

## More than 9000 graduates from NTU Class of 2019



Over 9,000 in the Class of 2019 from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) will graduate in 20 ceremonies starting from today. The first ceremony is presided over by Singapore President and NTU Chancellor Halimah Yacob.

NTU Convocation 2019 will see more than 6,000 graduands receive their Bachelor's degrees, and over 3,000 their Masters or Doctoral degrees in the eight-day event. This year NTU started a new tradition of individually recognising all its PhD graduates in two earlier hooding ceremonies to welcome them into the academy of scholars.

NTU President Professor Subra Suresh said, "Today, our graduates leave NTU with the knowledge that their NTU education has prepared them to excel in whatever career path they choose to pursue. Their well-rounded education for which NTU is known includes overseas internships, global perspectives, industry engagement and connections to local community. These opportunities equip our graduates with the skills and values that will enable them to succeed in the journey ahead."

The combination of internships and technology-based interdisciplinary learning at NTU has helped graduands like Trudy Sih Shu Min win three job offers from multinational corporations. The graduand of the Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP), NTU's premier engineering

programme, has joined Amazon Web Services as an associate professional services cloud architect.

Trudy said, “NTU’s REP programme covers a broad spectrum of multidisciplinary subjects, and gave me great exposure to both the engineering and business fields. It also provided me with many opportunities to learn, such as my year-long exchange programme at the University of California, Berkeley, and my internship experience with a SingTel’s venture company in San Francisco. Aside from technical expertise, I also built up other skill sets such as soft skills and presentation skills, which have helped me to better fit into my current role at Amazon Web Services.”

Another graduand who has benefitted from his internship experience is Dexter Soh Jun Wei, who is now on the Rolls-Royce Supply Chain Management Graduate Development Programme.

Dexter, who majored in environmental engineering, said, “Without a doubt, NTU has given us the best in terms of technical knowledge and real-world experience through internships. Even though these are important, I feel that some of the more valuable lessons I have learnt in my time at NTU are resilience and grit. These are the traits that will get us through the tough times in this period of global uncertainty.”

### **Exemplary figures conferred NTU honorary degrees**

Besides a broad-based and industry-relevant education, NTU students also take courses to prepare them for their careers. Two such courses are offered by NTU’s Margaret Lien Centre for Professional Success (MLCPS) which is aimed at equipping students with the right set of skills and values for the workplace.

The Centre was set up in 2013 through a personal donation by local philanthropist Mrs Margaret Lien. To date, over 33,000 NTU students have been trained at the Centre.

In recognition of Mrs Lien’s passion and active support in promoting and raising the standard of education and living for the community, NTU will confer on her an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.

Previously the Chairman of the Lien Foundation from 2005 to 2009 and now the Governor Emeritus, Mrs Lien is an active philanthropist with a deep and abiding interest in the causes that the Foundation champions.

The Lien Foundation supports NTU in a series of initiatives, including the Lien Foundation-NTU Environmental Endeavour, the Lien Chinese Enterprise Research Centre, the Lien Challenge and Lien Public Service Excellence Index for Chinese Cities, among others.

Aside from setting up the MLCPS, Mrs Lien was also personally involved in Lien Foundation’s first few water and sanitary projects in rural communities in China, going into the field to witness the impact of its philanthropic work.

NTU is also conferring on Sir Keith O’Nions an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters to recognise his contributions towards the setting up of the NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) in collaboration with Imperial College London, and his extensive contributions during his term as a member of the NTU Board of Trustees, the Academic Affairs Committee, and the Enterprise Committee.

Sir Keith joined the NTU Board of Trustees in March 2011 when he was Rector of Imperial College London, which was then working with NTU to set up LKCMedicine. Sir Keith, as Imperial’s senior representative, helped to lay the foundation for Singapore’s newest medical school.

Prof Suresh said, “NTU is pleased to confer upon Sir Keith O’Nions and Mrs Margaret Lien honorary doctorate degrees, the University’s highest honour, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to NTU and the community. Sir Keith was instrumental in the establishment of LKCMedicine, and has contributed to the university significantly as a member of the NTU Board of Trustees. Mrs Lien is a champion of many impactful initiatives spearheaded by the Lien Foundation that have helped to raise the standard of education and living in the community.” Singapore’s second medical school for undergraduates, LKCMedicine will celebrate its second cohort of 75 graduates this year who will be serving the Singapore community.

### **Celebrating top students**

Wee Lin, a Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medallist, is the valedictorian of her cohort at LKCMedicine. Now a house officer at Tan Tock Seng Hospital’s general medicine department, Wee Lin said, “LKCMedicine’s patient-centred care approach and dedicated faculty have helped us build a solid foundation. As doctors, we aim to provide care and comfort not just for patients but for their families as well.”

Wee Lin is among the 37 recipients of the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal this year, which is awarded to students who have demonstrated academic excellence. Also presented at NTU Convocation 2019 are the Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Awards, which allows exemplary students to honour both an NTU faculty member and a teacher from their previous schools or institutions.

The teachers are recognised for their inspirational teaching with individual S\$5,000 cash grants established in their names. They can in turn nominate a student from their school to receive the S\$5,000 grant upon admission to NTU.

Edward Yee is among the 17 Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award recipients this year. The Nanyang Business School graduand overcame his learning challenges due to dyslexia, and went on to become Singapore’s first Rhodes Scholar in 14 years. Under the scholarship, he will do a double Masters in Social Data Science and Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at the University of Oxford.

Edward, who co-founded social enterprise Givfunds, said, “My time in NTU has given me incredible opportunities both at home and overseas. For example, I had the chance to work in

Silicon Valley as part of the Overseas Entrepreneurship Programme, learning about innovation, technology and start-ups there.”

Like Edward Yee, Aisyah Yusoff, another recipient of the Award, will be furthering her studies and pursuing her passion in research. “NTU has provided many opportunities for me in research, and through research, I hope to dispel misconceptions of under-represented communities in Singapore,” said the sociology graduand who had a second major in Public Policy and Global Affairs.

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**NTU Convocation 2019 by numbers:**

- 9,453 graduates
- 6,097 Bachelor’s Degree graduates and 3,356 Higher Degree graduates
- 465 Bachelor’s graduates receiving double degrees
- 2,777 graduates receiving Master’s degrees
- 579 graduates receiving Doctorate degrees

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