

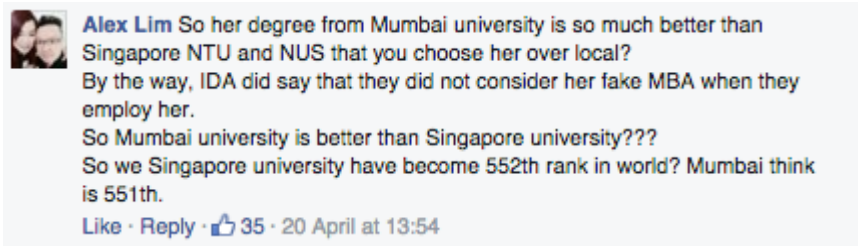
It asked people with comments to share them on the post, or e-mail info@ida.gov.sg

It added that it would more actively moderate comments on the rest of its Facebook posts so the discussion would remain civil and constructive. It said it does not generally remove comments, but reserves the right to remove those that contain vulgarities, are personal attacks against individuals or are deemed inappropriate.

zengkun@sph.com.sg

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Not very wise, because this happened next.



Alex Lim So her degree from Mumbai university is so much better than Singapore NTU and NUS that you choose her over local?
By the way, IDA did say that they did not consider her fake MBA when they employ her.
So Mumbai university is better than Singapore university???
So we Singapore university have become 552th rank in world? Mumbai think is 551th.
Like · Reply · 35 · 20 April at 13:54

In the QS World University Rankings, another popular ranking commonly cited, the University of Mumbai is ranked 551st in the world [Link].

NUS on the other hand is ranked 22nd while NTU is 39th.

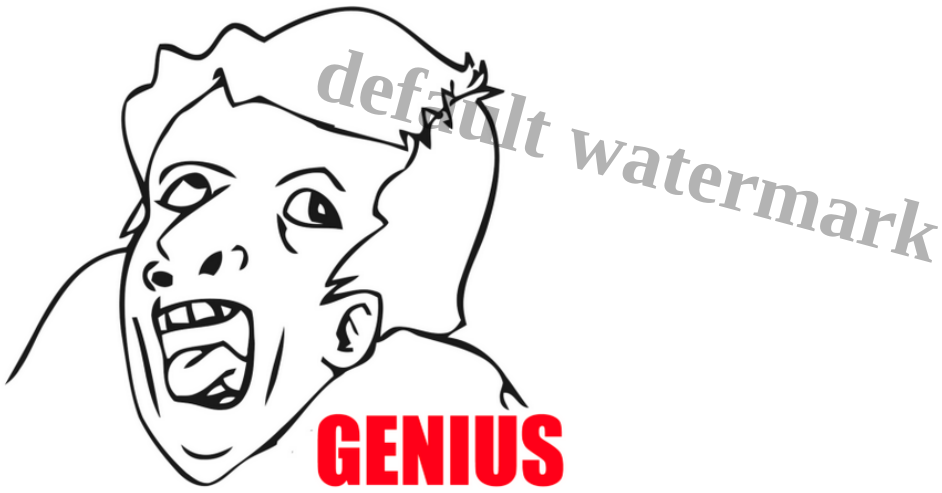
So, do you think that University of Mumbai is a "reputable university" as stated by IDA?

What do you think?

Credits: TR Emeritus



Maybe they forgot to do their due diligence before they searched (not a good PR practice), or were they trying to get away with it?



2. IDA angered more netizens when they announced they would â??actively moderate commentsâ?• on their Facebook



There were many ways this could have been phrased better, but I wonâ??t give out free advice here. After all, I was informed by a reader previously that one of Gushcloudâ??s top influencers, Eunice Annabel, used my remediation advice without permission nor giving due credit. (Now while I have no evidence to claim this, but trust me when I say my article went up hours before her apology was posted. I can also assure you, that if said blogger wishes to sue me for this, I have screenshot evidences with timestamps to prove this ð???



IDA is not the only one. NUS also drew flak not too long ago for having hired Associate Professor Anoop Shankar, whose false credentials came under fire when he was handpicked by West Virginia University to chair their epidemiology department which would spend taxpayersâ?? money â?? tens of millions, in fact.

> NBC News spoke with people familiar with all three probes and reviewed Rockett's 91-page report on Shankar, prepared partly in support of a lawsuit against his former colleague. Those documents, and several of Shankar's colleagues, tell a similar story, describing a charming, bright-minded impostor who built a career on a base of lies.

