

National Youth Council (NYC) x Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Webinar Series 2024-2025:

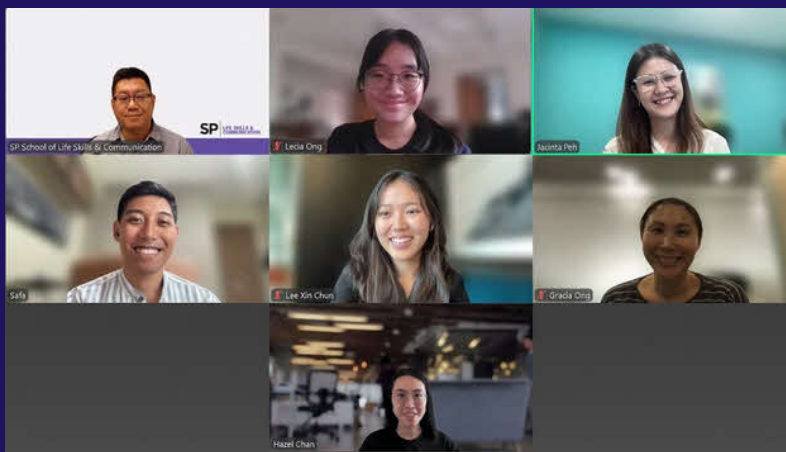
Webinar #4 - Green Jobs Reimagined: Designing Your Career Blueprint

16 July 2025 | Online (Zoom)

On 16 July 2025, 552 youths from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) participated in a webinar on career pathways, which discussed:

(i) opportunities in emerging sectors such as the green economy and how green collar jobs can align with individual passions, values, and interests; and (ii) skills, mindsets, and support networks needed to navigate non-traditional career paths.

This session was co-organised by SP and NYC, and involved the following panellists and moderator:



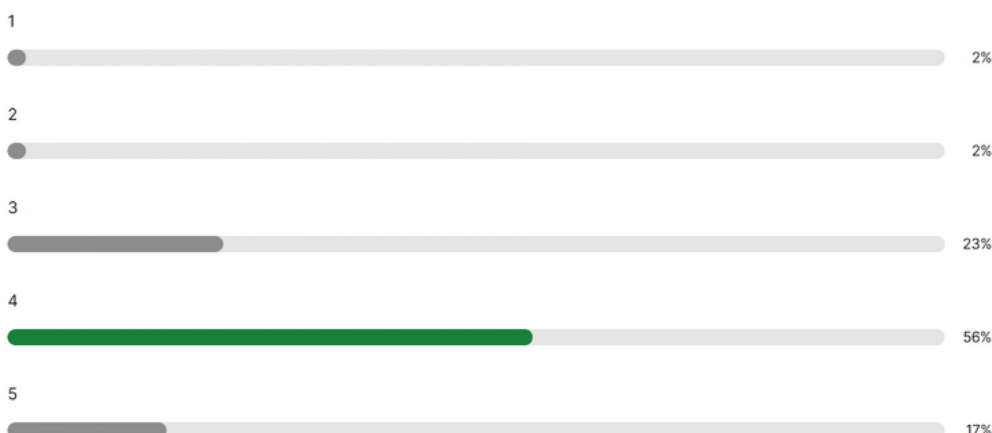
- Ms Lee Xin Chun, National University of Singapore (NUS) Graduate, and Fellow at Deutsche Bank's Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence
- Ms Hazel Chan, Partnership Executive, Mentoring SG and Host, Kickstarting a Green Career Podcast
- [Moderator] Mr Safafisalam Bohari Jaon, Senior Strategy Consultant, Eden Strategy Institute

The moderator began by sharing that NYC and its Government and non-Government partners were conducting a year-long series of engagements, one of which was the NYC x SP webinar, to develop the SG Youth Plan. He said that the SG Youth Plan was an inclusive action blueprint that intended to capture the hopes and aspirations of young Singaporeans, to empower them to co-create the future Singapore they want to see by catalysing opportunities, platforms, and resources for youths and others to take action together.

i) Exploring emerging sectors and skills, mindsets and supports networks needed for youths to navigate non-traditional career paths

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) on a scale of 1 to 5 how anxious they felt about employment and career prospects.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how anxious do you feel about employment and career prospects? 1 being "Not anxious at all" and 5 being "Extremely anxious".



- The top response was “4”.
- The moderator noted that most students were anxious about their employment and career prospects.

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) what they were most anxious about in terms of employability and career prospects



- The top response was “**competition**”.

