

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 3.1

COMMON MODULES FOR EDUCATION SPECIALISATION AND BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Classical Chinese Fiction

This module provides a brief introduction of the development of Chinese fiction starting from pre-Qin to late Ming and Qing dynasty. Students will learn to appreciate and analyse literary works related to ancient social life, history and culture of the elites in these eras.

Critical Reading and Writing in Chinese

This module introduces students to the different representative works of important writers; students will be taught to appreciate and analyse the theory of writing. In addition, they will learn the skills of modifying language expression and writing comprehension, and also grasp the characteristics and advantages of different stylistic literary masterpieces to enhance and deepen their understanding of the theory of writing.

Folklore and The Arts

This module gives a broad overview of the development of Chinese folklore and the arts. Students will be introduced to folklore development from ancient China to the present. The relationship between folk art and festivals will also be explained. Students will also be introduced to the contemporary cultural phenomenon of Southeast Asia and Singapore.

Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

This module gives an overview of the history of Chinese philosophy. It covers the different philosophical schools of thoughts starting from the seminal warring states period to the contemporary era. Students learn about the different philosophers and their distinctive teachings and practices, and develop the ability to compare and contrast ideas and arguments.

Career & Professional Preparation III

This module equips students with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

World 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 the city-state of Singapore defied the odds to achieve more than half a century of rapid economic growth, political stability and social harmony.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION

Curriculum Planning & Implementation

This module provides students with the knowledge and skills for planning, implementing and evaluating developmentally appropriate curriculum for children from birth to three and from three plus to six years of age. Students will take reference from the Early Years Development Framework and the NEL Framework to explore the scope and process of integrating learning areas and learning dispositions. Philosophies and beliefs and theoretical underpinnings of how children learn and develop that are fundamental to the meaning of curriculum will be discussed. The supporting environment, the types of learning activities, the role of the educator and different facilitation techniques will also be thoughtfully considered.

Family & Community Partnership

This module equips students with the knowledge of family structure and dynamics in Singapore and skills for working and communicating with families, with the understanding of interdependence between schools and families. Various models of family involvement will be explored with a focus on schools working respectfully with diverse family groups and tapping on community resources for the education of young children.

Early Numeracy

This module examines the theoretical framework which underpins young children's learning of mathematics. Students will be introduced to the principles, knowledge and skills required to plan, implement and evaluate learning experiences that lay the foundations for children to become problem solvers and abstract thinkers. Students will learn to choose developmentally appropriate materials and resources, set up mathematically-rich environment, use teaching techniques to nurture children's mathematical thinking and assess their learning. The use of technology and integration of numeracy in the other learning domains will also be emphasised.

Discovery of the World

This module provides an overview of how young children make sense of the world they live in and how they acquire knowledge and concepts. The scope of Science, environment awareness, technology in everyday life and learning, the Social Sciences, and culture and heritage, for children's inquiry will also be covered. Students will learn to use the Constructivist approach to teaching, engage in field exploration and setting up discovery corners. Teaching techniques that support inquiry and independent learning in children will be covered. In addition, developmentally and culturally appropriate learning goals and experiences for children from birth to six years of age will be addressed.

Folklore & The Arts

The module gives a broad overview of the development of Chinese folklore and the arts. Students will be introduced to the folklore development from the ancient China to the present. The relationship between folk art and festivals will

also be explained. Students will also be introduced to the contemporary cultural phenomenon of Southeast Asia and Singapore

Mentoring Programme 3

The focus of the life skills in level 3 is on responsible decision-making to help students make deliberate choices on work or university progression when they are in the last lap of their polytechnic education.

Career & Professional Preparation III

This module equips students with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include personal hygiene, making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

LEVEL 3.2

EDUCATION SPECIALISATION

Chinese Etymology & Modern Chinese Script*

This module equips students with a basic knowledge of Chinese etymology and the modern Chinese script. It deals with the origin and evolution of Chinese writing, the analysis of the structure, form and meaning of Chinese characters, as well as the reform movement of Chinese writing in later stages. Such knowledge will enhance students' ability when they become Chinese language teachers, especially when it comes to the teaching and recognition of Chinese characters.

