



Singapore University of Social Sciences law school dean Leslie Chew with Mr Aadil Dafir, who is into his second year at the school. Mr Aadil says many of his friends in school have the community at heart. PHOTO: AZIZ HUSSIN FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

# Law student hopes to upgrade himself and help the community

In his first year of school, Mr Aadil Dafir found himself searching online for definitions of legal terms, to catch up with his peers.

“My class had a lot of paralegals, so they already had industry knowledge and knew the lingo and how it worked,” said the 33-year-old who belongs to the first batch of students at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) law school and is now into his second year.

“I was a bit surprised so I had to look up things such as ‘originating summons’ and ‘civil procedure,’” he added.

But the private tutor, who is single, pressed on, and today, has a grade point average of 3.8 out of 5.

Since he graduated with an aerospace engineering degree from the Nanyang Technological University in 2010, he has followed

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

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**MR AADIL DAFIR**, a private tutor who is from the first batch of SUSS law students, on following his heart to help people.

his heart to help people – turning down a job offer as a pilot to run a social initiative matching volunteers to projects overseas for close to three years, before moving on to teaching.

In 2013, he started Gamechange Education Centre, which provides mathematics and science tuition to secondary school and junior college students.

Two years later, he started teaching madrasah students, and even opened free weekly classes at a mosque for students.

“I saw a newspaper article about the new law school and I thought maybe this is the next step, to upgrade myself and use the knowledge I will gain in law school to help the community,” said Mr Aadil.

“We deal with the whole scope of law, not just family and criminal law. But many of my friends in school have the community at heart,” he added.

He gets \$7,500 a semester from the Ministry of Law Study Award. It covers some of his tuition fees, which come up to about \$160,000 in total. He also took a bank loan and forks out \$10,000 per semester to pay for the course.

“The degree is quite pricey, so I have to continue working.

“I want to motivate my students and show them it’s possible not to back out of something that is difficult,” he said.

**Amelia Teng**