

Putting the spotlight on student innovation and the Alumni Mentorship Programme

Adapted from a report by Vedant, Grade 12, Dover Campus

In a world where change is more the norm than the exception, an 'outside the box' approach to problem solving is high on the list of priorities for organisations seeking to recruit the best young talent in the market. At UWCSEA our learning programme is built to equip students with the necessary skills and qualities to meet the fluid needs and challenges of the future world of work and our Alumni mentor programme is helping them to pair and shape these skills and creativity with current world experiences.

Vedant, a Grade 12 student on Dover Campus, shares his story about using innovative thinking to meet an important need, and how he is tapping into the UWCSEA Alumni mentor programme for the support he needs to scale his idea.

The need

Through observations of and conversations with friends and student groups, I noted that there is a lack of options for students to showcase their work. Some students were posting on Instagram, some on Medium, some made physical magazines, and some were simply unable to share it at all. I wanted to create a single platform—a positive, interactive and collaborative space for student work.

The idea

Introducing, Lumenol—an online hub for sharing and celebrating student-led innovation. Students, or student groups, can post creative work and others on the platform can like and comment on the work, creating a positive and encouraging community around student innovation and ideas.

The customisable profile pages also serve as a personalised mini-website/portfolio page for students which they could send

as part of their university application, internship application, or job CV.

My vision is that Lumenol becomes a one-stop-shop for all students to share, inspire and engage with student created projects and content.

The journey so far

My journey has been a non-linear trail of discovery, pivoting and problem solving.

I spent over a year understanding the problem, and designing, building and coding Lumenol from scratch. My developing skills gained through hackathons and projects at the UWCSEA IDEAS Hub proved useful, but still, I had never taken on a project of this scale. I had to design and build with the future in mind and anticipate challenges that come with scale. I researched as much as I could, tried and failed numerous times, and learnt through the experience.

After finalising the initial designs, I collaborated with friends to name the platform. We decided on a variation on Luminol, a chemical used by many IB Chemistry students. Luminol creates a beautiful blue glow and Lumenol is designed to put the spotlight on student creativity.

The growth of Lumenol has been a journey of twists and turns, failing and learning. It continues to evolve, helped by the feedback and creative input from students and mentors around me. It's this collaborative approach instilled by UWCSEA that has made Lumenol possible. It was a jump into the unknown and I am glad I took it.

The next steps with UWCSEA's Alumni Mentorship Programme

I'm now looking to leverage UWCSEA's incredible network of alumni to help guide me through Lumenol's future as



Vedant '23 and Spencer Ansley '95

an official platform with students from all over the world.

There are about 14,000 UWCSEA Alumni globally, all with an amazing array of skills and real-world experience. The UWCSEA Alumni Relations team has been extremely helpful, connecting me with UWCSEA Alumni through their mentorship programme. These mentors will help and guide me with important next steps to launching Lumenol. This is one of the things that makes our UWCSEA community so special, our Alumni remain connected and give back through programmes and opportunities such as this. I'll be an alumnus soon and I hope to be able to do the same.

I hope to officially launch Lumenol soon and I can't wait to see the positive impact it has on showcasing student innovation.

To find out more about the UWCSEA Alumni Mentorship Programme, please contact alumni@uwcsea.edu.sg

Scan the QR code to view the Lumenol prototype:

