

Taong Ren Qing Malcolm

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EDUCATION

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Psychology
Awarded Nanyang President Graduate Scholarship

Jan 2026 – Present

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Psychology with a 2nd Major in Biological Sciences
Honours (Highest Distinction), Dean's List AY'23-'24, AY'24-'25

Jul 2021 – Jun 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Summer Sessions (Exchange Programme)
First Class Honours, Awarded Ministry of Foreign Affairs US-Singapore Summer Exchange Scholarship

Jun 2023 – Aug 2023

EXPERIENCE

Family Justice Courts – Court Family Specialist Intern

May 2024 – Jan 2025

- Involved in the data analysis and writing of "Parental Rejection Amongst Children in Divorced or Separated Families" via archival research using court evaluation reports, under the supervision of Ms Leong Shengyu.
- Observed and counselled parties involved in custody/access/specific issues evaluation reports in divorce cases.
- Mediated parties involved in Family Case Conferences and Court mandated divorce counselling.
- Conducted risk assessment of parties at the Family Protection Center and provided recommendations to Child Protection Officers for child care plans.
- Prepared psychological training materials for judges in the Family Justice Courts, focused on Family Therapeutic Justice.

RESEARCH

Ministry of Education, Education and Career Guidance Branch – Research Assistant

Jul 2025 – Dec 2025

- Conducted research and literature reviews for posters and presentations at the MOE Research Forum 2025 @ AST.
- Contributed to the refinement and piloting of new government initiatives, including the design of Purpose Conversation Cards for use in education and career guidance counselling sessions or civics education. Also involved in the assessment and tracking of outcomes for students in the RiseUp programme, which includes components aimed at enhancing support for disadvantaged or at-risk youth.
- Collected and analysed data for the project "Phenomenological Study on Students' Post-Secondary Education Pursuits" under the Senior Specialist Track Research Fund (SSTRF).
- Presented and led brown-bag discussions on topics such as "Youth Purpose Development" and "Identifying & Supporting Non-Progressors" for MOE branch officers and directors, supervised by Dr. Jeffrey Chan.
- Extracted Singapore-relevant information from the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) to inform the development of culturally specific interventions and programmes, updating public knowledge bases on MySkillsFuture for Students using insights from the Skills Demand for the Future Economy Report.

Centre for Research and Development in Learning (CRADLE) – Research Assistant

Jun 2024 – Jun 2025

- Worked under the research grant "Understanding Brain Networks of Reading and Math to Inform Diagnostics and Interventions (Brain-NORM)" in collaboration with Dyslexia Association Singapore (DAS).
- Designed research questions and studies using tasks designed for Project 4 (Examining the functional brain networks supporting math using fNIRS), supervised by Asst. Prof. Darren Yeo.
- Participated in the data collection using Oxysoft and PsychoPY on both children and adults.
- Using mathematical and spatial tasks, completed the following study "Exploring Gender Differences in Functional Lateralization: Investigating Neural Correlates of Arithmetic Processing and Visuospatial Working Memory" for Undergraduate Honours Thesis, attaining A+.

Faculty Learning Community, Nanyang Technological University – Research Assistant

Aug 2023 – Jun 2025

- Worked under the research grant "EdeX Faculty Learning Communities Grant" in collaboration with The Centre for Teaching, Learning & Pedagogy (CTLP).
- Provided administrative support to the Faculty Learning Community formed by nine NTU faculty and staff across different colleges, schools, and centres with the goal to create awareness about inclusive pedagogy.
- Drafted documents for NTU-IRB and ethics board submission.
- Conducted literature review, designed measures and performed quantitative analysis for the study "Exploring Inclusive Pedagogy in Singapore Higher Education: Development of a Novel Student Perception Scale". Also performed qualitative analysis of interviews and manuscript drafting of the follow-up study "Paradoxes of Inclusion: Student Experiences in Competitive Higher Education".

Face & Motion Perception Lab, Nanyang Technological University – URECA StudentAug 2023 – July 2024

- URECA, acronym of Undergraduate Research Experience on CAmpus, is a university wide undergraduate research programme established in 2004 to cultivate a research culture and nurture research capabilities early in undergraduates' university education.
- Awarded NTU President Research Scholar.
- Drafted documents for NTU-IRB and ethics board submission. Also learned skills related to the set up and use of the 64-channel Biosemi Active 2 system Electroencephalogram (EEG).
- Conducted literature review, data collection and analysis concerning the project "Recognizing Faces In An Imperfect World" with EEG Biosemi BDF data via MATLAB on the Letswave5 toolbox, supervised by Asst. Prof. Charles Or.

