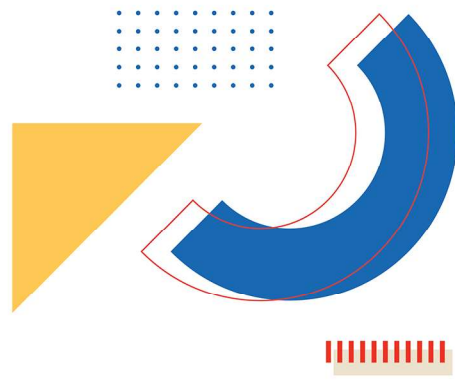




Humanities and Social Studies Education



About Us

The Humanities and Social Studies Education (HSSE) Department was constituted on 1 July 2000 from an amalgamation of the former Divisions of Geography and History. As one of the 10 departments in NIE, HSSE plays a significant role in supporting NIE's vision as a teacher education institute of distinction.

HSSE is primarily responsible for the academic development and professional preparation of student teachers in the subject areas of **Geography, History, Primary and Secondary Social Studies**. In addition we prepare student teachers in the teaching of **Elements of Business Skills, Principles of Accounting and the teaching of Economics**.

HSSE has a staff of highly committed and talented individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences in Education, Geography, History, Social Studies. We are committed to exploring innovative and alternative ways of delivering subject matter content in the Humanities and Social Sciences such as problem-based learning and inquiry approaches through face to face lessons as well as flipped classrooms and e-learning.

We engage in both education and discipline-related research to meet the needs of teachers in the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.



Programme Structure

HSSE offers the following subjects in the Bachelor of Arts in an Academic Discipline and in Education:

- Geography as Academic Subject 1 and Academic Subject 2;
- History as Academic Subject 1 and Academic Subject 2; and
- Social Studies (Secondary) as Academic Subject 2.

At the same time, we also offer training in Primary Social Studies for student teachers on the Primary Track of the BA/BSc (Academic Discipline & Education) Programme.

In addition, we provide Curriculum Studies (CS) courses in these subjects as well for both Primary and Secondary tracks.

Table 1 below shows the structure of the BA/BSc (Acad Dspln & Ed) Programme for Secondary Track students :

Year	No. of AS1 Courses	No. of AS2 Courses	No. of CS1 Courses	No. of CS2 Courses
1	4 (2 in each semester)	4 (2 in each semester)	N.A.	N.A.
2	6 (2 in semester 1; 4 in semester 2)	N.A.	1 (Semester 1)	1 (Semester 1)
3	3 (2 in semester 1; 1 in semester 2)*	N.A.	1 (Semester 2)	1 (Semester 2)
4	4 (Semester 1, inclusive of the Academic Exercise**)	N.A.	2 (1 in each semester)	1 (Semester 2)

*Year 3 Semester 1 is also reserved for international exchange.

#The Academic Exercise is compulsory for all AS1 students.

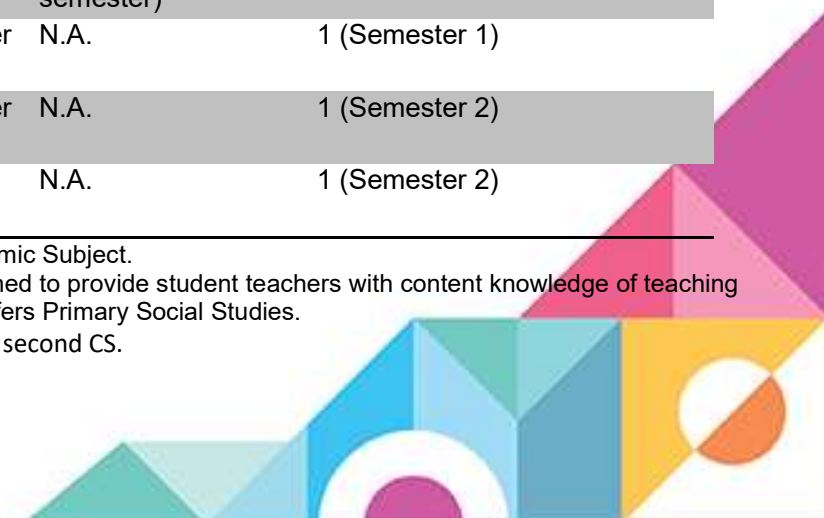
Table 2 below shows the structure of the BA/BSc (Acad Dspln & Ed) Programme for Primary Track students opting for Primary Social Studies as their 2nd CS subject:

