

# Getting To Know Our Students

Dr Nai Yuan Ting, PhD graduate



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is currently the Head of Department (Student Management) at Yishun Junior College and is a PhD graduate of Mathematics and Mathematics Education (MME) Academic Group.

### Which aspect of the programme and courses do you like the most?

My passion is in Mathematics. This programme has allowed me to learn new content in the area of Mathematics and picked up research skills. Through some of the graduate events such as the colloquium organised by Mathematics and Mathematics Education Academic Group, I had the opportunities to interact and share some of my research findings with fellow graduate students. Although the areas of research of my fellow graduate students were different from mine, some of the questions that they raised during the colloquium allowed me to think more deeply about my research findings and further refine them.

### Share with us a memorable experience you had during your time at NIE.

I remembered that in October 2015, I needed to proofread and submit one of my joint papers with my supervisor to a journal. But I was held up at work and could only reach NIE to meet my supervisor at around 6pm to do the last round of proofreading. We ended up refining some of the proofs for the theorems till 9pm. It was a memorable experience to me as I was both physically and mentally tired at that time, but was elated that this joint paper with my supervisor was finally accepted by the journal for publication after putting in nearly a year of hard work and effort.

### Describe your relationship with the NIE faculty members.

As I was once seconded to NIE as a teaching fellow, I initially felt awkward as some of the NIE faculty members were both my tutors as well as my ex-colleagues. The NIE faculty members are approachable and friendly, and they have a deep content knowledge of the subject. I worked well with my supervisor, Associate Professor Zhao Dongsheng, who has been most patient and accommodating to my schedule due to my hectic work commitments. I have learned a lot from my supervisor, be it Mathematics content knowledge, research skills or even life skills and values.

### At what point in your career did you consider pursuing a higher degree education?

I had always wanted to pursue a higher degree education, but only had the time and opportunity to pursue it 15 years after I obtained my bachelor's degree. After completing my Master's programme in Mathematics at NIE in 2008 – 2009 on a part-time basis, it did not take long before I enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme on a part-time basis in 2010. As I did a research project during my Master's programme under Associate Professor Zhao Dongsheng, I decided to continue that area of research with Associate Professor Zhao for my PhD programme.

### Describe the factors that led you to choose NIE.

I completed my Postgraduate Diploma in Education at NIE in 1993. As a teacher, I often attended professional development courses offered by NIE. The familiarity with the academic staff who are knowledgeable and patient, as well as the conducive studying environment in NIE with its excellent research facilities are some of the factors that led me to choose NIE, despite the long travelling time from my house to NIE.

### Will you recommend NIE's programmes to your friends?

I will definitely recommend NIE's programmes to my friends. NIE's programmes cater to the needs of different profiles of students, including the working adults who want to upgrade their knowledge in the various subject areas. Moreover, the courses are taught by a team of dedicated and knowledgeable academic staff who have a passion for both teaching and research.

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