

CHINESE STUDIES COURSE MODULES

Have a love for the Chinese language and culture, passion for educating young minds or a flair for business? Here's a course that marries all three. Armed with a Diploma in Chinese Studies [CHS], you will be a cut above the rest in meeting the rising demand for specialists in Chinese culture and language.

As the first and only such course offered at the polytechnic level, and with at least half of the course conducted in Chinese, CHS sharpens your language skills while preparing you for careers in the education, media, tourism and business sectors. As part of the programme, you will go on field trips to broaden your perspective of Chinese culture and society.

In the first year of study, you will gain a solid foundation in Chinese history, culture, literature, drama and communication. You will also be exposed to the fundamentals of translation.

In the second year, you can choose to embark on one of the three specialisations Education, Business Chinese or Early Childhood Teaching.

In the final year, you will spend a semester working on an industry project or undergoing an internship. Through industry exposure, you will gain valuable insights into industry sectors in Singapore such as education, early childhood, print and publishing, translation, or cultural and heritage.

LEVEL 2.1

COMMON MODULES FOR EDUCATION SPECIALISATION AND BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Intermediate Translation

This module exposes students to the theory and practice of Chinese-English (CE) and English-Chinese (EC) translation in greater depth and breadth. Students will have hands-on experience in translating different types of texts, including advertisements, movie/song/ book titles, news and basic legal writing.

Readings in Chinese Classics

This module introduces the four traditional categories (经史子集 jing shi zi ji) comprising the historical, philosophical and literary aspects of the Chinese classics. Students will learn about the Thirteen Classics, Twenty-Five Histories, and a variety of Chinese philosophical genres and traditional Chinese literature from the pre-Qin to the Qing dynasty.

The Chinese in South East Asia

This module studies the mass migration of the Chinese to Southeast Asia in the mid-nineteenth century and the Chinese communities in the region. The focus is on their economic, political, cultural activities, identity transformation as well as their contributions towards the region's development since the early twentieth century.

Career & Professional Preparation II

This module prepares students to write effective cover letters and resumes. Preparation and enhancement of portfolio to meet professional standards as well as development of presentation skills, and improvement of job-seeking techniques will also be covered in the module.

EDUCATION SPECIALISATION

Child Development & Learning

This module examines the nature of child development. Students will learn the holistic nature of development, the biological foundation, pre-natal development, brain research and major developmental theories in relation to

physical, social, cognitive and emotional development. Students will be introduced to child study and observation techniques.

Written Communication in Chinese 2

This module builds on the foundation of Written Communication 1, by further enhancing students' critical and writing skills in creative and academic writing. Students will sharpen their writing skills and practices through the different contexts taught, such as poetry writing, fable writing, novel and short story writing, drama writing, and academic writing.

BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Public Relations

This module introduces students to the basic principles and practices of public relations (PR) and event management. Students will pick up strategic planning skills and learn to apply PR tools and techniques to develop sound and effective PR programmes. The module also covers strategies to manage relations with stakeholders, as well as event management skills.

Writing for the Chinese Media

This module provides an overview of journalism and different types of news writing in the mass media, and also the creative process of advertising which covers basic principles and concepts of copywriting. Students will be introduced to the standard structure and the language style of news and feature writing, and learn to write and edit Chinese-language editorial, promotional and commercial copy for the creative media.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION

Child Development 1

This module introduces students to research on brain developments and its implications on children's growth and learning. Early Years developmental milestones will be discussed with significant emphasis on birth to three years of age. Students will develop an understanding of the philosophy of infant and toddler care and development, and the Early Years Development Framework (EYDF). Theories of child development, with emphasis on Attachment theory, characteristic behaviours, and their implications on play and care-giving practices for families and in the infant care context will be covered. Students will also learn appropriate behaviour guidance and interaction strategies for this age group of children that are informed by observations and documentations.

Motor Skills Development

This module equips students with the knowledge and skills to help young children develop perceptual, fine motor and fundamental movement skills consisting of locomotor, non-locomotor and object control skills in a safe environment. Students will learn to observe, plan, implement and facilitate fun, meaningful and age appropriate indoor and outdoor play activities and fundamental movement experiences using an integrated approach to learning.

Practicum

This practicum is for students to experience the practical aspects of working with young children in early childhood settings with a focus on ages three plus and younger. It will support students' learning in the area of child development, observation of children in various contexts, safety, health, hygiene and nutrition matters and the learning environment for play. Students will be involved in daily routine care and taking on teacher-assistant roles. With observations and

documentations, students will plan and implement learning experiences for an individual child. Students will also engage in reflective writing on their roles and interactions with children.

The Professional & Reflective Practitioner

This module explores the various roles of an early childhood educator in working with children, families, other professionals and agencies in the community. A range of professional issues will be examined, including stages of professional development, practitioner competencies, continuing education, advocacy and personal growth plans which are aligned with the current early childhood landscape in Singapore. Students will learn communication and reflective skills and how to manage ethical issues in relation to working with children, colleagues and families taking reference from the Code of Ethics for Early Childhood Professionals by AECES. Students will also be equipped to understand self and reflect on personal preferences and style; interpersonal skills and to enhance personal effectiveness through self-mentoring.