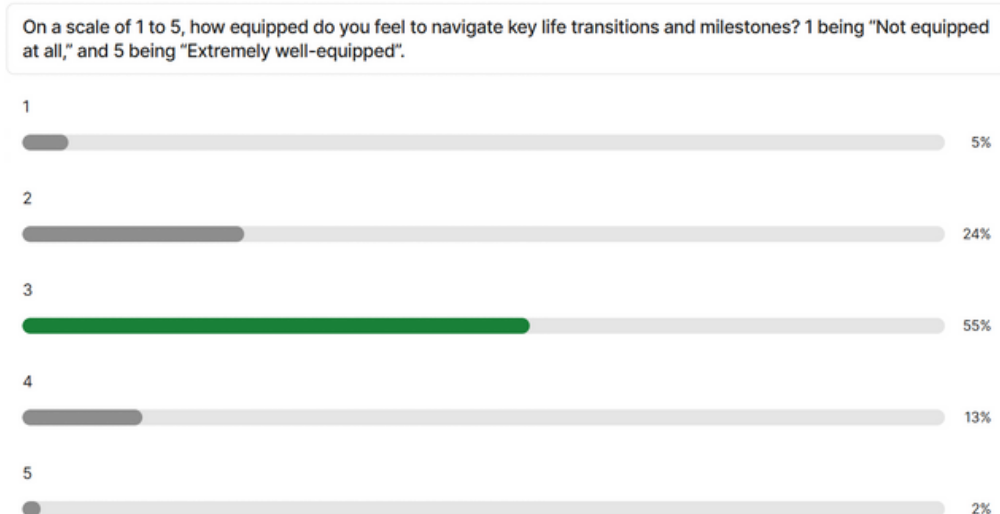
The moderator asked panellists about youths’ awareness of job opportunities emerging from Singapore’s drive towards sustainability and what were some career paths emerging from the growing green economy.

- Ms Lee said that sustainability roles fell into two distinct categories, (i) specialised positions requiring technical expertise, and (ii) traditional roles with integrated sustainability components. She said that participants should consider both pathways when exploring career options.
- Ms Lee said that she had undertaken an internship with the Public Utilities Board (PUB) in carbon capture, and the experience allowed her to understand how climate considerations were transforming various sectors, including finance, where innovative solutions were emerging to address environmental risks. She encouraged youths to stay informed about industry trends and align their skillsets with the evolving green economy.
- Ms Chan said that youths should look beyond explicitly sustainability-focused positions when approaching the green economy, as sustainability was reshaping organisational objectives across industries. She said that environmental awareness and social impact competencies were becoming increasingly essential even in traditional workplace roles. She said that youths, regardless of their academic background, should confidently pursue their interests while developing these competencies over time.

The moderator asked panellists about their experiences and the strategies they employed to secure jobs in the sustainability sector.

- Ms Chan said that in searching for a full-time job, youths should demonstrate passion during interviews by showing how they bridge the gap between their qualifications and desired roles. She said that she hosted a sustainability-focused podcast, which helped to serve as a tangible example of aligning her interests with potential employers.
- Ms Lee said that the current job market was highly competitive, particularly when pursuing niche interests. She said that youths should actively participate in networking events as these connections could lead to future opportunities through platforms like LinkedIn. She shared that actively being on LinkedIn also helped her to connect with like-minded people, which made it easier for her to land on opportunities. She said that post-graduate studies had also helped open doors for her peers in securing internships and job opportunities, and said that youths should remain open to different paths towards their career aspirations.
- The moderator said that he experienced challenges when transitioning into a sustainability-focused role, as recruiters often focused on his data science background. He said that youths should craft compelling narratives when changing industries, highlighting both their motivations and transferable skills.

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) to rank on a scale of 1 to 5 how equipped they felt in navigating key life transitions and milestones.



