An Institute of

NIE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SINGAPORE

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE

PRINCIPAL MATTERS PLUS

ADVENTURES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP



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WHAT IS PRINCIPAL MATTERS PLUS (PM+)?

Principal Matters Plus is an executive professional development programme for early childhood (EC) leaders who lead a cluster of centres. The programme aims to strengthen participants' leadership capacity by presenting them with opportunities:

- To experience and deepen the skill of self-reflection and mindfulness, as well as openness to risk, discovery and uncertainty,
- To acquire knowledge, skills and tools in leadership that can enable them to navigate the tensions associated with early childhood education (ECE) as simultaneously (1) a community where learning happens, (2) an educational institution that is accountable to regulations and structures, and (3) a business entity that needs to be financially viable.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR PM+?

You are welcome to apply for the programme if you meet the following criteria:

- You are an early childhood leader with 2 years of experience at cluster level and above
- You are managing sizable operations in an anchor operator, a partner operator or a private sector organisation;
- You have relevant early childhood education qualifications as well as relevant leadership qualification;
- As there is a 4-month commitment to the programme, applicants should not be understaking any other courses during this period (July - early November 2027)

NOTE:

Priority will be given to those who did not attend the previous Principal Matters Programme.





WHAT MAKES PM+ UNIQUE?

PM+ is a PD programme catering to senior-level leaders in the EC sector. It aims to foster a community of practice or a learning community among its participants who will spend 4 months together in this programme.

PM+ builds and extends on the successful Principal Matters programme by providing participants with opportunities to develop their critical core skills (CCS) and technical skills and competencies (TCS) as EC leaders. Specifically, PM+ intentionally aims to strengthen CCS, while including TCS relevant to your roles.

PM+ has strong theoretical and conceptual underpinnings in its design in the sense that it positions the programme as mindful adventures. This positioning couples the two underpinning themes of mindfulness and adventures so that both permeate the entire programme in its design, development and enactment. The theme of mindfulness focuses on who we are as human beings and as EC educators/leaders. The theme of adventures focuses onbeing open to risk-taking, discovery and uncertainty which are key dispositions for innovation.

PM+ recognises ECE as a complex phenomenon that requires ongoing negotiations of tensions arising from being (1) a community where learning happens, (2) an educational institution that operates within the Singapore context and its structures, and (3) a business that needs to be financially viable. The programme is designed to support leaders in developing skills, knowledge and dispositions that will enable them to negotiate the ongoing tensions through the learning experiences in the four strands of leadership, community, educational institution, and business.

At the same time, PM+ provides both structure and flexibility to enable participants to create their own meanings from their shared PM+ experiences and make sense of these experiences in the context of various leadership roles and levels among the different participants profiles.

WHAT LEARNING EXPERIENCES CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT OF PM+?

The leadership adventures programme consists of two inter-weaving adventures, i.e.,an individual development adventure and a team project adventure. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in seven types of adventure (learning) experiences including workshops, talks and interactions with local leaders, mentoring experiences and an overseas experience.

The two inter-weaving adventures and seven adventure experiences are designed to enable participants to experience the two themes: (1) self-reflection and mindfulness, and (2) openness to risk, discovery and uncertainty.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE LIKE?

The programme will commence in July and end in October. Participants can expect to attend full-day sessions during this period plus an overseas experience. NIE faculty will be facilitating the discussions during the overseas adventure.



WHAT ARE THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROGRAMME?

To qualify for the award of the certificate for this programme, participants must successfully complete all the assessments with a “Pass” grade.



WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PM+?

You can contact the administrator with “Principal Matters Plus” as the subject at this email:

Projectgenie@nie.edu.sg



WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS LIKE?

Please take note of the following:

1. You will submit your application online
2. You will need the support of your employer as part of the application process.
3. We strongly recommend applicants to attend an online briefing session. Please email the administrator for details.
4. There will be an interview for shortlisted applicants.