

Lifelong Learner Story Series ▶▶



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- ▶ Completed Bachelor Of Engineering (Electrical & Electronic Engineering)

What motivated you to choose the NTU Part-time Bachelor Of Engineering Programme?

After graduating from polytechnic, I applied to NTU's full time B.Eng programme but was rejected as my results were not ideal. I remember I was not too worried because I had to complete my 2 years of National Service.

Fast forward to when I was about to ORD, my friends and I asked each other's future plans and I found out that majority of them were going to further their studies. I considered changing my study field such as pursuing a private business degree as I might have a higher success rate of being accepted. However, I have come a long way in pursuing for an engineering specialisation. I have studied 5 years of engineering since ITE to Polytechnic, and I wasn't ready to give up without giving it a shot to pursue as my career. So, I decided to give myself 2 years to evaluate if this field suits me. Otherwise, it is still not too late to change. After a year of working, I enrolled in a one year part-time Specialist Diploma in Electrical Design & Operation at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. With 2 years of working experience and a specialist diploma, I then applied for NTU's Part-time B.Eng in EEE and got accepted. The reason why I chose this is because of its accreditation in Professional Engineers Board. To me, being a Professional Engineer is the highest achievement in this field and I am working towards my goal.

How did you manage your studies, family and working life?

To balance the three aspects, I chose to sacrifice some of my personal life for my part-time studies because it's a commitment that I have chosen, so I have to stick to it no matter how tough it gets. It is important to get support and understanding from your loved ones that you need to spend time on your academics. This means that you may not be able to go dating as often, or you may have to cancel the holiday that was previously planned. It is also important to plan a timetable that works for you and take breaks to recharge yourself no matter how hectic your schedule is as it helps in managing the stress.

How did the programme help you in your career?

The good part about this programme is that I am getting the same bachelor's degree as those who are studying full time. I was still gaining working experience while completing my bachelor's degree at the same time. Also, I get to tell people that I am a fresh grad with 4 years of working experience. Jokes aside, my previous company promoted me from assistant engineer to engineer in recognition of my 6 years of experience. I was also tasked to lead a newly joined engineer in a project, and I found out later that he studied NTU full time B.Eng and graduated in the same year as me. This shows that I actually have a head start compared to my fellow graduates!

Would you encourage your friends to embark on the NTU Part-time Bachelor Of Engineering Programme or even pursue their lifelong learning journey with NTU?

If you are thinking to take up part-time studies, it is not the easiest path but the test of your perseverance will be paid off with a lifetime satisfaction. Stay optimistic, if I can do it, so can you. You don't have to put your plans on hold, I got married during my second academic year and my baby girl was born right after my graduation. Everybody takes on a different path in life, most importantly is to enjoy the path you are walking on. Be happy!