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 five prescribed modules comprising Idea Jumpstart, Sports and Wellness, one of the Communication modules, Cultural Quotient at Work (for School of Business & Accountancy students) and Exploring Contemporary Issues (for School of Film & Media Studies and Diploma in Psychology Studies students). 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.

NGEE ANN PREPARATORY PROGRAMME (NPP)

The NPP is an eight-week programme specially designed for students who are successful in the Direct Polytechnic Admissions (DPA). Under this programme, students are able to get a head start prior to the new academic year by completing selected core diploma and interdisciplinary modules through engaging in meaningful fun activities and educational industry visits.

MATHEMATICS IN IS

IS 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 for ITE graduates. This helps these students improve their Mathematics proficiency so that they can cope with their various Mathematics modules in their respective disciplines.

SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (IS)

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) enhances Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s learning experience by giving them a broad-based education beyond the boundaries of their diplomas’ core disciplines.
DIPLOMA PLUS PROGRAMMES


The Diploma Plus Certificate in Foreign Languages (FL) is open to all students, as an enhancement programme. Students may choose from three languages - Japanese, French and Korean. 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, the Diplome d’Etudes de Langue Francaise Examinations, and the Test of Proficiency in Korean 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 with their 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.

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMMES

In addition to the Diploma Plus Certificate in Foreign Languages, others languages such as Bahasa Melayu, German, Mandarin and Spanish are also offered as enhancement programmes.

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 Christieara 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 2011 and 2012, IS lecturers led TCP students to the Philippines and Thailand on overseas study missions to deepen their inter-cultural appreciation by interacting with local students and taking part in community projects. Upon their return from the Philippines, students staged a photo exhibition at The Arts House and also raised funds to install a weather signal in Dumaguete (Philippines) which was ravaged by floods.

In addition, twenty final year students from the TCP took part in the first run of the Asia Merit Award (AMA) programme by visiting South Korea. Led by IS and SDAR staff, students spent nine full days studying the social-economic and political dynamics of the Korean society.

LEARNING ACROSS CULTURES

IS also conducts vacation modules that enable NP students to learn about Singapore and its place in the world. In 2012, IS lecturers led 20 NP students on an immersion and study trip to France to learn the language and culture. To further help them appreciate the culture, students stayed with host families.

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.
OVERSEAS COLLABORATIONS

As part of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, the School was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct training programmes for government officials in Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam & Cambodia. These programmes include English and Communication Skills courses and recently Negotiation Skills course for managers and administrators.

IS was also involved in the design and administration of an English Language entrance test to facilitate the selection of candidates for a joint educational programme between NP and Brazil’s Instituto Federal do Espírito Santo (IFES). A 12-week intensive Technical English Course has also been developed to level up the English proficiency of these selected candidates before they embark on their Specialist Diploma Programme in Marine and Offshore Technology in Singapore.

IS designed and has been conducting annual run of an English Language Bridging Course for Asian Nursing Scholars since 2006. 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. Since 2011, IS conducted “Spotlight on Singapore”, a two-week English Language immersion programme for groups of 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.

Character and Citizenship Education Programme (CCE)

IS collaborated with the Human Library Singapore to run Heroes Seminar 2012. This seminar was the largest human library event in the world and marked the first time that such as seminar was conducted at an educational institution. For two weeks, 66 prominent local figures and inspirational NP alumni or “living books” were available for “loan” to students at the library to share their varied experiences in small group dialogue sessions. This event was opened to 2,000 final-year students pursuing the prescribed IS CCE module called World Issues: A Singapore Perspective.

Two hundred students taking the prescribed IS CCE module called World Issues: A Singapore Perspective had the opportunity to engage the Minister for the Environment, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at a dialogue session held on 26 July 12. They engaged him on the topic on social cohesion and discussed other current issues during the dialogue session.

More than 2000 final-year students taking the prescribed IS CCE module, World Issues: A Singapore Perspective, participated in a series of SAF Camp visits and the Army Open House as part of the ongoing collaboration with Nexus. Under the SAF-Schools Partnership Programme (SSPP), IS collaborated with the RSAF’s Tengah Airbase to organise a learning journey for 350 students taking the WISP module. These visits continued to provide students with valuable experiential learning experiences.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic also hosted the mobile Internal Security Department (ISD) exhibition which showcased Singapore’s fight against terrorism and other internal threats in the course of our history. This exhibition was opened to 2,000 final-year students taking the WISP module.

NEW MODULES

IS began offering four new modules in April 2012. They are: Critical Thinking and Communication, Basic Conversational Korean, Basic Story Board Design and Graphic Design: The Art of Visual Story Telling. Come Oct 2012, IS will introduce another two new electives called Basic Interior Design for Commercial Spaces and Food and Culture.

In addition, IS will offer modules in Communications, Bridging Mathematics and Life Skill modules for ITE Normal (Academic) students under the Polytechnic Foundation Programme in April 2013.