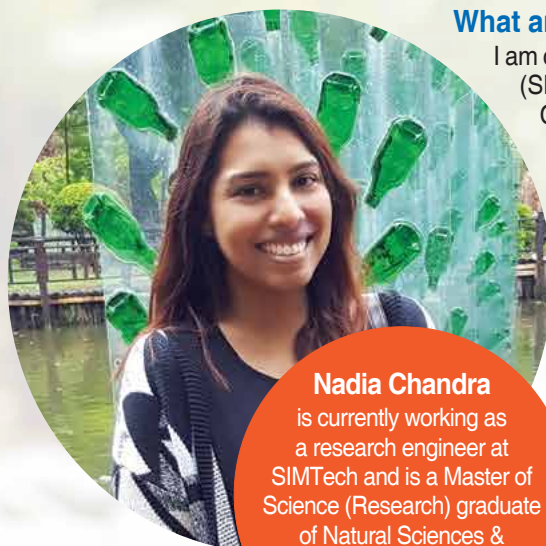


Getting To Know Our Students

Nadia Chandra, Masters by Research graduate



Nadia Chandra is currently working as a research engineer at SIMTech and is a Master of Science (Research) graduate of Natural Sciences & Science Education (NSSE) Academic Group.

What are you currently working as?

I am currently a research engineer at the Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology (SIMTech). SIMTech is a research institute of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Upon graduating with my Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical Sciences, I worked as a part-time research coordinator at the Singapore General Hospital and then as a Senior Officer in Business Development at the Biopolis Shared Facilities, A*STAR. While doing business development there, I learnt a lot about the innovative scientific work produced by this world-class scientific research hub. This motivated me to pursue a higher degree by research which will allow me to participate and contribute more as a skilled researcher.

What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

I was inspired by Associate Professor Tan Swee Ngin of the Natural Sciences & Science Education (NSSE) Academic Group, who subsequently became my supervisor. I was very impressed by her driven and forward-thinking mentality as well as her clear direction on how academic research is conducted in her laboratory. Hence, I chose to study at NIE as I strongly believed that the curriculum offered would equip their students to be well-rounded, socially and ethically responsible individuals, thus making a difference in work and society. I was well-assured that I would be able to receive the knowledge and encouragement to help me achieve my fullest potential.

What was your research on? Did the research yield the desired outcome that you hoped for?

Upon entering NIE, I had little knowledge in electrochemistry. However, despite knowing that it would be challenging for me to pursue postgraduate studies in a different field, my professor saw the potential in me and took me under her wing. My research capability began to improve significantly due to my professor's impeccable commitment and persistent efforts. My master's thesis was entitled "Development And Applications Of Cellulose-Based Electrochemical (Bio)sensors". Moreover, rigorous training with a holistic approach provided by my professor laid a solid foundation to help me develop into a uniquely qualified researcher. During my two graduate years, I made several significant achievements in the field of "green" electrochemical sensing and was involved in the publishing of three papers in peer-reviewed international journals. I was overjoyed with my research outcome during the graduate years I spent at NIE as I received the Dean's Commendation for Research for all three of my journal publications.

How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

I am extremely grateful to my professor for always believing in me. Her exemplary supervision, invaluable guidance and constant encouragement enabled me to be the skilled researcher I am today. The nurturing relationship I shared with my professor as a graduate student was not just confined to academics. She is someone I can look up to as an inspiring mentor and a positive role model in life. Most importantly at NIE, I got more than a teaching professor – I got a facilitator, a mentor and a friend. She is an inspiring supervisor who never gave up on me and faced challenges head-on with me throughout my two years in NIE.

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

I was able to forge lifelong friendships with my fellow colleagues and lab-mates who were very supportive of me and it was really fun working together with so many different personalities. The research culture in my professor's lab was extremely nurturing, and it created a very positive learning environment within the lab which allowed everyone to grow and improve together.

How will the programme prepare you for your career progression?

This degree gave me an opportunity to initially intern at A*STAR and eventually pursue a full-time research career there. I am currently working on paper-based electrochemical sensors for biochemical analysis at SIMTech. Through this degree, I am now able to participate and contribute more using the relevant skills I was equipped with during my rigorous training under my professor and apply it in my research career.