Aesthetics & Creative Expression

This module introduces students to an array of visual and performing arts and exposures for the appreciation of the creative art forms. In addition, students will be introduced to progressive theories on Arts education to build firm foundations on the key roles the Arts play within early years settings. Theories related to aesthetic and creativity will also be introduced. Students will learn multiple approaches to engage young children in creative-arts expressions that are aesthetically rich and imaginative. Through both theory and experiential sessions, students will encounter the Arts first hand and will design Arts experiences that are developmentally appropriate, meaningful and informed by practice.

Child Safety, Health & Socio-emotional Well-Being

This module introduces policies and practices for establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for educators and children in the early childhood settings as they relate to the socio- emotional wellbeing of children. Students will understand the importance of nutritional adequacy and balanced meals for children's optimal growth. They will learn to identify early childhood illnesses and symptoms, and engage in hygienic practices and being able to observe for signs of child abuse and addressing them professionally. Clinical practice will be included for students to learn how to manage the day-to-day care routines and transitions for children from infancy to the preschool years.

Mentoring Programme 2.1

This module builds on MP1.2 and continues to guide students on career decisions and goals, with a focus on the Early Childhood sector. Students will continue to develop career and education plans, and how to take positive steps to embark on them. Character values and work ethics which are important for students to excel in their career and in life will also be covered. In the second year of study, life skills such as personal management is introduced to help students gain skills to manage their time and conflicts which are critical for them when handling many projects and assignments, and working in groups with others.

Career & Professional Preparation II

This module prepares students to write effective cover letters and resumes. Preparation and enhancement of portfolio to meet professional standards as well as development of presentation skills, and improvement of job-seeking techniques will also be covered in the module.

LEVEL 2.2

COMMON MODULES FOR EDUCATION SPECIALISATION AND BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Contemporary Chinese Language

This module provides the basic foundations in Chinese language and linguistics. The course introduces students to formal features of the Chinese language, including its lexical features, phonological system, morphology, syntactical structure as well as writing system. Students will also explore the characteristics of Chinese language as it is used in the Singapore context.

Modern Chinese Literature

This module is a general introduction to the different genres of modern Chinese literature from 1917 to the modern era. Through the works of famous Chinese writers, students will be able to learn the development of Chinese literature in the 20th century and refine their critiquing and analytical skills. Students would also be able to explore their thoughts on literature in the modern era.

Project Development

This module provides students with the fundamental knowledge of conceptualising, planning, and pitching a project. Students will be guided in the creative process of generating, developing, and communicating new ideas. Students will learn the techniques and approaches to idea generation, the basic knowledge and skills of proposal writing, and pitching and project management.

EDUCATION SPECIALISATION

Classical Chinese Poetry

This module focuses mainly on Tang Poetry and Song Lyrics. Poets from different schools and their representative works will be studied. Students are encouraged to read extensively about certain poets' life stories and their creative writings. They are trained to have an eye for the beauty of classical Chinese poetry, and acquire the art of appreciating it.

Curriculum Design & Pedagogy

This module provides students with an overview of what a quality educational programme entails. Students will review the different curriculum models and develop skills and strategies in devising appropriate learning outcomes for children from pre-school to primary school. Students will also be introduced to pedagogies and curriculum approaches to support children's learning in Chinese language.

Introduction to Children's Literature

This module introduces students to children's literature and explains how it has reflected cultural, social and ideological change. Students will examine the ways in which the child has been depicted in literature, learn to appreciate and critique different genres of children's books and be able to select age-appropriate books for young children. A study of children's television and drama is included.

BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Business Translation

This module equips students with the effective skills and techniques for translating business and trade-related documents, including business correspondence, contracts and agreements, memorandums, notices and press releases. Students will learn to translate the texts from English to Chinese and vice versa through proper diction and expressions.

Chinese Business Communication

This module exposes students to the context of commercial exchange and communication skills between people of different countries and cultures. Students will learn the cultural and social differences, the use of international business language and business correspondence and other non-verbal communication, and understand international business etiquette, and the style and strategy of international business negotiations.

Cultural Heritage Tourism

This module studies the tangible and intangible value of cultural heritage in South East Asia. It also provides students with the concept of culture tourism. Through visiting historical and heritage sites, and interacting with industry speakers, students will formulate creative projects based on the knowledge and skills learned in the module.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION

Child Development 2

This module introduces the major theories in child development and their implications on practices in child-rearing and early care and education. The joint contributions of biology and environment to the various aspects of child development will be explored. Students will deepen their understanding of the holistic development of children through observation, recording and analysis of children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth and development. This understanding will help the student link theory to practice and guide the planning of learning experiences and techniques for behaviour guidance. The six learning domains of the Nurturing Early Learners Framework will also be discussed.

