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Tommy Khoo

Profile: Tommy Khoo | BSc Mathematics and Economics, Singapore

'I did not do well in my 'A' levels and was unable to get into one of the local universities (NUS, NTU). Among other university degrees available locally, the University of London appeared to have the largest student population, most institutional support and seemed to be the most widely recognized.

I learned to motivate myself through difficult times. During the third year of my degree, many family members fell ill and some passed away. Due to this, I had to take the year off, delaying and possibly giving up my plans for future studies. I learnt

valuable life lessons struggling to motivate myself to finish the final year with good grades.

Another lesson learned from completing this course is that we are not defined by our failures. For many years I was under the impression that I wasn't "good" at studying, in particular Mathematics, because of my very bad 'A' level performance. I have since ceased to view failure as "evidence" of an inadequacy in ability.

We were allowed to take papers in some of the topics that make up the

foundations of mathematics. Having this background was tremendously useful, both for gaining admissions and for handling current postgraduate studies, which draws heavily on assumed mathematical background.

For those who are unable to do a degree course on campus at a university, and want to pursue mathematics or mathematical economics, this is an excellent choice. In particular, from personal experience, I think this is an excellent "second chance" for someone who might have done poorly in

their exams in the past but still wants to do mathematics or mathematical economics formally. This degree has been proven to be well recognised by top universities in the UK. If it didn't exist, I probably would never have had the opportunity to gain admission into a top UK university like Oxford.'

Tommy studied at Singapore Institute of Management and gained his BSc degree with First Class Honours. He is now pursuing an MSc at the University of Oxford.