

# Getting To Know Our Students

**Nusraat Begum Binte Akbar Ali,  
Master of Arts (Humanities Education) graduate**



**Please share with us your professional life's journey and at which point in your career did you aspire to do a higher degree programme?**

I started out as a contract teacher when I was 19 years old and have been in the teaching profession ever since. For the past 14 years, I would continuously find ways to improve myself so that I can value-add to my pupils' learning. When I was approached to take up the role of the Social Studies coordinator in my school, I was challenged to roll out the Primary school Social Studies syllabus. As I was not trained in Social Studies during my NIE days (I was more of a Mathematics student), I found myself having to study the content area, to familiarise myself with it.

**Nusraat**

is currently working as a Curriculum Resource Development Officer at Humanities Branch in Ministry of Education and is a Master of Arts (Humanities Education) graduate.

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

My passion in Social Studies grew and that inspired me to take up Master of Arts (Humanities Education). I wanted to expand my knowledge in Humanities - mainly Social Studies and it motivated me to pursue my higher degree. While doing my higher degree, I found myself wanting to value add to the Social

Studies curriculum. Thus, I challenged myself to join the Social Studies Curriculum Planning Development Division in 2015.

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

The two and half years I studied in NIE were very memorable. My lecturers were very passionate in their professions and were always prepared for class. Every lecture I attended was rich in learning and very useful for me. Their approachable nature allowed students like myself to ask a lot of questions. They always challenged our thinking with questions related to the course.

**Has the programme been beneficial to you in bringing forth changes in your organisation?**

This programme has allowed me to exercise critical thinking as well as to analyse an issue from different perspectives. The programme has also helped me to think logically and to analyse and synthesise with an issue or a problem. I am able to ask questions to extend my understandings in the subject.

As a Curriculum Resource Development Officer, I have to exercise critical thinking and suggest ideas on how we can deliver our resources to support teaching and learning of Social Studies in schools. I am also able to adapt to the diverse demands and challenges faced in my job.

The programme has enabled me to communicate effectively with my peers and to put forth my ideas and suggestions confidently to people from diverse backgrounds. In addition, the programme has taught me to write effectively, clearly and concisely, which is very critical in my job in the Ministry of Education as I am tasked to write concepts papers for our projects.