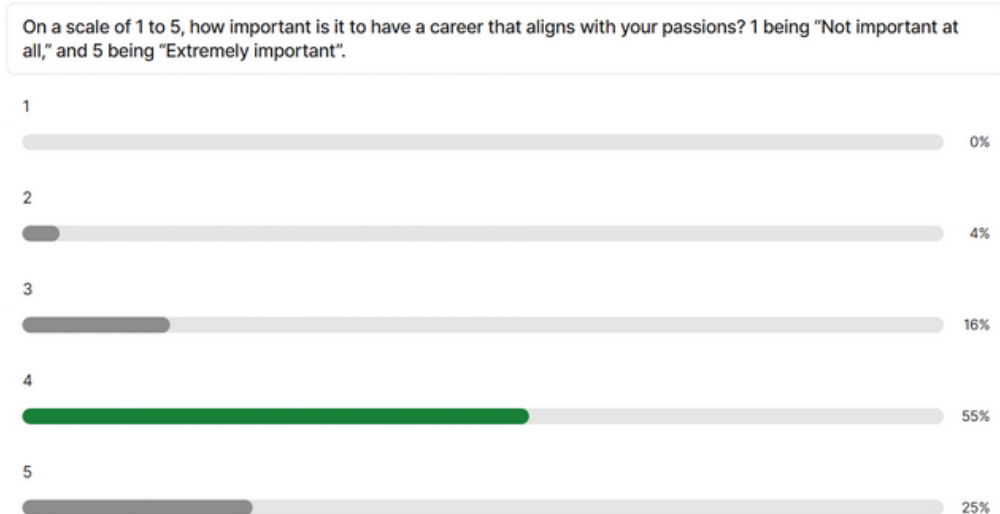
- The top response was “3”.
- The moderator noted that most participants are neutral about their confidence to navigate key life transitions and milestones.

The moderator asked panellists what were some practical ways youths could address or overcome challenges when pursuing unconventional careers.

- Ms Chan said that youths fall into two categories; those with clear career goals and those still exploring. She said that youths who had identified their direction should build networks through one-on-one conversations, as these often revealed honest insights about job realities, required skills and potential challenges. Conversely, students in the exploration phase should seek mentorship to gain exposure to different career paths. She said that her experience as a mentee provided her with a valuable starting point in developing clearer long-term career goals.
- The moderator said that youths could bridge their interests and career readiness by participating in relevant Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), seminars, and external volunteering activities.

ii) Pursuing passion and purpose-driven careers

Participants were asked (*via Slido*) to rank on a scale of 1 to 5 how important it was for them to have a career that aligned with their passions.



- The top response was “4”.
- The moderator noted that aligning careers with personal passions had become increasingly important to today’s youth.

Participants asked (via Zoom Webinar Q&A) if panellists would encourage students to pursue voluntary internships during the holidays, and how students could better source internship opportunities.

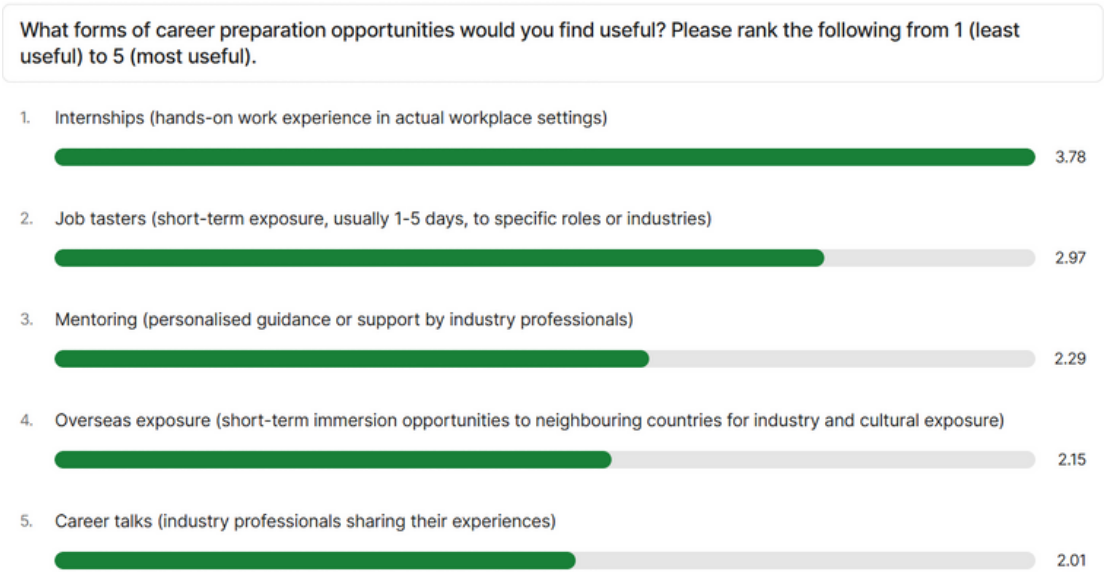
- Ms Lee said that internships provided valuable exposure where youths could clarify their long-term goals and identify suitable career opportunities. She said that internships helped develop work habits, understand different working styles, and build transferable skills.
- Ms Chan said that she balanced part-time university studies with internships by thoroughly planning her semesters and working hours. She said youths with heavier course loads should consider part-time internships, and stints lasting three to six months allowed youths to explore potential careers without long-term commitment. She said that she sourced for internship opportunities through LinkedIn and InternSG.
- The moderator said that the quality of internship experience mattered more than quantity, despite recent media emphasis on “intern-maxxing” where students accumulate multiple internships. He said that youths should focus on internships that provided genuine value through industry knowledge or practical skills not taught in school, rather than pursuing them solely for resume building or monthly allowances.