Centre for Population Health Sciences - CePHaS, LKCMedicine – Research AssistantMay 2023 – Jun 2023

- Developed sub-studies on the existing population cohort study, The Health for Life in Singapore (HELIOS) Study, supervised by Asst. Prof. Theresia Mina.
- Fronted data processing of nutrition profile, 24-hour dietary and supplement recall of HELIOS participants while coding for data analysis based on the Health Promotion Board (HPB) Energy and Nutrient Composition database.
- Drafted documents for NTU-IRB submission of behavioural studies: "The Development and Validation of the Food Memory Bias Test for a Large-Scale Epidemiological Study in a Multiethnic Asian Population" and "Characterization of Eating Behaviour in Singapore". Designed study protocol, informed consent form, invitation letter and study advertisement for submission.

The Clinical Brain Lab, Nanyang Technological University – Research AssistantMay 2022 – Jul 2022

- Conducted literature review, data pre-processing and analysis under the Reality Bending Lab (ReBeL), supervised by Asst. Prof. Dominique Makowski.
- Assisted in preparation, research and writing of progress reports, scientific presentations, abstracts, and manuscripts.
- Designed and collated materials in JSPsych to the project "Too Beautiful to be Fake: Attractive Faces are Less Likely to be Judged as Artificially Generated" via Python.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**41st Hall 1 Hall Council, Nanyang Technological University – Honorary General Secretary**Aug 2022 – Aug 2023

- Safe Management Officer, Sustainability Officer and Data Protection Officer of Hall 1.
- Responsible for official student communications between the Hall Council and the Hall Office, School, Residential Mentors and Senior Faculty in Residences (S/FIRs).
- Spearheaded new initiatives, including the implementation of a coin-exchange service for residents' laundry needs, weather-proofing hall infrastructure, and refurbishing gym equipment to enhance resident amenities.
- Provided administrative support required to each junior portfolio of the Hall Council and main committees of the Hall.
- Head of proposal and AAR vetting and submission of Hall and Main-Committee events for school and office approval.
- Tracked and recorded ECA records and contributions of all 568 residents for accurate ECA transcript reflection.
- Planned and collaborated with the Residential Mentors to organize residential education activities by inviting external vendors to host workshops such as Sea Glass Art and Aroma Wax Therapy for residents to destress and learn amidst their schooling.

40th Hall 1 Hall Council, Nanyang Technological University – Business ManagerAug 2021 – Aug 2022

- Planned and carried out various residential events such as the Welfare Pack Distribution and associated cultural events.
- Collaborated and reached out to sponsors for the Hall including, Lactacyd, Liho, AllForU, Hiruscar, An Açaí Affair, etc.
- Enhanced existing point of outreach to external vendors, seeking out additional opportunities to improve well-being of residents by devising a structured singular platform and portal for contact amidst COVID-19.
- Founded the Business Manager Committee of NTU to increase sponsorship opportunities across all NTU clubs and as a singular channel of collaboration and information sharing.
- Oversaw publicity efforts and campaigns to relay messages across platforms to increase resident participation in events.

Class & House Committee, Eunoia Junior College – Vice-ChairpersonJan 2017 – Nov 2018

- Supervised team members in college orientation activities such as EUNITE as both an orientation leader to bond and acclimatize new incoming students and as a support crew/videographer through the Media Club.
- Chaired the organizing committee of the college opening ceremony, filming the college opening video which will be shown for years to come, establishing the college culture and student life.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Bansal, M., Yeo, D. J., Teng, S. S., Chen, M., Taong, M. R. Q., Lim, L., Teo, D. H., Ong, S., Meltzner, A., & Cheah, E. (2025, May 27-28). *Understanding NTU students' perceptions and experiences about inclusive pedagogy* [Poster presentation]. NTU Annual Learning and Teaching Conference: From Good to Great 2025, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- Taong, M. R. Q., Teo, M. H., Kan, C. N., Tan, J., & Tan, C. H. (2026, May 28-30). *Spouses show greater sensitivity to age-related cognitive changes than children* [Poster presentation]. APS Annual Convention 2026, Barcelona, Spain.

STUDENT PAPERS

- Taong, M. R. Q. (2024). Recognizing faces in an imperfect world. URECA, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/199996>
- Taong, M. R. Q. (2025). Exploring gender differences in functional lateralisation: investigating neural correlates of arithmetic processing and visuospatial working memory. Final Year Project (FYP), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/183753>