

Getting To Know Our Students

Joyce Tan, Master of Arts in Humanities Education graduate



Joyce Tan

is a recipient of the
Ong Tiong Tat/
Irene Tan Liang Kheng
(OTT/ITLK)
Scholarship.

What attracted you to NIE, and more specifically, to your chosen programme at NIE?

After 4 years as a teacher, I felt that it was a good time for me to reflect on and re-examine my craft as a teacher. Between secondments and a graduate programme, I felt that the latter was more suitable for me.

A helpful colleague shared more about the Master of Arts in Humanities Education (MAHE) programme in NIE with me, and I realised that it was exactly what I was looking for — to be able to delve into research on Humanities education, and also brush up on our knowledge in certain tools like geographic information system (GIS).

In addition, NIE is widely known for the quality and rigour of its programmes, particularly in teacher education. Thus, with the support of the Ong Tiong Tat/Irene Tan Liang Kheng Scholarship, I enrolled in the MAHE programme in August 2019.

How has the Master's programme benefited you and impacted your professional practice?

We gained a broader perspective by delving into the curriculum development of Geography, History and Social Studies in Singapore over the years. It was beneficial to those of us who were not trained in the other disciplines during our undergraduate studies, as it provided us a more holistic understanding of what it meant to be a Humanities teacher.

Also, as a Geography teacher, I particularly appreciated the insights gleaned from looking at the research on geographical education from Singapore and around the world, as these helped me to understand the significance behind the new developments to the syllabus over the years. The programme also provided exposure to effective pedagogies and relevant tools like geospatial technology, with the aid of professors, who were also practitioners. Assignments were meaningfully crafted to create authentic learning experiences, as they were centred around the common issues in Geography or Humanities education for us to apply in our own classes.

My experience in this programme has been invaluable in refining my teaching methods. I am thankful to the professors who have inspired me with their enthusiasm and love for their subjects, especially Dr Tricia Seow, as well as my classmates for their camaraderie and for enriching my learning experience with their generous sharing in class.

Would you recommend the programme to someone else?

I would highly recommend the programme to fellow educators. The professors that I had encountered were empathetic on deadlines and would often offer consultations to those who needed it, without sacrificing the rigour of their courses. They were also passionate about their research areas and such enthusiasm could be very infectious!