

## **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 3.1**

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Teaching Tamil Literacy to Diverse Learners**

The module prepares students for the detailed attention that has to be given to learning the Tamil Language from a young age. It will provide the stepping stone to apply effective instructional methods that are also developmentally appropriate for the teaching of reading, writing and speaking Tamil. Differentiated strategies will be introduced for acquiring vocabulary, comprehension and writing. Students will learn to plan and deliver creatively and use multiple forms of assessment of children based on the diverse needs of the learners they are working with.

#### **Folklore & the Arts**

This module gives students an in-depth perspective of folklore and the traditional arts (e.g. karakattam, nadaswaram and mayillatam) in Tamil Nadu. Students will be introduced to the various folklore and study the development of these art forms in Tamil Nadu. Students will also study the relationship between these folklore and the arts with heritage and cultural practices of Tamilians. Students will also be introduced to the contemporary cultural phenomenon of folklore and the arts in Southeast Asia.

### Communication in Tamil 3

This module introduces students to the techniques of writing short stories, poems, prose and songs for children. They would have opportunities to pen and create their own literature material suitable for the Singapore society. This module will allow students develop the mastery of their Tamil language skills, enabling students to use it effectively to capture and promote the Tamil culture, heritage and language in 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

The module equips participants 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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## COURSE CURRICULUM

### YEAR 3

#### Level 3.1 (22 hours per week)

Working with the Exceptional Child

4

Family & Community Partnership	4
Teaching Tamil to Diverse Learners	4
Folklore & the Arts	3
Communication in Tamil 3	4
Career & Professional Preparation III	2
Mentoring Programme 3	-
<b>Level 3.2 (20 hours per week)</b>	
Student Internship Programme (3 months)	12
Effective Learning Environment for Young	4
Curriculum Planning & Implementation	4

**Notes:**

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