

IFT hosts Tourism Education Student Summit: Winter 2016 to promote undergraduate research

The Institute for Tourism Studies of Macao (IFT) hosted its first Tourism Education Student Summit (Ted Summit) - Winter 2016 on January 13, 2016. This event was an opportunity for the public to view the best of our senior student researchers present their findings after having completed a research-based investigation of the current state of affairs within the Macao tourism industry.

Starting from the 2015/16 academic year, IFT's Bachelor of Science daytime degree programmes have incorporated this capstone graduation requirement to ensure that our graduating students have capacity, not only in practical operations but in analysing and understanding how to utilise current trends in the industry. There are 131 undergraduate candidates in total have successfully completed this research component in the first semester of this academic year. IFT is the only higher education institution in Macao that includes this individual research component as a graduation requirement for all its Bachelor of Science undergraduate candidates. Industry professionals and IFT faculty comprised the panel members for each of the four simultaneous sessions. Students presented their research findings and then responded to comments and questions from the panel. Finally 4 students with the best papers were selected and were awarded scholarships (see below table). This event was an opportunity for companies to view some of our best candidates as well as understand what the students have been able to discover through their investigations.

Best paper scholarship awardees:

Name	Specialisation
Daphne WANG CHAO	Tourism Event Management
Mandy CHAN TSZ YING	Hotel Management
Natalie FONG MAN WAI	Hotel Management
Charlie CHAN CHOI NEI	Tourism Management

The TEd Summit represents the first public event of its kind in Macao to celebrate and promote respect for the practical applications of undergraduate research. As a public Higher Education Institution of Macao, IFT considers this element of its curriculum a flagship endeavour that will help to develop future managers. Guiding them through a scientific process of investigation gives them essential managerial tools. The TEd Summit events will occur twice annually, in winter and spring, to coincide with our different cohorts of research candidates.

Established in 1995, IFT offers the most extensive selection of tourism and

hospitality related bachelor degree programmes in Macao, and about twenty thousand participants attend its vocational and professional training courses annually. IFT collaborates with 85 universities and tourism organisations around the world, and builds strong links with 500 leading tourism and hospitality corporations to offer internship opportunities to its students. Being the first institution accredited by the UNWTO.TedQual Certification System for tourism education, IFT has the most bachelor degree programmes certified under the System of any tertiary education establishment worldwide. IFT has received the Medal of Merit in Tourism from the Macao SAR Government, and won twice the Gold Award in 'Education and Training' from the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

Public Relations
Institute for Tourism Studies
13 January 2016

97/001REL/RP/16