Social Emotional Learning

This module equips students with the theoretical knowledge and pedagogical skills to nurture social- emotional competencies and positive values necessary for character formation in young children. It also addresses the role of teachers, in modeling good character traits, in helping children develop self- awareness and self-management skills for their emotional well-being as well as social competence to build strong interpersonal relationships. Students will also take reference from the six learning dispositions (PRAISE) and use children's picture books to promote positive values, pro-social behavior, understanding of self and others and integrate social emotional learning across the curriculum.

Language & Literacy

This module introduces students to the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of literacy development from birth to six years of age including trends and issues within a multicultural and multilingual society. Students will learn to design, organise and evaluate literacy-rich environment that helps facilitate language development; identify suitable prints and other media for reading activities to develop in young children an appreciation for a variety of children's literature. Students will also plan experiences for diverse learners, facilitate learning using appropriate techniques, assess children's progress and work with families to enhance children's language and literacy development.

Principles & Practices in Early Education

This module provides students with an overview of the historical development of early childhood care and education (ECCE), pedagogical principles and contemporary perspectives. Students will also gain an understanding of the different models of practices internationally including the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) and how they relate to Singapore. ECCE development in the Singapore landscape, policies (of MSF, MOE and ECDA), curriculum frameworks like the Early Years Development Framework and the Nurturing Early Learners: A Curriculum Framework for

Kindergartens in Singapore (NEL Framework), as well as SPARK certification that guide provisions of quality care and education and key stage outcomes will also be included. Play that is central to trends and research in ECCE will be explored in the context of how developmentally, culturally and individually appropriate it is as a mode for learning in young children from infancy to the preschool years.

Introduction to Children’s Literature

The module aims to equip students with the analytical skills and ability to appreciate children’s literature through different genres such as poems, fairy tales, and fables. Students will also learn how to write stories, poems and fairy tales for children.

Effective Learning Environment for Young Children

This module equips students with the principles to design conducive learning environments to support play and learning for children from birth to six-years of age, noting that the conditions in the environment also affect their behavior. Students will also learn to set up appropriate learning areas to enhance the physical, cognitive and social and emotional development of children. The selection of print and non-print materials, use of technology and the role of the educator will also be covered.

Mentoring Programme 2.2

This module continues to guide students to develop career and education plans, and how to take positive steps to embark on them. Character values and work ethics which are important for students to excel in their career and in life will also be covered. In this programme, the Mentor will continue to meet students regularly as a class to impart life skills, in small groups or on one-to-one basis to guide them to reflect and take actions towards their goals and personal growth. Life skills such as personal management of their time, conflicts and teamwork are emphasised.

Word Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^

This module develops a student’s ability to think critically on world issues. Students will discuss a wide range of social, political and cultural issues from the Singapore perspective. It also looks at how city-state Singapore defied the odds and witnessed close to half a century of rapid economic growth, strong political ties and social harmony.

COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
YEAR 2	
Level 2.1	
EDUCATION SPECIALISATION	
(22 hours per week)	
Child Development & Learning	4
Intermediate Translation	4
Readings in Chinese Classics	4
The Chinese in South East Asia	4
Written Communication in Chinese 2	4
Career & Professional Preparation II	2
BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION	

(22 hours per week)

Intermediate Translation	4
Public Relations	4
Readings in Chinese Classics	4
The Chinese in Southeast Asia	4
Writing for the Chinese Media	4
Career & Professional Preparation II	2

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION**(28 hours per week)**

Child Development 1	4
Motor Skills Development	4
Practicum	7
The Professional & Reflective Practitioner	2
Aesthetics & Creative Expression	4
Child Safety, Health & Socio-emotional Well-Being	4
Mentoring Programme 2.1	-
Career & Professional Preparation II	2

Level 2.2**EDUCATION SPECIALISATION****(24 hours per week)**

Classical Chinese Poetry	4
Contemporary Chinese Language	4
Curriculum Design & Pedagogy	4
Introduction to Children's Literature	4
Modern Chinese Literature	4
Project Development	4

BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION**(24 hours per week)**

Business Translation	4
Chinese Business Communication	4
Contemporary Chinese Language	4
Cultural Heritage Tourism	4
Modern Chinese Literature	4
Project Development	4

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION**(27 hours per week)**

Child Development 2	4
Socio Emotional Learning	4
Language & Literacy	4
Principle & Practices in Early Education	4
Effective Learning Environment for Young Children	4
Introduction to Children's Literature	4
Mentoring Programme 2.2	-

Notes:

^ For more details on Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) electives, please log on to www.np.edu.sg/is/

IS Modules

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) delivers a broad-based curriculum, which nurtures a new generation of professionals with multidisciplinary skills and an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit to meet the challenges of a knowledge economy. IS offers both prescribed modules and electives to challenge boundaries. Prescribed modules develop students' competencies in core areas such as Communication, Innovation and Enterprise, Culture and Communication, and Personal Mastery and Development, while elective modules provide insights into Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.