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Credits: NBC News. It is a pretty interesting read if you have the time.



Ok, you know Budget Babe isnâ??t going to leave you without some advice, so here goes:

In short, what can you do to stand out from the foreigners?

1. Be more realistic about your salary expectations.



Many Gen Y graduates tend expect high pay right from the start. Foreigners, on the other hand, are fine to work with less.

While we grouse about our take-home pay after 18% deductions, donâ??t forget either that your employer also has to pay additional 16% CPF contributions whenever they hire a Singaporean. Financially speaking, it makes more sense to hire a foreigner, doesnâ??t it?

I personally feel it is better to go in with a competitive rate, and then rise up the ranks accordingly. Iâ??ve also shared on this before (which you can read here).

2. Demonstrate an open heart and a willingness to learn.



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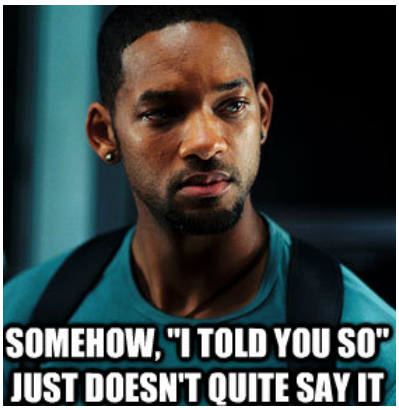
Too many Singaporeans like to go on and on about their achievements, but hey! The job interview is NOT a one-way pitch, it is meant to be a two-way dialogue on what HR is looking for and how you can fit that role. Most foreigners, on the other hand, are quieter about their achievements, and let their results speak for themselves.

While we need to of course strike a good balance between that, remember the age-old classic that empty vessels make the most noise.

Also, some Singaporeans are dreadfully hard to teach, because theyâ??ve grown up as the darlings of their family and are therefore convinced that they are truly a gem. Singaporeans also tend to be a little more arrogant sometimes.

Foreigners, on the other hand, tend to demonstrate a more earnest attitude in many interviews. One of my previous bosses hired foreigners to assist me, and they were seriously amazing. Their responsiveness and hard work was something I didnâ??t see compared to a Singaporean worker. Although sometimes their work had more mistakes, but I felt happier correcting them and guiding them because they were so eager to learn.

Contrast this to when I try to teach my sister, and she shows me attitude instead, or even argues with me and insists sheâ??s right, Iâ??m wrong.



3. Become an expert in your subject matter.

Thereâ??s tons of books and courses out there so there really is no excuse. If you speak smart, you come across as smart too.

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Too often HR managers encounter candidates with a brilliant resume, but who fare badly in a face-to-face interview context.

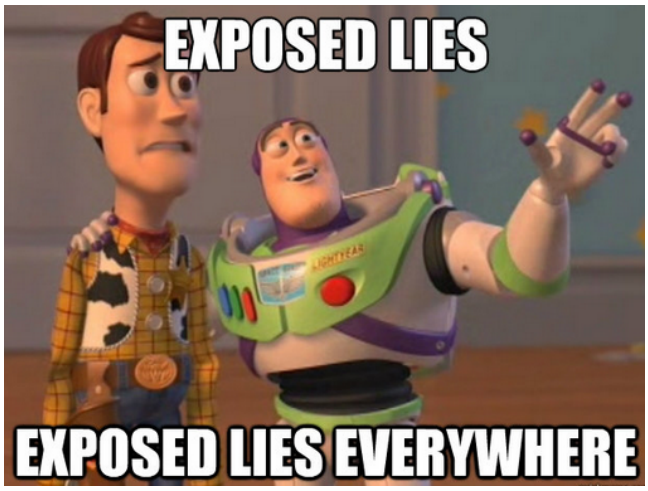
4. Continuously upgrade yourself.

With more money being allocated in this yearâ??s Singapore Budget for education, please make full use of it and upgrade your skills before they become outdated.

Weâ??re living in a very fast-paced society. Those who can keep up, win. Those who canâ??t, lose.

Thatâ??s how these foreigners with fake degrees got hired, donâ??t you think? They were smart enough to recognize that Singapore, as a meritocracy, values paper qualifications, and so while us locals were busy studying for our degrees, they went ahead to buy â??fakeâ?• degrees instead. After all, our educational certificate is the first step to the door, isnâ??t it? Their HR managers didnâ??t bother to check, nor did the company, and so these people managed to build a flying career based on these false credentials.

Unfortunately, their time is over now.



Category

1. Savings

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