

## 5.1 Degree programmes and requirements

The National Institute of Education (NIE) offers a variety of graduate programmes. Although the focus of the programmes is in education, the programmes are diverse and cover traditional disciplines in science, arts and humanities.

For more information, applicants are requested to visit the respective NIE websites while existing students are to refer to the respective NIE Student Handbook/Handout in the Student Portal.

### Higher Degrees by Research

Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts and Master of Science

#### Research Areas

- Arts
- Education
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Sciences

Candidates reading for a higher degree by research pursue an independent but supervised research on an approved topic based on which a thesis must be submitted for examination. The award of the research degree is based solely on the thesis submitted.

A rigorous system is used to prepare the candidates for the research phase. The candidates are required to attend classes and do well in the examination in at least three to six courses. Selection of courses is made after consultation with the research supervisor.

Candidates who are admitted as Research Students in the first instance are also required to undergo a Confirmation Exercise in order to be confirmed as a higher degree candidate. The Confirmation Exercise, which is conducted after a period of study, requires the candidates to submit a progress report on their research work as well as to present and pass a confirmation seminar.

Research candidates work closely and keep in regular contact with their assigned supervisor on their research project. Supervisors will submit regular reports on the progress of each candidate under their supervision.

In addition to being examined on the thesis, a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy must pass an oral examination on the subject matter of his thesis and other related courses. For non-PhD candidates, the oral examination may be prescribed at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

#### Contact Person

Administrative Manager  
Graduate Programmes and Research Office  
Tel: (65) 6790 3871  
Email: [nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg](mailto:nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg)  
Website: <http://www.nie.edu.sg/nieweb/index.do>

#### Doctor in Education

The Doctor in Education (EdD), Dual Award programme is designed for professionals who would like to extend their professional expertise and training and develop skills in research, evaluation and reflection on practice. It is of value to academic staff in universities and colleges, school leaders and professionals working in international organisations. It is also suitable for senior administrators in schools, universities as well as educational and government bodies. It has the rigour and expectations of a PhD, but with a professional focus.

#### Contact Person

EdD Dual Award Coordinator

Graduate Programmes & Research Office  
Tel: (65) 6790 3871  
Email: edd@nie.edu.sg  
Website: [www.nie.edu.sg/nieweb/index.do](http://www.nie.edu.sg/nieweb/index.do)

**Higher Degrees either by Coursework with Dissertation or by Coursework only**

- (i) Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics)
- (ii) Master of Arts (Educational Management)
- (iii) Master of Arts (Instructional Design and Technology)
- (iv) Master of Arts (Social Studies)
- (v) Master of Education
- (vi) Master of Science (Exercise and Sport Studies)
- (vii) Master of Science (Life Sciences)

**Higher Degree by Coursework only**

- (viii) Master of Science (Mathematics for Educators)

**Higher Degrees by Coursework with Dissertation**

- (ix) Master of Arts (Applied Psychology)
- (x) Master of Arts (Counselling and Guidance)

Candidates reading for a Master's degree by Coursework with Dissertation or by Coursework only, follow a prescribed programme of study. The programme of study involves formal classes, tutorials, seminars, laboratory work, practica, assignments and/or written examinations.

For programmes (i) – (viii), candidates must complete 30 Academic Units (AUs) consisting of:

- 8 courses (24 AUs) plus a dissertation (6 AUs) for those who have opted for the Coursework with Dissertation route; or
- 10 courses (30 AUs) for those who have opted for the Coursework Only route

For programme (ix), candidates must complete 42 AUs, consisting of 8 courses (24 AUs), a dissertation (6AUs) and 2 practica (12 AUs).

For programme (x), candidates must complete 42 AUs, inclusive of 11 courses (33 AUs), two practica (6 AUs) and dissertation (3 AUs).

**Contact Person for Programmes (i) – (x)**

Administrative Manager  
Graduate Programmes and Research Office  
Tel: (65) 6790 3871  
Email: [nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg](mailto:nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg)  
Website: <http://www.nie.edu.sg/nieweb/index.do>

**Special Programme**

Other programmes of initial teacher-training lead to the award of the following qualifications:

**Postgraduate Diploma in Education [PGDE]**

(Which qualifies a university degree holder to join the teaching profession and which has several specialisations, namely, secondary school teaching, primary school teaching and teaching of Physical Education)

**Diploma in Education [Dip Ed]**

(Which qualifies GCE 'A' level holders, Polytechnic Diploma holders and GCE 'O' Level holders (after completing a two-year preparatory programme conducted by NIE) to teach in primary schools [for Dip Ed (General) and Dip Ed (Chinese/Malay/Tamil)] and in secondary schools [for Dip Ed (Art/ Music/ Malay/Tamil Specialisation)]

**Diploma in Physical Education [Dip PE]**

(Which qualifies GCE 'A' level holders and Polytechnic Diploma holders to teach Physical Education in primary schools).

**Diploma in Art/Music/Home Economics Education [Dip Art/Mus/HE Ed]**

(Which qualifies holders of diplomas from the polytechnics, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts or the LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts to teach Art, Music or Home Economics in secondary schools).

**Diploma in Special Education [DISE]**

(Which qualifies nominated teachers of special education organisations and special needs officers of the Ministry of Education to teach special needs children in organisations and schools).

**Contact Person for PGDE and Dip Ed Programmes**

Programme Administration Executive  
Foundation Programmes Office  
Tel: (65) 6790 3304

The Institute also conducts formal professional programmes for practising teachers. These include the following:

**Management and Leadership in Schools [MLS]**

Provides training for teachers to function as effective Level and Subject Heads and Heads of Departments in their schools.

