

TAMIL STUDIES WITH EARLY EDUCATION COURSE MODULES

Has it always been your dream to be a teacher? Do you have a love for the rich Tamil language and culture? You can now realise your dream by taking up the Diploma in Tamil Studies with Early Education [TSE]!

Through this unique diploma, you get to share your passion for the Tamil language and culture by teaching young children. With an increasing emphasis on the Mother Tongue Language [MTL] in schools, you will become a highly sought-after Tamil Language preschool educator.

In the first year, you will hone your language proficiency in Tamil and English while gaining exposure to the rich Tamil history, literature and culture.

In the second and final years, you will continue your cultural journey through modules such as Introduction to Tamil Film & Performing Arts and Tamil Arts & the Contemporary Society. You will also learn about child development to design and deliver language and literacy programmes for young children.

In addition, you get to apply what you have learnt in a three-month internship with a preschool where you will teach Tamil MTL and literacy to young children. Throughout your three years, you will also be exposed to career and professional preparation modules that prepare you for the workplace.

LEVEL 1.1

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.

Communication in Tamil 1

The module develops the core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Tamil. Students will also learn the technicalities of Tamil language like Tamil word classification and formation of words, grammar, syntax, phonology and semantic, enabling them be an effective user of the Tamil language.

Introduction to Tamil Culture & Society

This module introduces the Tamil heritage and culture, and in particular, the practices that influences the Tamilians' way of life in Tamil Nadu, other parts of India and outside of India. Students will also learn about the changes and development of Tamil culture and language over time. Students will be given opportunities to explore ways to promote and preserve the Tamil culture and heritage, in the Singapore context, in the 21st century.

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.

Academic Writing & Presentation

The module focuses on critical thinking, academic writing as well as presentation and listening skills. The module aims to equip students with the skills for academic writing and presentation. Finding and evaluating academic sources, reading, annotation, essay planning and writing, and presentation skills will be developed in this module.

Career & Professional Preparation I

This module helps to give students a foundational introduction to their three-year diploma course curriculum and how it prepares them for industry. It will help them to embark on their three-year course with the end in mind, through guided reflection of their personal characteristics, and producing an overall game plan for their future education and career goals. The module aims to deepen students' commitment to the sector that the course prepares them for.

Sports & Wellness[^]

This module helps students to learn a sport as a recreational activity to keep them fit and healthy. Team building and collaboration skills are developed as you network with other students. There are a total of 19 sports electives to choose from Aerobics, Badminton, Basketball, Cheerleading, Dance Movement, Dancesport, Flag Football, Hip Hop, Life Saving / Swimming, Netball, Orienteering, Street Soccer, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Touch Rugby, Volleyball, Wellness Programme and Yoga. Outstanding students are awarded a Pass with Merit.

LEVEL 1.2

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.

Communication in Tamil 2

The module introduces students to basic translation skills from English to Tamil and vice versa. Students will build on their core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Tamil through the use of technology. These skills will allow students to become effective users of the language in both digital and non-digital platforms.

IT Applications

The module develops e-competencies by equipping the students with the essential computing concepts and necessary skills to use computer applications for information research, organisation, collaboration and presentation.

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.

Tamil History

The module gives an introduction to the Tamil history. Students will learn about the following various historical periods: Pre-historic period, Sangam period, Pallava and Pandaya period, Chola period and post-independence period. This would give students a sound understanding of the history of Tamil, probing them to reflect critically on the Tamil culture and practices.

Tamil Literature

The module introduces the Tamil literature from the Sangam period to the Modern era. Students will explore the relationship between Tamil history and its literature. Students will examine the different Tamil epics (e.g. Thirukkural and Aathichudi), local Tamil novels and short stories. Students will be introduced to the elements of Tamil literature, enabling them to reflect and analyze the different literature materials.

Mentoring Programme 1.2

This module guides students in deciding on career pathways and setting career goals, with focus on the Early Childhood sector. Students learn to make decisions about their 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 first year of study, to help students transit smoothly from secondary school into polytechnic education, life skills such as emotional and stress management will be the focus.

Business Communication

The module prepares students to communicate effectively in business settings. Students will learn both oral and written communication skills that demonstrate concepts of business communication principles, interpersonal skills and intercultural skills. Topics such as proposal and report writing, elevator pitch and professional presentation will be covered.

COURSE CURRICULUM

YEAR 1

Level 1.1 (26 hours per week)

Child Development 1	4
Communication in Tamil 1	4
Introduction to Tamil Culture & Society	3
Introduction to Tamil Language	3
Motor Skills Development	4
Academic Writing & Presentation	4
Career & Professional Preparation I	2
Sports & Wellness ^	2

Level 1.2 (27 hours per week)

Child Development 2	4
Communication in Tamil 2	4
Tamil History	3
Tamil Literature	3
Principles and Practices in Early Education	4
IT Applications	4
Mentoring Programme 1.2	-
Business Communication	4

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.