

# Getting To Know Our Students

Nicola Choo, Master of Arts (Educational Management) graduate



**Nicola Choo** is currently a Training Director of Drawing Right and a Master of Arts (Educational Management) graduate.

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

As I began looking into leadership development in educational institutions, I realised I needed to better understand the issues and challenges that educational leaders face, and pursuing a master's degree would provide me with the opportunity I needed to develop my expertise in this specialised area.

## Describe the factors that led you to choose NIE.

Firstly, for its renowned excellence in teacher education and educational research, and secondly, it was one of the few institutions that offered the Master of Arts (Educational Management). The choice of a local institution was also important because I felt that it would be helpful in developing a local network of peers and mentors that I could continue to collaborate with after graduation.

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

I was enrolled in NIE's Master of Arts (Educational Management) programme, and what I appreciated was both the breadth and depth that was covered in this programme. Through thoughtful discussions and reflections in a range of courses, we looked at the bigger picture of education in the world and in Singapore, and considered how these larger issues impacted micro issues in schools and in the classroom. In addition to strategies that drive systemic change, we also looked at what drives the heart of education – it is people - covered in courses that brought new insight to leadership development and mentorship - both in ourselves and the people we work with.

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

I really enjoyed the friendships developed with my course mates - amongst the students enrolled in the programme, was a culture of sharing and learning together. The fact that all of us came from different fields and industries also made for greater insights.

## Describe your relationship with the NIE faculty members.

NIE faculty members were both mentors and friends at the same time, generously sharing their wealth of knowledge and experiences formally through lessons and informally through conversations that sometimes extend beyond the confines of the classroom.

## How did you feel when you were informed that you have won the Educational Management Gold award\*?

Surprised and thankful. Thankful because I wouldn't have been able to make this accomplishment without the guidance and mentoring from the faculty members, as well as the support of my course mates who braved the assignments together with me.

\*The Educational Gold Medal award is awarded to the top graduate with outstanding performance in the Master of Arts (Educational Management) programme.