The moderator asked panellists how their involvement in various environmental initiatives, from student organisations to hosting a podcast series, shaped their career pathway.

- Ms Lee said that she brought together student groups across universities through the Inter-University Environmental Coalition for collective learning, and members were required to be resourceful and proactive in seeking opportunities and support. She said that soft skills, such as networking and collaboration, were essential, and building diverse networks helped broaden her understanding of sustainability
- Ms Chan said that her podcast guests often shared experiences of transitioning from their original fields of study into different industries, which inspired her shift from marketing to purpose-driven work. She said that the professionals she interviewed had made multiple career transitions, demonstrating that career pivots were common and achievable.

iii) Empowering youths with confidence and support to forge their own pathways

Participants were asked to rank (via Slido) what forms of career preparation opportunities they would find useful.



- The top response from youth was “internships (hands-on work experience in actual workplace settings)”

The moderator asked panellists how local or overseas exposure helped shape their career in sustainability.

- Ms Lee said that her participation in the [Climate Youth Development Programme \(CYDP\)](#) provided insights into international climate negotiations through her involvement in the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Azerbaijan. She said that during her visit, she learned from representatives of countries like Tuvalu and the Philippines about their direct experiences with the impacts of climate change. She said that these experiences deepened her understanding of global climate issues and reinforced her optimism when facing burnout. She said that overseas programmes like the [Youth Expedition Project \(YEP\)](#) helped build international networks through meaningful community engagement.
- Ms Chan said that youths could gain global perspectives through accessible platforms like the [Advisory Mentorship Programme](#), which hosts career talks with industry professionals.

Closing Remarks:

The moderator asked panellists to share advice for youths pursuing purpose-driven careers.

- Ms Lee encouraged participants to maintain hobbies and CCAs to support their mental well-being as these activities prevented burnout and sustained motivation, while creating natural professional connections through shared interests. She said that youths should maintain optimism and build supportive communities when pursuing purpose-driven careers. She said that many businesses were actively seeking sustainability solutions, and youths should demonstrate how their skills could help companies achieve their goals.
- Ms Chan said that youths should balance purpose with practical considerations when considering career choices. She said that they should evaluate specific roles and compensation based on individual financial needs to assess risks.
- The moderator said that youths should address fears by considering the worst possible outcome, planning responses and identifying ways to mitigate or take responsible risks.

Here are some available resources for youths looking to start defining their own version of success and find their own mentors:

- **Young NTUC x Mentoring SG: Sustainability Mentorship Programme*** <https://youth.ntuc.org.sg/event-details/young-ntuc-x-mentoring-sg-sustainability-mentorship-programme>
- **Advisory Mentorship Programme*** <https://mentorship.advisory.sg/>
- **Sustainability Exchange*** <https://www.ebimpact.org/programmes/sustainability-exchange>
- **Kickstarting a Green Career Podcast** <https://open.spotify.com/show/6tKNlppRdxLZ0yGpRAH5gM?si=68015a1b568e48ad>
- **Discover: On My Way** <https://discover.nyc.gov.sg/omw>
- **MentoringSG** <https://mentoring.sg/>
- **Singapore Polytechnic Education and Career Guidance (ECG)** Students can request an appointment to consult their respective schools' Education and Career Coach (ECC) at <https://www.sp.edu.sg/student-services/education-and-career-guidance> by clicking on the "For Full-Time Students" button. Students can also walk into T127 ECG Consultation Rooms every Wednesday and Thursday during term time between 12pm - 3pm (no appointment required).

*Note: The current run for all the programmes has closed, but you can keep a lookout for upcoming runs.

SG Youth Plan

To encourage a whole-of-society effort in supporting youths' aspirations, NYC will not only be engaging youths from all walks of life but also non-youth stakeholders from the rest of society.

- **Want to share your aspirations, voice your ideas, and connect with others who are just as passionate about making a difference to Singapore?** Find out how you can take part in the [SG Youth Plan](#) engagements and other opportunities in NYC! You can also lend your voice to issues youths are concerned about through completing online tasks on [CrowdTaskSG](#).