

NEWS RELEASE

Singapore, 1 March 2021

NTU Singapore holds Convocation for Class of 2020

- *More than nine in 10 graduates secured jobs six months after completing final exams*
- *Graduates from five inaugural interdisciplinary degree programmes, including Psychology and Media Analytics, and Economics and Psychology*

Despite a challenging economic environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than nine in 10 fresh graduates from **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's** (NTU Singapore) Class of 2020 were employed within six months of completing their final examinations.

This cohort also earned higher salaries, with those graduating from Medicine, Accountancy and Business, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Aerospace Engineering courses among the top earners.

To celebrate their achievements, NTU Singapore is holding in-person convocation ceremonies for its graduates. In the next two weeks, over 4,300 graduates will attend the in-person Convocation ceremonies from 1 March to 16 March.

The Convocation, a highlight on NTU's calendar of annual events, was postponed last year due to the restriction on large-scale events implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual celebration was held last July to mark this important milestone for over 9,400 graduates in the cohort.

Addressing the Class of 2020, **NTU President Professor Subra Suresh** said: "Last year, as the world turned upside down with the COVID-19 pandemic, you faced the disappointment of missing a live graduation. NTU held a virtual event last July to celebrate your achievements. This event has been planned in keeping with all the stringent safety measures for COVID-19.

"Every generation has its unique purpose. History has shown time and time again that when young people emerge from highly challenging periods, tested, and tempered by crises, they approach their lives, careers, and service to society with reinforced determination, vigour, purpose, and extraordinary resilience. This moment is your

invitation to put your NTU education to work to help restore and reimagine the post-pandemic world.”

Inaugural graduates in five new programmes

The first convocation ceremony held today for the Class of 2020 was attended by **Her Excellency, President Halimah Yacob**, who witnessed NTU welcoming its first batches from five new interdisciplinary degree programmes.

The new programmes are:

- English Literature and Art History;
- Psychology and Linguistics & Multilingual Studies;
- Economics and Psychology;
- Economics and Public Policy & Global Affairs; and
- Psychology and Media Analytics.

One of them is **Lee Pei Qi**, who graduated from the **Economics and Psychology** degree programme. “I have always been interested in human behaviour and economics, so the interdisciplinary nature of my degree programme was a perfect fit for my interests.” Following her internship at investment banking firm JP Morgan, she was offered a full-time position under the firm’s Global Finance and Business Management Graduate Programme.

She added: “I learnt to think analytically through the various quantitative courses I took in NTU, and honed soft skills like my communication skills, as I had to explain my research to peers who are from different fields. These skills have helped me to secure my job and are definitely critical in my workplace.”

For **Nadia Alang**, a research assistant at NTU, her degree in **English Literature and Art History** has exposed her to ideas that can be connected to new paths for research. “Majoring in two disciplines that are already so interconnected in their own ways has trained me to approach ideas in multiple ways. My degree has also increased my adaptability in a globalised world wherein cultures are intermingling. With the rapid rise of digital media culture, being well-versed in history and cultural studies becomes important in keeping up with the ever-changing times.”

At the first convocation ceremony, **Prof Suresh** said: “As part of **NTU 2025**, our five-year strategic plan, we will deepen our disciplinary strengths while nurturing greater interdisciplinary collaborations that span the entire spectrum of our core activities. To this end, we recently launched two major initiatives: an interdisciplinary common core curriculum (ICC) starting with our undergraduate students who will join in August of 2021, and industry internships for all our undergraduate students.”

Prof Suresh also outlined how NTU responded to the pandemic challenge, including rolling out its **COVID-19 Relief Package** aimed at boosting job prospects for the Class of 2020.

“In conjunction with Workforce Singapore, NTU created several hundred paid traineeships to support you through the SGUnited Traineeships Programme. In addition, more than nine in 10 NTU graduates from your Class of 2020 have found a job within six months of graduation.”

One such graduate who received his job offer before graduation is **Computer Science** graduate **Aaron Chang**, who is now a data engineer at Shopee. “In NTU, aside from helping to develop mobile apps and even a chatbot for incoming freshmen, I was also active in co-curricular activities, from working with hearing-impaired children to chairing the NTU Students’ Union Ministerial Open Discussions and Events committee. I believe this holistic experience helped me stand out from others in today’s competitive job market.”

Follow the NTU Convocation ‘live’ via 360-degree streaming

For those who are not able to join in-person, they can follow the NTU Convocation Ceremonies ‘live’ via an immersive 360-degree livestream.

Introduced for the first time at an NTU Convocation, the high-definition, real-time streaming aims to reach a wider audience, including the Class of 2020 who are overseas.

The livestream will be available at: <https://youtu.be/d8T0TozSVD8> and <https://vimeo.com/515660037#t=4620s>

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NTU Convocation 2020 by the numbers:

- 9,418 graduates
- 6,045 Bachelor’s Degree graduates and 3,430 Higher Degree graduates
- 239 Bachelor’s graduates receiving double degrees
- 2,841 graduates receiving Master’s degrees
- 589 graduates receiving Doctorate degrees

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Media contact:

Foo Jie Ying

Manager, Corporate Communications Office
Nanyang Technological University
Email: jieying@ntu.edu.sg

About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges. It also has a medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, established jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Ranked amongst the world's top universities by QS, NTU has also been named the world's top young university for the past seven years. The University's main campus is frequently listed among the Top 15 most beautiful university campuses in the world and has 57 Green Mark-certified (equivalent to LEED-certified) buildings, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg.