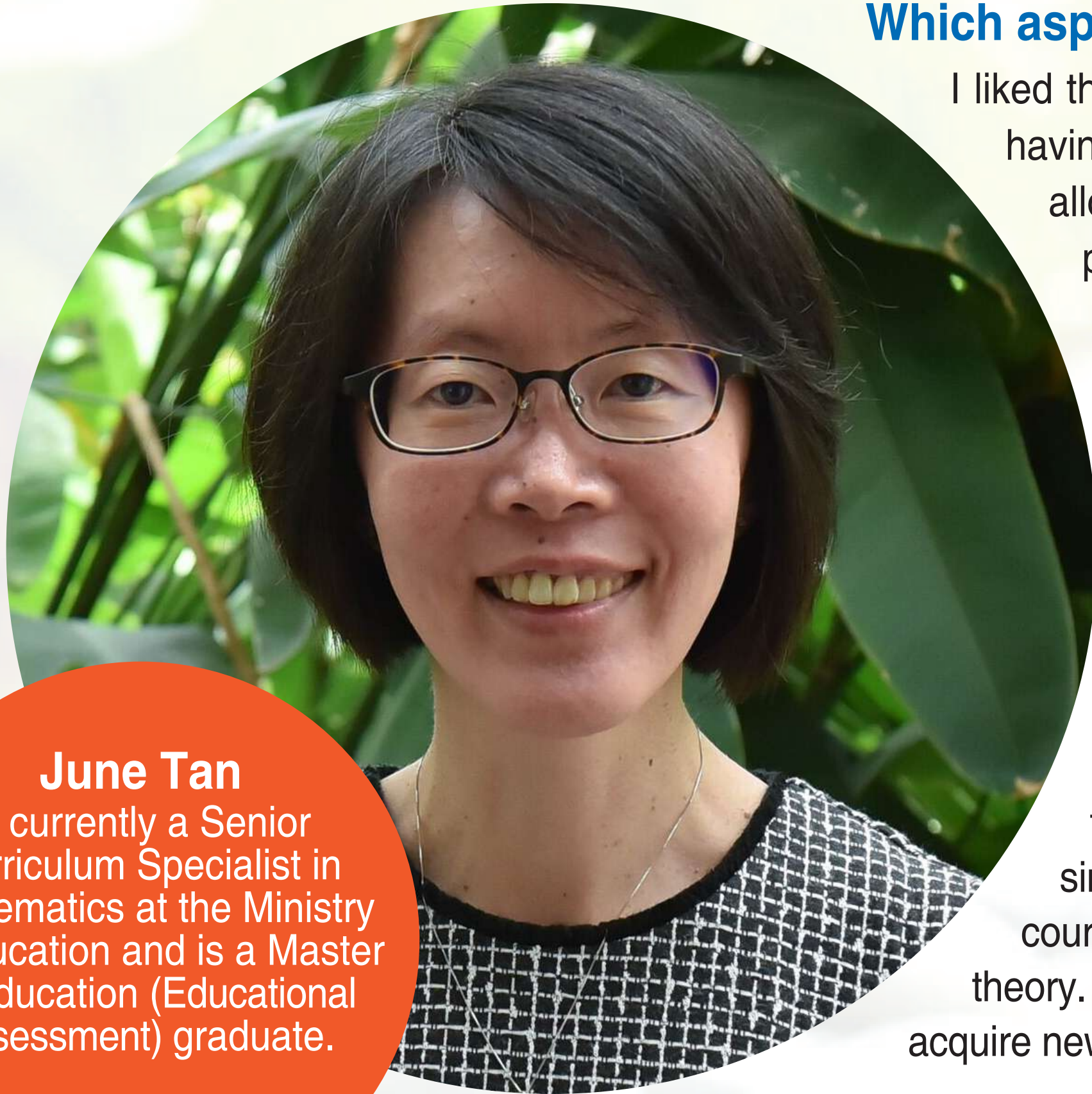


Getting To Know Our Students

June Tan, Master of Education (Educational Assessment) graduate



June Tan

is currently a Senior Curriculum Specialist in Mathematics at the Ministry of Education and is a Master of Education (Educational Assessment) graduate.

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

I liked that the Master of Education (Educational Assessment) programme emphasised having a good theoretical grounding together with practical application skills. This allowed me to directly apply what I have learnt in my work and to reflect on my practices as I build my professional knowledge and expertise at the same time.

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

A particularly memorable experience for me was during a lesson on research methods, where we had just been briefed on the hectic course schedule and what was expected of the group assignment. Perhaps many of us looked a little lost and overwhelmed, so our tutor encouraged us. She urged us to stay positive, for if you are positive, your mind will broaden and you will be able to think and discover new things. If I remember correctly, she said that this was her favourite theory and it was from Barbara Fredrickson. She said it with belief and sincerity that she made me feel assured that I would somehow be able to survive the course. I also remember wondering, at that point in time, if I would ever have a favourite theory. So I decided that this would be one of the things that I would think about as I acquire new knowledge and skills, be it through the course or in my future learning.

Describe your relationship with the NIE faculty members.

My lecturers and tutors were friendly, approachable and knowledgeable. They were dedicated to teaching and many of them tried different ways to help my classmates and I understand difficult concepts and motivate us to learn. For example, one of them shared his PhD journey to encourage us to persevere when learning gets tough; another tutor gamely sang a song to help us remember a concept. Likewise, my dissertation supervisors were always there to point me in the correct direction and answer my questions, however trivial they might be. What had seemed like an impossibly difficult task to complete the dissertation research in time, became possible because of them.

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

I remember reading about pi-shaped skills and people a few years ago, which got me thinking and wondering if I had multiple sets of deep specialist skills that are relevant and valuable in my area of work. As I was going to stay in the education profession, I felt that it was timely for me to specialise in a particular area of education. Moreover, there is an increasingly greater focus on examining how assessment can be used to improve student learning. So these eventually led me to specialise in educational assessment for my higher degree education.

Describe the factors that led you to choose NIE.

NIE was an obvious choice when I was offered a scholarship to pursue a higher degree education locally in assessment. Having said that, I was looking for a rigorous programme that not only covered theories and principles, but integrating these with the practical aspects. I was also looking for a programme with a good spread of courses, including those that cover up-to-date topics and issues, and some flexibility in planning my learning pathway. The programme at NIE provided me with the opportunities and experiences that I was looking for.

How did you feel when you were informed that you have won the ERAS (Educational Research Association of Singapore) Gold Medal award?

Very, very surprised! I was happy and contented just being able to complete my dissertation and graduate, so it was really unexpected receiving the email informing me that I had won the award. This award is an encouragement for me to continue to explore how good assessment practices can be developed and also a motivation for me to consider undertaking future research in educational assessment. I am very honoured to be given the award and many thanks go to my family and friends, my dissertation supervisors, and my immediate boss at work for their support and encouragement every step of the way.

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