

Getting To Know Our Students

Becky Wong, PhD student



What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

I was attracted to the high calibre of research in NIE. I completed my Master's degree at the Centre of Neuroscience in Education at the University of Cambridge. When I told my then-supervisor that I was interested to pursue my further studies in Singapore, he spoke highly of his collaborators in NIE, and advised me to get in touch with them. Fast forward a year... and they are now my PhD supervisor and co-supervisor (Prof Rebecca Bull and Prof Kerry Lee).

How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

I really appreciate that the NIE faculty members in our department regard graduate students as junior colleagues rather than as students. In our research and even in first-year coursework, we are given a great deal of intellectual freedom and independence to come up with new ideas and to chart our own directions.

Becky

is a PhD student of Psychological Studies (PS) Academic Group and the Education and Cognitive Development Lab (ECDL). ECDL is one of the three research centres under the Office of Education Research in NIE.

What is your research on?

I am interested in the field of developmental numerical cognition, or how children learn mathematics. My current project looks at how English-Chinese bilinguals make associations between different forms of symbolic numerical representations—English number words ("eight"), Chinese number words ("八") and Arabic numerals ("8").

What impact do you wish to make with your research?

Not sure yet... Ask me again in two years!

What is the best part of being a student at NIE?

Definitely the graduate community—it's surprisingly international and diverse! We come from a range of cultural, professional, and academic backgrounds. It's fun getting to know each other, and it's a wonderful source of support when things go topsy-turvy (as they do) in the research journey.