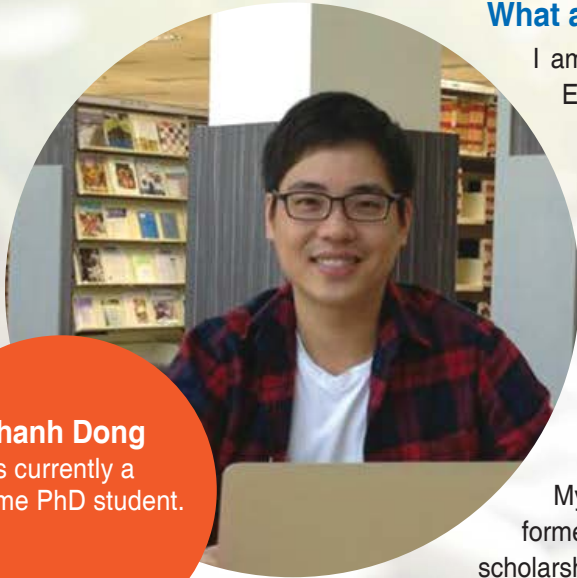


# Getting To Know Our Students

Nguyen Thanh Dong, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) student



**Thanh Dong**  
is currently a  
full-time PhD student.

## What are you currently working as?

I am currently in my fourth semester of the Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy programme. I am part of the Policy and Leadership Studies (PLS) Academic Group at National Institute of Education, Singapore (NIE). After obtaining my Bachelor's degree at Vietnam National University, Hanoi and Master's degree at Stockholm University, Sweden, I gained professional experiences through full time teaching, publishing supplementary workbooks for high school students in Vietnam, and working as a research associate in Singapore.

## What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

My application for the doctoral studies at NIE was quite random. My former lecturer strongly recommended me to apply for a research scholarship with the school. Luckily, it turns out to be one of my best career decisions.

## How will the programme prepare you for your career progression?

Doing PhD studies in PLS at NIE offers me the opportunity to explore the internationally known and effective school system of Singapore. By actively participating in leadership projects led by my principal supervisor, Associate Professor David Ng, I have gained exposure in conducting a lot of fieldwork in local schools and professional talks to school leaders and teachers. I have also built good rapport with local schools and have therefore decided to locate my PhD research in Singapore schools.

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

I have greatly benefited from communicating and working with PLS faculty who have rich experience in terms of both leadership, and management and academic research. Many of them have taken on important leadership positions in educational organisations prior to joining NIE. I have enjoyed "academic lunches" with faculties, during which I learnt a lot from their social and academic experiences. Particularly, my supervisor has exerted positive influences on me with his expertise and great leadership mindset.

## How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

I feel lucky to be part of a diverse and friendly student community at NIE. Graduate students come from many different countries including China, India, the United States and Vietnam. We often have cozy and useful intellectual discussions.

## How have you progressed during your PLS programme at PhD level?

Despite a challenging albeit interesting journey ahead to complete my PhD research, I am happy with what I have achieved over the last three semesters. Together with my supervisor, I have had several journal articles published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals such as Journal of Educational Administration and Journal of School Leadership and Management.