

## **Ngee Ann Polytechnic partners ZEISS to address growing myopia challenge through innovative technology-integrated curriculum**

*Enhanced curriculum will introduce the ZEISS Vision Experience and the groundbreaking MyoConsult platform that integrate digital technologies for more efficient and effective myopia management*



*An Optometry student using ZEISS technology to create a personalised treatment plan*

SINGAPORE, 18 September 2024 – Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) and ZEISS today announced a strategic partnership to enhance industry-relevant training for students and raise the standards of eye care in response to Singapore’s growing myopia challenge.

Singapore has one of the highest rates of myopia globally, with over 80 per cent of young Singaporeans being myopic by age 18<sup>1</sup> and 20 per cent now having high myopia – double the rate a decade ago<sup>2</sup>. This rising incidence, which increases the risk of severe eye conditions such as retinal detachment and macular degeneration, highlights the urgent need for advanced eye care training.

### **Enhanced curriculum focussing on myopia management**

To address this, NP and ZEISS will co-develop an enhanced Optometry curriculum centred on myopia management, equipping students with essential skills in early detection, prevention, and diagnosis. The training will also better prepare students to provide effective myopia treatment by gaining the competency to prescribe myopia control treatments, such as ophthalmic and contact lenses, within community optometric practices. Consequently, this will reduce the need for patients to rely solely on specialist care.

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<sup>1</sup> Article published in Sep 2023 by Singapore National Eye Centre: [Singapore researchers develop AI tool that detects high myopia risk in children](#)

<sup>2</sup> Article published in Apr 2024 by CNA: [Severe myopia cases among children in Singapore almost doubled in past decade](#)

In addition, selected Optometry students will have the opportunity to participate in the new 25-week NP-ZEISS Specialised Overseas Internship Programme. Students will work at both the ZEISS Singapore office and one of the company's regional offices to gain broader perspectives about the optical industry and a deeper understanding of global eye care standards.

The collaboration will also augment NP's Specialist Diploma in Community Optometry and other continuing education programmes jointly organised by NP and ZEISS, ensuring that practising optometrists and opticians stay current with the latest industry developments while deepening their skills.

### **Hands-on training at the NP-ZEISS Management Suite**

As part of the enhanced curriculum, NP will launch the NP-ZEISS Management Suite within the fully operational NP Optometry Centre. Boasting the ZEISS Vision Experience, this cutting-edge facility features a fully digitalised system with state-of-the-art equipment that enhances patient consultation and care. With advanced technologies that improve screening accuracy and speed, optimise operational efficiency through real-time data sharing, and support the creation of personalised treatment plans, the immersive learning experience will prepare students for the future of eye care.

Here, students will also gain practical experience with ZEISS MyoConsult, an innovative, device-agnostic platform for myopia management. Backed by over 15 years of research on childhood myopia that involved more than 30,000 subjects in Asia, MyoConsult enables eye care professionals to make data-driven decisions to help patients better manage myopia progression. It integrates seamlessly with existing clinical workflows, enabling students to assess, monitor, and manage myopia progression holistically, moving beyond traditional eye screenings.

Through ZEISS's expertise and technologies, students will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to collaborate with other eye care professionals – including ophthalmologists in the near future – in co-managing a patient's condition. Notably, this will enable students to develop the practical expertise needed to effectively manage pre-myopia and myopia progression through evidence-based care.

"As one of the few local institutions offering optometry-related courses, NP is committed to developing a highly skilled talent pipeline to serve the industry, especially in addressing growing eye care challenges like childhood myopia. Through our collaboration with ZEISS, our learners gain practical experience with the latest innovations in eye care, enabling them to deliver high-quality treatment and set new standards in myopia management and clinical practice, both in Singapore and beyond," said Mr Lim Kok Kiang, Principal & CEO, Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

"The benefits of this collaboration will extend far beyond the classroom. As our graduates enter the industry, they will bring with them the skills and knowledge needed to raise the standards of eye care across Singapore and the region. By working together – academia and industry – we can drive significant advancements in patient outcomes and contribute to the global effort to combat the myopia epidemic," said Ven Raman, Managing Director of ZEISS Southeast Asia.

For media queries, please contact:  
Sarah Lim  
Corporate Communications Office  
Ngee Ann Polytechnic  
Tel: 6460 7353  
Email: sarah\_lim@np.edu.sg

**About Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

Ngee Ann Polytechnic started in 1963 and is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with over 13,000 enrolled students in close to 40 disciplines. It seeks to develop students with a passion for learning, values for life, and competencies to thrive in a global workplace. The polytechnic also supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy, which offers a wide range of part-time programmes and short courses. It works closely with industry partners to curate programmes for emerging skills, develop talent pipeline for the industries and help adult learners stay agile in today's rapidly changing global economy.

For more information, please visit [www.np.edu.sg](http://www.np.edu.sg).

**About ZEISS**

Carl Zeiss AG, founded in 1846, is a global leader in optical and optoelectronic technology. Headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany, the company operates across multiple sectors including vision care, microscopy, medical technology, and industrial metrology. With a commitment to innovation and excellence, ZEISS develops advanced products and solutions that improve quality of life and drive progress in science, industry, and everyday life. ZEISS is renowned for its pioneering technologies and high-precision instruments that address complex challenges and shape the future of various fields.

For more information, visit [www.zeiss.com](http://www.zeiss.com).