

Eric Tan Jock Hai's opening gambit is brimming with passion. "Radiography is a highly-specialised field. I would advise anyone who wants to join this profession to have a good understanding of what it is really about. And, of course, to have a great interest in radiography!"

The no-nonsense Eric certainly practices what he preaches. After studying at Catholic Junior College and Nanyang Polytechnic, he took up a PSC Overseas Specialist Award (now called the MOH Health Science Scholarship) to study Medical Radiations Science at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Eric spent two years in Australia before returning to join Singapore General Hospital as a diagnostic radiographer in 2005.

As a specialist in radiation systems, Eric uses highly-advanced radiation technology to produce high-quality medical images, to aid doctors in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of patients' diseases or injuries.

"Being a radiographer enables me to utilise my medical knowledge, and physics, to provide care and help for patients," he says. And you know there is nothing else he enjoys doing more.



The X-Man.

Eric Tan Jock Hai

As a radiographer, **Eric Tan Jock Hai** produces high-quality radiographic images of the body to assist the healthcare team in diagnosing diseases and injuries.

University: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)
Degree: Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Radiations Science)

What attracted you to take up the scholarship?

The opportunities that will be given to me to excel in my interest in healthcare. Being on a public service scholarship, I would have the opportunity to contribute back to society during my bond in the restructured hospital.

What factors did you consider when choosing a scholarship?

The length of the bond, the place where I will be working at, and the career prospects of my future profession.

How were your undergraduate studies?
Barrier-free communication of thoughts and ideas with fellow lecturers, classmates, and fellow professionals.

How did your education help in your personal development as a student and as a person?

It helped me to obtain a higher level of knowledge, and more in-depth clinical training. The period spent doing research trained me to think analytically and solve challenges in a systematic manner.

How did you spend your vacations?

I went on a driving trip with a group of friends. It enabled me to try adventurous activities that I had never tried before. It allowed me to learn how to get things organised.

Are there any opportunities that are unique to your scholarship?

You can be part of a highly-specialised profession to use state of the art medical imaging equipment to help patients. You also have vast opportunities to be trainers, educators, sales representatives, and administrators.

Can you tell us about some of the challenges you faced in your scholarship?

One of the challenges had been to get food from shops after 5pm, unlike here in Singapore whereby food can be found easily round the clock.

How did your stay overseas improve your job?

The Australians were very patriotic and outspoken so I learnt to speak my thoughts out more. Especially since my job mainly entails communication with patients, it helped me become more outspoken and give more back to people.

What are your primary responsibilities in your job?

To produce high-quality medical images to aid the doctors in the diagnosis of diseases. To prescribe a minimum amount of radiation to patients while achieving this.

Can you describe a typical day at work?

I work as a part of a team of doctors, radiographers, and nurses to perform therapeutic procedures like balloon

angioplasty for diabetic patients, blockage of blood supply to tumours, or bleeding and relieving fluids accumulation in the body.

Please outline your career path since you joined SGH.

Upon graduation, I was assigned to perform plain film and real-time radiography. As I gained more experience, I specialised in angiography for a year; and am currently undergoing training in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Apart from working in clinical areas, I am given the opportunity to participate in research as the radiographers' representative in the department's research committee.

What qualities do you think are needed to succeed in your job?

Responsible, independent, mentally and physically fit.

What advice would you give to people who take interest in your line of work?

As this is a field filled with challenges and responsibility, I would recommend for them to have a proper understanding on what radiography is really about. Of course, interest is a primary requirement on anything you are about to undertake, or even, passion to be able to take your career forward into the next step.

“ Know what you want for your career. Have a good understanding of what is the course of study and whether you have a strong interest in it. ”