

## PEOPLE

### CAREER-WISE

## MILLY CHOY, 24

### RESEARCHER WITH STELLAR AMBITIONS

Pursuing a PhD in Integrated  
Biology and Medicine (on an A\*STAR  
Scholarship); future educator

**You may have spotted me at...** the School of Biological Sciences (SBS), where I studied Biological Sciences (Class of 2010).

**Accomplishments** First Class Honours, CN Yang Scholar under the Nanyang Scholarship, A\*STAR Scholarship.

**NTU has inculcated in me...** the ability to adapt and deal with the challenges of research in an ever-changing world. This has proven extremely helpful in my postgraduate studies, as hard work doesn't necessarily guarantee good results in research, and one must always be prepared for the unexpected.

**Why NTU?** I was privileged to be selected as a Nanyang Scholar and CN Yang Scholar. The Nanyang Scholarship allowed me to chart my own path for the future, and I was attracted to NTU's emphasis on the sciences and mathematics. Thus, it was natural for me to come here.

**The NTU factor** The university offered me the opportunity through the Global Immersion Programme to study at the University of Washington, Seattle. From burnt dinners to extreme sports (by my standards, at least), the trip was an exciting journey of self-discovery. Without these opportunities, I guess I wouldn't have become a graduate student.

**Education to me is...** like a delicious plate of *rojak*. You need a bit of everything to have a good and balanced education.

**Pet research project** Dengue is prevalent in Singapore and there is no licensed vaccine for it at present. Examining and understanding the pathogenesis of dengue, such as the mosquitoes in question and their interaction with the dengue virus, may help us better understand the epidemiology of this disease. This may be useful for future predictions of epidemic dengue outbreaks.

**Caring and sharing** A fellow CN Yang Scholar from Azerbaijan brought in a cake after lessons to celebrate his country's national day with us. On 9 August, we bought him an "I love Singapore" T-shirt to celebrate our national day too.

**NTU is like a second home** When staying in the hall, everyone shared their things and took good care of one another. There was a great spirit of camaraderie among us.

**Life lessons learnt** Happiness must be the key ingredient in whatever you do.

**Next up...** I hope to graduate with flying colours and go overseas for my postdoctoral training. Eventually, I want to come back to Singapore to contribute to society.

It was thanks to NTU's strong research culture that I was first exposed to research. The professors were really supportive of us students doing research attachments in their laboratories, even during the holidays.



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