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## **NTU Students' Union leads a joint initiative on employment opportunities to support students directly affected by COVID-19**

**SINGAPORE-** Nanyang Technological University's Students' Union has announced the pilot launch of an online Joint-Internship Platform for students affected by the pandemic, in order to prevent further curricular obstructions that may result in delays in graduation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of students from Institutes of Higher Learning have gotten recalled from their overseas exchange programs, and found themselves back in Singapore in the middle of the school semester, and unable to secure an internship position to tide themselves through until school reopens. In addition to this, many students who have chosen to stay in Singapore also took a hard hit by having their local internship offers rescinded. According to a survey done by The Straits Times\* on 1 April 2020, 22 per cent of the companies that were surveyed in Singapore are expecting to freeze hiring this year, taking into consideration the reduction of recruitment budgets. The sudden hiatus of such programmes ultimately brings about much uncertainty among undergraduates with many concerned about a possible snowball effect that may hinder their timely graduation in the long term. Many also expressed that they felt as though they were caught in the middle as they returned in the

middle of the school semester and many companies have closed their internship application window.

The Joint-Internship Platform was therefore created to provide internship opportunities for students directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Circuit Breaker period. This mainly involves students who have had their employment opportunities rescinded, or who were recalled from overseas programmes and are currently left in limbo. Companies may also use this platform to find student talents among those affected.

“With so many new initiatives coming up in the community, we wanted to do something that can more specifically, empower undergraduates to push on through this pandemic,” said Bryan Chiew, President of the NTU Students’ Union. “It’s a difficult situation for everyone but the best way to help is to stay united and help each other. We are very grateful to these companies for offering these opportunities.”

Students who are interested may view the available list of internship opportunities on the website (<https://www.ntusu.org/jointinternshipplatform>), and apply accordingly with their details and cover letter. Organizations who are keen to collaborate or register with the website may fill out the application form provided on the website.

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\*<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/manpower/8-of-singapore-companies-surveyed-have-cut-or-may-cut-salaries-due-to-covid-19>