Internship / Project Work**

This module places students on semester-long internships that match their abilities and interests. Alternatively, students may work on career-related or research-related projects in their areas of interest.

***For students not with NIE in final semester*

Modern Chinese Grammar*

This module aims to provide students with a basic knowledge of modern Chinese grammar, as well as an understanding of the nature and classification of the Chinese lexicon. It will equip them with the concepts and skills to analyse the various parts of speech and sentence structures of various kinds of modern Chinese texts in daily and academic life. It also deals with the functions of rhetoric in literature and everyday life. It aims to enable students to determine the linguistic structure of an expression and relate it to its meaning and rhetorical effects.

Teaching of Civics & Moral Education*

This module introduces students to the use of various approaches to teach civics and moral education at the primary school level. Students will learn core values such as love and humility, filial piety, harmonious family, courtesy, responsibility, compassion and loyalty. Important subjects like the cultural practices, values, places of worship, customs and traditions of the different races of Singapore will be included in the module.

Techniques in the Teaching of Chinese Language*

This module equips students with a comprehensive understanding of the various teaching methods and various practical techniques in the teaching of different language skills. The use of IT in the teaching of Chinese language will be included.

Use of Chinese in Teaching (Hanyu Pinyin)*

This module develops the oral communication skills of students for teaching purposes. Three main sections will be emphasised: Phonetics, Speech Skills and Effective Classroom Communication. Errors in Mandarin pronunciation with regard to vowels and consonants, the four tones and the change of tone with specific words will be taught. Students will also be exposed to the practical knowledge and skills in Hanyu Pinyin, accurate pronunciation and standard Mandarin.

**For students with MOE Teacher Training Scheme*

BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Internship / Project Work

This module places students on semester-long internships that match their abilities and interests. Alternatively, students may work on career-related or research-related projects in their areas of interest.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION

Working with the Exceptional Child

This module introduces students to various exceptional needs in young children including physical, cognitive, behavioral, emotional and sensory characteristics that make them different. Trends and issues in relation to inclusive practices and policies will be covered. Students will learn about their roles in an inclusive learning environment, design of individualised learning plans and communication with families. Students will also explore community resources and professionals that provide support for children with additional needs.

Student Internship Programme (3 months)

The Internship Programme, with professional practitioners acting as mentors, enable students to acquire the work experience needed for their chosen areas of interest. The organisations involved are selected for their capacity to allow students to learn different aspects of work in the early childhood industry. The students' learning outcomes are assessed by their respective internship mentors and NIEC supervisors. Students could also work closely with staff in the early childhood centres on projects that will benefit children, families and the community.

COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
YEAR 3	
Level 3.1	
<u>EDUCATION SPECIALISATION & BUSINESS SPECIALISATION</u>	
(20 hours per week)	
Classical Chinese Fiction	4
Critical Reading and Writing in Chinese	4
Folklore and The Arts	4
Introduction to Chinese Philosophy	4
Career & Professional Preparation III	2
World Issues: A Singapore Perspective ^	2
EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION	

(23 hours per week)

Curriculum Planning & Implementation	4
Family & Community Partnership	4
Early Numeracy	4
Discovery of the World	4
Folklore & The Arts	4
Career & Professional Preparation III	2
Mentoring Programme 3	-

Level 3.2**EDUCATION SPECIALISATION****(20 hours per week)**

Chinese Etymology and Modern Chinese Script	4
Modern Chinese Grammar	4
Teaching of Civics and Moral Education	4
Techniques in the Teaching of Chinese Language	4
Use of Chinese in Teaching (Hanyu Pinyin)	4

BUSINESS CHINESE SPECIALISATION

Internship / Project Work	22
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EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING SPECIALISATION**(4 hours per week)**

Working with the Exceptional Child	4
Student Internship Programme (3 months)	12

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.