



SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) enhances Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students' learning experience by giving them a broad-based education beyond the boundaries of their diplomas' core disciplines.

Accounting for about 15 percent of the curriculum, Interdisciplinary Studies modules give students an edge by expanding their expertise and perspectives, promoting an innovative mindset, sharpening their thinking skills and increasing their versatility.

Students will therefore be better equipped not only to handle the challenges of a globalised economy but also shape the future.

Today, Ngee Ann is at the forefront of broad-based learning with the IS programme offering a total of six prescribed modules and about 65 elective modules to cater to students' diverse interests. The prescribed modules cover four categories – Communication, Innovation and Enterprise, Culture and Communication, and Personal Mastery and Development – while the elective modules cover four categories – Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.

In Year 1, students take three prescribed modules comprising Idea Jumpstart, Sports and Wellness, and one of the Communication modules.

In Year 2, students take two prescribed modules – Idea Blueprint and Idea Launchpad – and select two elective modules from Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.

In Year 3, students take a prescribed module – World Issues: A Singapore Perspective – and select one elective from Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology categories. In line with the goal of broadening perspectives, students are allowed a maximum of two modules from the same category over Year 2 and Year 3.

MATHEMATICS IN IS

IS also supports the teaching of Mathematics in NP, especially for the School of Engineering and the School of Life Sciences and Chemical Technology. IS lecturers also conduct additional bridging Mathematics classes for students who have weaker grades in O-level Mathematics, and ITE graduates. This helps these students improve their Mathematics proficiency so that they can cope with their various Mathematics modules in their respective disciplines.

DIPLOMA PLUS PROGRAMMES

IS currently offers three Diploma Plus Certificate Programmes in Foreign Language, Advanced Engineering Mathematics and Business (jointly offered with the School of Business & Accountancy).

The Diploma Plus Certificate in Foreign Languages (FL) is open to all students, as an enhancement programme. In this programme, students take six modules and attain a level of competency that enables them to take external qualifications such as the Japanese Language Proficiency Test and the Diplome d'Etudes de Langue Francaise Examinations, which are internationally recognised and which certify a candidate's ability to communicate effectively across a wide spectrum of functions.

The Diploma Plus Certificate in Advanced Engineering Mathematics helps students gain admission into the university by strengthening their Mathematical foundation. This programme focuses on the Pure Mathematics section of the H2 A-Level Mathematics syllabus. NP students who attain this Diploma Plus Certificate will be considered to have

A-level equivalent Mathematics and will be allowed to read modules carrying A-level Mathematics as a prerequisite when they pursue a degree at NUS.

The Diploma Plus Certificate in Business provides students with a basic understanding of the environment in which a business operates, and the management of a business and its critical resources. It helps to prepare non-business students for work in a business environment, as well as give a head start to those who wish to pursue a business degree after graduation.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SEMINARS

The Talent Development Programme Seminars (TDPS) module is offered by IS in collaboration with the Student Development and Alumni Relations Office (SDAR). It provides an avenue for students in The Christeara Programme (TCP) to gain IS credit units by participating in external events and field trips designed to stretch their abilities. It is open to Level 2 and 3 students in this programme. In 2010 and 2011, IS lecturers led TCP students to the Philippines on an overseas study mission.

LEARNING ACROSS CULTURES

IS also conducts vacation modules that enable NP students to learn about Singapore and its place in the world. In 2011, IS lecturers led 30 NP students on an immersion and study trip to France to learn the language and culture.

FACILITIES & STAFF

The School of IS is home to iSpark!, a student-centred studio designed to spark students' creativity, and where students organise and attend workshops, seminars and exhibitions. Interesting features in the studio include Monkey Mirrors, which reflect different perspectives on

the same thing, and the Living Wall, a creative use of wall space to project messages.

IS lecturers continue to deliver quality broad-based education while conducting independent research and development work. IS lecturers have conducted workshops and courses for clients such as Caterpillar Logistics (Enhanced Spoken & Written English Course) and the Singapore Institute of Management (English Pronunciation Tips for Singaporeans, Clean Up Your Language). Besides nurturing students with creative and innovative skills, IS lecturers offer consulting services in design thinking to secondary schools.

COLLABORATIONS

As part of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, the School was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct training programmes for Cambodian and Laotian government officials. Several well-received English Language and Communication Skills courses were conducted in both countries in 2006, 2007 and 2011 (Laos). In addition, the School successfully conducted an English Communication for Managers and Administrators course for senior civil servants from Myanmar in early 2010, as part of the Singapore-Thailand Third Country Training Programme.

IS designed and conducted the fifth run of an English Language Bridging Course for Asian Nursing Scholars from January to April 2011. This training was commissioned by the National Health Group and SingHealth Services.

IS has been conducting the English Language Bridging course (ELBC) at our Overseas Education Centre (OEC) at the Wuhan University of Science & Technology (WUST), China, since 2008. The ELBC levels up the English Language proficiency of Chinese students enrolled in the NP-Wuhan Diploma in Logistics Management. In 2011, IS conducted "Spotlight on

Singapore", a two-week English Language immersion programme for a group of 51 Wuhan OEC students. The aim of the programme is to prepare them for living, studying and working in Singapore while equipping them with improved communication skills.

Under the Schools-SAF Partnership Programme, IS collaborated with 17 C4I, civic organisations and public agencies to host the Heroes' Seminar 2011. As part of a collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Singapore Armed Forces, IS has also been sharing NP's National Education efforts and creative approaches for its World Issues: A Singapore Perspective (WISP) module at the annual Best Practices workshop organised by Nexus (Central National Education Office) since 2007.

Under the Teaching Internship Programme, three Japanese interns from Osaka University attended several workshops and teaching practice sessions in NP in 2011. In addition, IS together with Waseda Shibuya Senior High School organised a youth forum where 20 NP students shared about the Singapore culture and lifestyle.

NEW MODULES

IS began offering three new elective modules in October 2011. They are:

- Food Politics and Social Entrepreneurs
- The Fragrance Industry
- Traditional Chinese Medicine

Come April 2012, IS will introduce another new elective called Introduction to Interior Design.