

Getting To Know Our Students

Linda Lee, Master of Education (Primary) graduate



Linda Lee

is currently working as a Curriculum Planning Officer at the Ministry of Education and is a Master of Education (Primary) graduate.

What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

'You should go for it,' said Mrs Wang, the principal of Lakeside Primary School. She urged me to take up the postgraduate scholarship. I was glad that I listened to her advice. The learning journey that I embarked on was intensive, yet memorable.

Naturally, NIE was my first choice. NIE has established a reputation for delivering quality professional development programmes that tailored to the learning needs of individuals in the education sector. I chose Master of Education (Primary) programme at NIE because it gives a broad overview of the various aspects of primary education and has the flexibility to select specific elective courses to cater to my interests and needs.

How would you describe your learning experiences and interactions with NIE faculty members? Has the programme been beneficial to you in bringing forth changes or apply what you've learnt at work?

The courses in the MEd (Primary) programme included understanding the process in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, deepening understanding of assessment principles and issues, looking at concepts and frameworks to understand current views and the impact of the national context on the curriculum, and using technology and art pedagogy for teaching and learning. The relevance and the richness of the reading materials, interaction with the NIE professors and the activities conducted in class made the lessons enjoyable and comfortable, and learning was always rich and fruitful during each lesson.

I was able to immediately apply what has been taught at work; selecting appropriate cognitive technology tools to integrate with the subject content and the content-specific pedagogy, integrating core subjects through drama, visual arts and music, ensuring the balance use of Assessment of Learning and Assessment for Learning when assessing children's learning and relating better to the curriculum's goals and teaching the subject as a discipline rather than an exam subject. Indeed, the learning has helped to expand my knowledge of educational theories and practices.

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

In every course, there were opportunities to work with other educators. It allowed me to be open-minded, critically reflective and engaged in collaboration and consensus building. Besides enhancing my communication skills and developing a critical thinking mindset, it also provided me with a network of expert professionals whom I can connect and depend on when I need their expertise.

What advice would you give to the people who are interested in doing their postgraduate studies?

I believe that learning should not stop. We should learn throughout life, constantly upgrading to stay abreast of the developments in education and deepening our teaching skills. Looking forward, I would consider taking another master's programme in Instructional Design and Technology as integrating ICT in teaching and learning is another area that I have passion in. No doubt, NIE would be my preferred institute as the programme structure, support from the professors and the non-threatening learning environment would facilitate my next learning stage.