

Getting To Know Our Students

Dr Betsy Ng, PhD graduate



Dr Betsy Ng is currently working as a research scientist at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and is a PhD graduate.

What are you currently working as?

As a research scientist in NTU, I am currently involved in educational research related to university students' motivation and learning.

What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

NIE focuses on excellence in education and has graduate programmes that broadly prepare us for situations both in and outside of education. I was enrolled in the Master of Science (Research) from 2005 to 2007, then Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) subsequently in 2008 at NIE. Both programmes have equipped me with the relevant skills and knowledge to solve problems at work.

What was your research on? Did the research yield the desired outcome that you hoped for?

My research interest is in human motivation, thus, my PhD research focused on students' motivation and learning in secondary schools, and the nurturing of intrinsic motivation in every individual (besides students) to pursue learning or an activity. My main research objective is to promote self-determined behaviour of the individual towards well-being, mastery and positive outcomes. With strong guidance and support from my supervisors, it has been an inspiring journey as the research yielded the desired outcome in students' learning.

How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

The best interactions I had with NIE faculty members were with my supervisors (Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia and Professor John Wang), and, especially, with the previous Sub-Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies & Professional Learning (GPL), Dr Koh Chong Lek, during my PhD course. I am very grateful to Dr Koh as he made an effort to understand the difficulties that graduate students may face and his door was always open for us. He was a good mentor and he would listen to us despite his busy schedule.

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

The best part was that I got to interact with my peers and use the facilities at NIE. I love the NIE library and I still visit the library regularly.

Has the programme been beneficial to you?

The PhD programme has equipped me with relevant skills and knowledge in becoming a researcher.