

I was a 16-year-old teenager when I decided to move to Australia, approximately 5 years ago. I had planned to study about the hospitality industry since then. However, this was not possible due to the age restrictions, which led me to study commerce at the University of New South Wales. Upon graduating in 2017, I had already made up my mind to apply for a master program in International Hotel Management at Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School. I knew it was going to be the start of my journey in learning more about the industry. Finally, I received the good news of being offered a seat at this school, along with a scholarship. I was ecstatic upon achieving this news, marking my first achievement in this upcoming new journey. Specifically, I started my program last April. I have learned a lot during the orientation alone, such as hospitality grooming standards. We were given a lot of information as well, including the different programs students can apply to and get involved in on campus. This includes the GPP program and the benefits it offers, which without a doubt interests me and other students as well. I had decided to focus on fulfilling the requirements in applying for the GPP program ever since. On my first term, I was ambitious to participate in different volunteering activities and finding a job at the same time. Together with my friends, we volunteered at the World Business Forum and The Starlight Foundation Event at the Four Seasons Hotel. Through those opportunities, we met a lot of people and got a taste of working in a hospitality industry. Shortly after, I was pleasantly surprised when I got a job offer at the Sydney Harbour Marriott. This was another achievement for me as I did not have any experience working in a hotel before. I learned countless lessons there not only about the industry, but soft skills and hard skills as well. This includes teamwork in real working condition, communication skills, software skills, and a lot more. Fast forward to my third term, I wanted to get more involved in campus, which encouraged me to apply for the ambassadorial position. I was lucky enough to get accepted, knowing there were more applicants than the number of vacancies at the time. I was grateful to have been able to maintain my grades as well even though it was challenging. I was also nominated at the Three Pillar Awards even though I didn't win. Being nominated alone was an honour for me. Moving on, I want to keep growing and learning more about the industry. I strongly believe that being a part of this GPP program will help me achieve that. My dream has always been to own a hotel back in my home country. I am still far from understanding this industry, but I am motivated and dedicated to learn more and grow. This GPP program will pave the way for me in achieving that end goal. Being recognised by the industry partners will be a huge honour for me. I am ready for new challenges and to explore more about this industry in my upcoming industrial placement.