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# Jose's Story

LEVEL 9

45 WEEKS

MASTER OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

## Yoobee College Student Success Story

### 1. Can you introduce yourself?

Hi, I'm Jose, originally from the Philippines, and I'm currently in my final term of the Master of Software Engineering at Yoobee Colleges. I've been working as a software developer for seven years, focusing on full-stack development for web and mobile applications. Studying at Yoobee has been an exciting journey, and now I'm wrapping up my studies while working in my internship.

### 2. Where did you do your internship, and what was your project about?

I got an internship at FoodMe Limited, where we're working on an app called Favour. It's a meal kit app that helps users plan and prepare their meals. I chose this project because my experience aligns well with what the company is doing—they're building both a mobile app and a back-end system, which fits my skill set.

### 3. How did you find your internship?

I found it myself! Initially, I applied to internships on LinkedIn and Seek, but got no responses. So, I changed my strategy—rather than applying to listed positions, I looked for startup founders in New Zealand. Having run my own startup for two years before coming here, I knew I could add value to early-stage companies.

So, I started connecting with startup founders, learning about their businesses, and seeing how I could help. That's how I found Favour. After a trial project, they were impressed with my work and offered me an internship, which later turned into a job offer.

## Student Profile

### NAME

Jose Jr. Tolentino Abril

### NATIONALITY

Philippines

### COURSE

Master of Software Engineering (Level 9)

### INTAKE

March 2024

*"Studying at Yoobee has been an exciting journey, and now I'm wrapping up my studies while working in my internship"*

Industry-based capstone research project

TRIMESTER 1



TRIMESTER 2



TRIMESTER 3

#### 4. How supportive was Yoobee in finding internships?

Yoobee gave us some resources on where to look for internships, and the advisors and lecturers were helpful since they have connections with companies here in New Zealand. But since each class has around 20 students, the opportunities were a bit limited. That's why I think networking is the best way—especially if you're new to New Zealand.

#### 5. What was the biggest challenge during your internship?

The hardest part at the beginning was understanding their tech stack and getting familiar with the existing codebase. That's a common challenge for developers, especially when the code isn't well-documented. One thing I really appreciated about working here in New Zealand is the work-life balance. It's very different from what I was used to!

#### 6. What new skills did you gain during your internship?

I wasn't very familiar with Django and Python before, so working at Favour really helped me learn those. At Yoobee, we covered Python in our first trimester, which made it easier for me to pick up Django during my internship.

#### 7. What was the most valuable lesson from your capstone project?

Definitely teamwork. Before coming to New Zealand, I mostly worked remotely and independently, so I wasn't used to working closely with a team. At Favour, I had to collaborate more, talk to colleagues, and really engage in discussions. That was a great learning experience.

#### 8. What impact did your project have on the company?

The Favour app has been in the market for two years now, and the feature I worked on during my internship is already being used by real users! Right now, around 10–20 users interact with it daily, which is exciting to see.

#### 9. What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to continue working at Favour for now. I moved to New Zealand last year with my wife and child, who were able to get their visas through my student visa. My wife has an open work visa, and my child has a dependent student visa. Right now, we're settling in, and I'm focused on growing my career here.

#### 10. What advice would you give to future students?

Network, network, network! That's the biggest thing I've learned. If you're new to New Zealand, making friends and professional connections is crucial. It helps you find jobs, internships, and settle in more easily. Also, study hard, finish your coursework, and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone!

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connections is crucial."*



#### JOSE IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.

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