

# Getting To Know Our Students

Krit Niramittham, Doctor in Education (EdD) student



**Krit**

is a pianist, piano teacher and is currently an EdD student at the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Academic Group.

## At which point did you decide to do a higher degree programme?

While I was working as a piano teacher in Europe and Thailand for several years, I could see a significant gap in the educational areas. The more I teach, the more I know the areas that can be improved. Hence, I decided to learn something new and helpful so that I can enhance my teaching skills, hoping that the more I learn, the more I can contribute in bridging that educational gap.

## What have been some of the challenges you faced when trying to complete the programme?

So far, I would say the language. I come from a non-English speaking country and sometimes it takes a lot of energy and effort to catch up with the speed of the speech during class discussions. Another challenge is that before doing this programme, I had a clear vision of the research topic I wanted to do. But after joining the programme and having several inspiring and eye-opening sessions in different courses, I am more open to other research topics, and this could be a challenge because I ended up not knowing which research topic to focus on.

## How do you juggle family/working life with your studies?

I do fly very often to my home country which is very near. It takes just two hours from Singapore to Bangkok, Thailand. Thus, I am able to meet my family regularly and do some researches on teaching each time I am back. This helps me to integrate and apply the knowledge I learn from NIE into practice with my students.

## Why did you choose to study in Singapore?

I had spent six years in Switzerland which is a multicultural country, and I enjoyed and learned a lot from that multicultural environment. I found that similarity in Singapore and it is always exciting and a great joy to visit and spend time in neighbouring countries. Moreover, Singapore is a leading country in many areas and has a high reputation in education amongst people in Asia.

## Why did you choose the particular programme in NIE?

The standard of education in Singapore is very high, and I was tempted to learn from the place which produces quality education and educators. As a pianist and piano teacher, I was finding a place where I could integrate both aspects together and become a better educator to contribute to music education and education in general. Then I discovered that NIE offers a Doctor in Education (EdD) programme with a specialisation in Visual and Performing Arts, focusing on Music. Therefore, I was convinced this is the programme that will aid me in fulfilling my aspiration.

## How do you find studying in NIE?

Studying in NIE has been very inspiring. Besides having advanced teaching facilities and organised systems, the learning materials are also up-to-date. The use of technologies facilitates my study. The issues for discussion are always very up-to-date and relevant to the current situation in the world. Local friends are very accommodating and motivating. I really enjoy studying in NIE.

The faculty members are very friendly (there was one lecturer who even offered to grab some dinner for the students since we have evening classes), helpful, funny and most importantly, they are experts in their area of specialisations. The ways they communicate, share the knowledge and lead the classroom were excellent, effective and exciting.

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