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 70 elective modules to cater for 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 Innovation Toolkit, Sports & 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 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 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 & 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.

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 & 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 Year 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, IS offers the Overseas Merit Fellowship module and Asia Merit Award module for students participating in these overseas programmes to Los Angeles, USA and Seoul, South Korea respectively.

**LEARNING ACROSS CULTURES**

IS also conducts vacation modules that enable NP students to learn about Singapore and its place in the world. In 2013, IS lecturers led 20 NP students on an immersion and study trip to Seoul, South Korea 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 in Singapore and overseas.

Under the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Third Country Training Programme and Initiative for ASEAN Integration, IS staff have trained government officials of ASEAN countries in English Language & Communication skills and Effective Negotiation skills. In facilitating these courses, IS staff have travelled to ASEAN countries such as Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

In supporting NP’s joint educational programme with Brazil’s Instituto Federal do Espirito Santo (IFES) and Jurong Shipyard Pte Ltd to train Marine Offshore Technology (MOT) engineers for Brazil in the next five years, IS staff have been and will continue to travel to Brazil to conduct English Language entrance tests to select candidates. Successful candidates would come to Singapore to do a 12-week intensive Technical English Course developed and delivered by IS before they embark on their Specialist Diploma course in MOT.