

## Lifelong Learner Story Series ▶▶



### Chia Jie Xiang, Alumni of MAE/2020

- ▶ Member of Technical Staff at DSO National Laboratories
- ▶ Completed FlexiMasters in Power Engineering

#### Please share with us your professional life's journey and at which point in your career did you aspire to pursue this certificate?

I signed up for the courses to the FlexiMasters in Power Engineering offered by PaCE@NTU right after graduation as there were ongoing initiatives in upskilling and continuing education, especially for us from NTU Class

of 2020 who were impacted by the pandemic. Thus, I decided to grasp this opportunity to explore another field of engineering which I discover that the knowledge is relevant to my current job.

#### How did you find studying in NTU?

I enjoyed my 4 years of undergraduate study in NTU, which prompted me to enrol in PaCE@NTU's continuing education courses. My stand about upskilling did not change with the completion of this certificate, which is why I immediately enrol myself in Master of Science in Power Engineering right after. I feel that lifelong learning is critical for us to always stay at the forefront of technology advancement, and to maintain workforce relevancy in this time and age. It is also paramount for us to equip ourselves with additional knowledge beyond our main specialisation so that we can have a better overall understanding of how things work.

#### How did you juggle family/working life with your studies?

I was glad to have colleagues and family who were supportive of me to upskill by taking up this certificate. On the work aspect, my company was very supportive of their employees' continuing education and training and lifelong learning efforts, which allowed me to have some time off to attend my midterms and final exams. On my family side, they were understanding and willing to work around my study schedule, especially when nearing exams. Their support has definitely helped my learning journey possible.

#### Which aspect of this certificate do you like the most?

I like the modular structure of this certificate and how I can transfer the course credits earned to its relevant Master's programme. This is especially useful for working adults like me who are studying on a part-time basis, as this allows me to pace myself and plan accordingly to deconflict my work and study commitments. Also, the 5-year validity to credit transfer to its relevant Master's programme gives me time to plan before committing to it. Besides, this certificate was well structured to provide learner who has no background in Power Engineering with at least a fundamental understanding of the essentials. This equipped me with knowledge and skills of a field outside of my specialisation and better appreciate another field of engineering.

#### Has this certificate benefitted you in your career development?

This certificate equipped me with additional knowledge and skills outside of my main specialisation. It also allowed me to look at things from another perspective in the electrical engineering standpoint instead of purely mechanical. This benefits my multidisciplinary Research and Development work and provides me macro perspective.