Year	No. of AS1 Courses*	No. of SK Courses**	No. of CS Courses***
1	4 (2 in each semester)	2 (1 in each semester)	N.A.
2	6 (2 in semester 1; 4 in semester 2)	N.A.	1 (Semester 1)
3	3 (2 in semester 1; 1 in semester 2)	N.A.	1 (Semester 2)
4	4 (Semester 1, inclusive of the Academic Exercise#)	N.A.	1 (Semester 2)

*Primary Track students take only one Academic Subject.

**Subject Knowledge (SK) courses are designed to provide student teachers with content knowledge of teaching subjects offered in Primary schools. HSSE offers Primary Social Studies.

*** HSSE offers Primary Social Studies as the second CS.



Geography

Introduction

The BA (Academic Discipline & Education) Programme in Geography offered by HSSE is a unique programme that provides a well-rounded education in Geography as an academic discipline by focusing on **Physical Geography**, **Human Geography** and **Geographical Techniques** as the three key strands. By the end of the programme, our students would be well equipped with content knowledge in both Physical and Human Geography as well as be able to handle technical aspects of Geography through the application of statistics, GIS and remote sensing. They would also be trained, over the course of four years, in field methods.

From the second year onwards, our Geography students will be introduced progressively to key concepts and ideas in Geography Education to prepare them for teaching in the Geography classroom.

Courses

The range of Geography courses offered by HSSE is as follows:

Year	Courses Offered			
	Core Courses			
1	AAG10A Elements of Physical Geography AAG10B Elements of Human Geography AAG10C Techniques in Geography AAG10E Singapore in the Globalized World			
2	Elective Courses (Students must choose one course from each group and free to take remaining three (3) courses in any combination)			Curriculum Studies Courses
	Physical Geography AAG23E Climate and Climate Change AAG23G Coastal and Ocean Systems AAG23S Tropical Geomorphology AAG23T Biogeography and Soils	Human Geography AAG23J Economic Geography and Globalization AAG23Q Understanding Tourism AAG23R Health Geography AAG23U Urban Geography AAG23V Cultural Geographies	Geographical Techniques AAG23A Introduction to Statistics in Geography AAG23B Remote Sensing AAG23H Introduction to GIS	ACG22A Planning for Geography Teaching

3	Elective Courses (All students can take three (3) prescribed electives in any combination)			ACG32A Classroom based Teaching Strategies
	Physical Geography	Human Geography	Geographical Techniques	
	AAG33C Ecosystem Dynamics	AAG33E Feeding the World	AAG33H Applied Geographical Information Systems	
	AAG33D Resource and Environmental Management	AAG33G Ethnic Geography		
	AAG33M Hydrology and Watershed Management	AAG33J Population Geography		
		AAG33K Political Geography		
		AAG33L Cities of the World		
		AAG33N Independent Study on Geography Topics		
4	Core Courses			ACG42A Advanced Strategies in Teaching Geography (CS1 students only) ACG42B Field-based Teaching Strategies and Assessment in Teaching Geography (CS1 and CS2 students)
	AAG40A Geographic Thought			
	AAG40B Geographies of Sustainability			
	AAG40C Academic Exercise: Geography			
	AAG40D Geographical Methods and Fieldwork			

History

Introduction

The BA (Academic Discipline & Education) Programme in History offered by HSSE provides our students with a good foundation in the discipline of History, equipping them with not only historical content but also crucial research skills and disciplinary knowledge. The teaching and research expertise of the History faculty members are diverse, covering the regions of East, Southeast and South Asia, North America, Europe, Australia, and Africa as well as international relations, military history, oral history, gender history, heritage, the history of sport and the history of education.