**Senior Teachers Programme [STP]**

A professional development programme for senior teachers

**Advanced Senior Teachers Programme [ASTP]**

A professional development programme for senior teachers to take on higher leadership responsibilities

**Leaders in Education Programme [LEP]**

Prepares education officers for school principalship

**Leader for Leaders Programme [LLP]**

An advanced executive programme for senior leaders

**Contact Person**

Associate Dean, Leadership Programmes  
Graduate Programmes and Research Office  
Tel: (65) 6790 3878  
Email: [leadership.programmes@nie.edu.sg](mailto:leadership.programmes@nie.edu.sg)

The Institute also offers the following Advanced Diploma and Advanced Postgraduate Diploma programmes:

**Advanced Diploma Programmes**

**Advanced Diploma in Chinese Language Education**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in the knowledge of Chinese language and literature, enhancement in the communicative skills for teaching Chinese Language and professional development in pedagogy for teaching Chinese Language.

**Advanced Diploma in Drama and Drama Education**

Designed to provide primary, secondary and college teachers who are interested in drama and drama education with an understanding of the issues and practices that will enable them to work within schools using drama as a pedagogical method and as a means of making theatre.

**Advanced Diploma in English**

Designed to provide teachers with a deeper understanding of developments in the teaching and learning of English, exploring integrative approaches to the teaching and learning of English and appropriate strategies for teaching English.

**Advanced Diploma in Guidance and Counselling**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in guidance and counselling and skills in planning, co-ordinating, guiding and evaluating counselling programmes.

**Advanced Diploma in Malay Language Education**

Designed to enhance teachers' knowledge of the Malay language especially Higher Malay, the appreciation of Malay literature, culture and history. Besides keeping abreast with the latest developments in Malay pedagogy, teachers will also be able to acquire practical skills in setting papers, marking and correcting pupils' compositions.

**Advanced Diploma in Primary Art Education**

Designed to address the pedagogical needs and studio experience required of primary art teachers, by developing specialised approaches to art practices and providing opportunities for reflection on current educational issues.

**Advanced Diploma in Primary Mathematics Teaching**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in primary mathematics teaching and skills in planning, co-ordinating, guiding and evaluating the mathematics curriculum.

**Advanced Diploma in Science**

Designed to provide teachers the opportunities to learn and explore recent knowledge and developments in the biological and physical sciences and their applications to everyday life. To further develop skills and knowledge needed for teaching primary science in the changing educational landscape.

**Advanced Diploma in Teaching**

Designed to offer teachers the opportunity to customise their own learning, based on their instructional needs and interests in different schools, and across at least two subject areas within the primary school curriculum. It also offers them a greater scope of elective courses otherwise unavailable within disciplinary Advanced Diplomas.

**Advanced Diploma in Teaching Pupils with Special Learning and Behavioural Needs**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in how to meet the variety of special learning and behavioural needs of pupils in schools as well as how to assess, plan, implement and evaluate programmes.

**Advanced Diploma in Teaching Pupils with High Ability**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth knowledge of the skills required to create a differentiated curriculum as well as the teaching strategies that can be used to meet the needs of highly able learners.

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma Programmes**

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Chinese Language and Literature**

Designed to upgrade the standard of Chinese Language teachers. This programme is targeted primarily at potential student teachers admitted to the PGDE (Pri) (Chinese Specialisation) on a probationary basis and in-service Chinese Language teachers with a PGDE (Pri) (Chinese Specialisation).

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Drama and Drama Education**

Designed to provide understanding of the issues and practices that will enable participants to work within schools using drama as a pedagogical tool and a means of making theatre. Aspects of theory and practice will be explored within workshop teaching sessions, with opportunities to improve performing and facilitating skills.

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Design and Technology Education**

Designed to broaden teachers' knowledge of the trends, issues and practices in Design and Technology (D&T) education both locally and globally with particular reference to secondary school pupils' holistic education and to develop professional practice and a deeper understanding of programme design in line with syllabus requirements, emerging technologies, D&T philosophies and educational reforms and initiatives.

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Guidance and Counselling**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in guidance and counselling and skills in planning, co-ordinating, guiding and evaluating counselling programmes.

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Learning Sciences and Technologies**

Designed to provide teachers with knowledge and training in teaching, training and curriculum design with the use of learning sciences and technologies.

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Life Sciences**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in the life sciences and their applications to everyday life as well as integrative approaches for the teaching and learning of the life sciences in schools.

**Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Special Learning and Behavioural Needs**

Designed to provide teachers with in-depth training in how to meet the variety of special learning and behavioural needs of pupils in schools as well as how to assess, plan, implement and evaluate programmes.

**Contact Persons for Advanced Diploma and Advanced Postgraduate Diploma Programmes**

Programme Management Executive  
Graduate Programmes and Research Office  
Tel: (65) 6790 3944

**Office of Education Research**

The newly established **Office of Education Research (OER)** oversees the planning, design, management, evaluation and dissemination of educational research across NIE. It has two research centres under its purview.

The **Centre for Research in Pedagogy and Practice (CRPP)** is the largest funded educational research centre in the Asia Pacific. CRPP brings together researchers, teachers and administrators to research into and develop new and innovative ways of teaching and learning, to help Singapore's schools and students address the complex challenges of new economies, cultures and technologies.

The **Learning Sciences Laboratory (LSL)** is the first centre in Asia devoted to conducting research based on theory and research perspectives from the learning sciences. LSL is committed to doing rigorous research into real-world issues in learning and teaching in Singapore schools that will also advance important theoretical and research perspectives in the learning sciences and in education.