The History Programme takes a disciplinary approach in our courses. By using primary documents as well as a hands-on approach through fieldwork and oral interviews, our students are prepared, in their content as well as pedagogy courses, for their future careers as teachers of History. At the same time, we also seek to imbue in our students a deeper understanding of the discipline and to inculcate in them the ability to read widely, think critically, and to be aware of the complexities and ambiguities in the world today.

Courses

The range of History courses offered by HSSE is as follows:

Year	Courses Offered		
	Core Courses		
1	AAH10A The Historian and His Craft AAH10B Biography and History AAH10C Singapore History: Making of a Global City-State AAH10D International History: From World War I to the Present		
2	Core Courses AAH20D Historical Interpretations AAH20E Modern Southeast Asia	Elective Courses (Students to complete 4 courses from the list below) AAH23D Early Modern Asia AAH23E Modern East Asia AAH23G Modern Europe AAH23H United States: Emergence of a Superpower AAH23J History and Film AAH23K Dawn of Asian Civilizations AAH23M Cold War Asia AAH23P: Undoing Empire	Curriculum Studies Courses ACH22A Introduction to the Teaching and Learning of Secondary History (for CS1 and CS2 students)

3	Elective Courses (Secondary track students must choose 3 courses from below; Primary track students must choose 3 from below) AAH33A 'If it bleeds, it leads': War and Peace in the Media AAH33B Aspects of Imperialism and Military History AAH33D Maritime China AAH33E Singapore History: Issues and Perspectives AAH33G The Japanese Occupation in Southeast Asia AAH33H Themes in Australian History AAH33J The Nineteenth Century World of Southeast Asia AAH33K Rise of Modern India AAH33N Heritage and Culture		ACH32A Learning to Teach for Historical Understanding (for CS1 and CS2 students)
4	Core Courses AAH40A Academic Exercise: History AAH40B Reading Sources: Evidence from the Past	Elective Courses (Students must take two courses from below) AAH43A Tradition and Resistance in Southeast Asia AAH43B Patriarchy and Gender: Women in China AAH43D History of Racial Thought AAH43G The Vietnam War AAH43H Seminars in Historical Thought and Practice AAH43J History, Memory and Violence in Asia	ACH42A Inquiry-based Experiential Learning (CS1 students only) ACH42B Assessment and Evaluation in Secondary History (for CS1 and CS2 students)

Social Studies

Introduction

The BA (Academic Discipline & Education) Programme offering Social Studies as a second Academic Subject is unique in Singapore. It provides students with grounding in the process of critical inquiry through a range of courses that draw from different disciplines such as History, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, and Political Science.

Courses

As Social Studies is offered as an AS2 subject, students need to only take four Academic Studies courses in Year 1, in addition to three Curriculum Studies courses over the four years of their study in NIE. The courses are as listed below and are offered only to students on the Secondary track with Social Studies as their AS2 and CS2.

Academic Studies Courses

AAL10B Identities in a Diverse World

AAL10C Singapore Studies

AAL10E Principles and Practices of Social Research

AAL10G Globalisation: An Introduction

Curriculum Studies Courses

ACL22B Social Studies Education in the Secondary School Classroom

ACL32B Inquiry-Based Learning Approach Towards the Teaching of Social Studies

ACL42B Assessing Learning in Social Studies

Primary Social Studies

Introduction

HSSE is the only Humanities department in Singapore that provide training to students in Primary Social Studies. The key focus of the Primary Social Studies programme in HSSE is on equipping students with the foundational knowledge of the two disciplines that undergird Primary Social Studies in Singapore, namely Geography and History. Students on the Primary Track of the BA/BSc (Academic Discipline & Education) Programme can opt for Social Studies as a Curriculum Studies subject and their programme of study will include Subject Knowledge (SK) courses and CS courses.

Courses

Subject Knowledge Courses

ASL10A Disciplinary Foundations in Primary Social Studies: Geography

ASL10B Disciplinary Foundations in Primary Social Studies: History

Curriculum Studies Courses

ACL20A Teaching Social Studies in the Primary Classroom

ACL30A Inquiry in Primary Social Studies

ACL40A Managing Diversity in the Social Studies Classroom

ACL40B Curriculum Leadership in Primary Social Studies

Information correct as of Jan 2026

Humanities and Social Studies Education Department

National Institute of Education