GRADUATE STUDIES
@ Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
The information in this guide is mainly for students seeking admission to the graduate programmes at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), National University of Singapore (NUS).

Other undergraduate / study abroad / student exchange programmes are also available and can be viewed at [www.fas.nus.edu.sg](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg)

The content of the information is accurate at the time of printing. Readers are urged to seek detailed information at the website: [www.fas.nus.edu.sg](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg)

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<td>Southeast Asian Studies</td>
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Introduction to the National University of Singapore

From its modest infancy as a medical school founded in 1905, the National University of Singapore (NUS) has grown steadily and significantly and has been consistently rated as one of Asia’s top universities, enjoying international recognition for its academic and research contributions from both faculty members and students alike.

As a comprehensive university, NUS has 17 faculties and schools, including a music conservatory. It has nine leading entrepreneurial hotspots across the globe - Beijing, Israel, Lausanne, Munich, New York, Shanghai, Silicon Valley, Singapore and Stockholm. The University has over 38,000 students from 100 countries to enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives, making campus life vibrant and exciting.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Set on the rolling hills of Kent Ridge, the main NUS campus consists of 150 hectares of buildings nestled in soothing greenery. The University is:

- A leading global university centred in Asia
- A leading research-intensive university
- A key knowledge hub for critical issues relating to Asia
- Excellent Global Rankings – consistently placed amongst leading universities
- The most comprehensive range of Humanities and Social Sciences subjects not only in Singapore but in the region
- 17 Departments / Programmes, 20 subjects, 13 languages as well as cross-faculty options, special degree options and overseas opportunities
- Leading faculty members, strong funding support and excellent research facilities and opportunities
- A Centre for Language Studies allowing students to learn many Asian and European languages
- An active student community
Graduate Studies @FASS

FASS offers a wide range of graduate programmes through coursework and research, catering to a variety of interests. These programmes offer excellent opportunities for students to further develop their potential as intellectual leaders in many fields.

Programmes by coursework are designed for professional development and lead to a Graduate Diploma or a Masters Degree. Programmes by research equip students to work at great depth at the frontiers of knowledge creation. These programmes, which include both coursework and a thesis, lead to a Masters or PhD degree.

For some disciplines, PhD students may submit an article-based PhD thesis as an alternative route to completing a PhD thesis. Depending on the department, students will be required to submit two to three journal articles and an analytical commentary of 8,000 - 12,000 words, more information can be obtained from:

[www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/programmereg.html](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/programmereg.html)

The coursework / research programmes available are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT / PROGRAMME</th>
<th>AREA OF STUDY</th>
<th>COURSEWORK</th>
<th>RESEARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Studies</td>
<td>Chinese Studies</td>
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<td>Communications and New Media</td>
<td>Communications and New Media</td>
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<td>Comparative Asian Studies</td>
<td>* Comparative Asian Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Studies in Asia</td>
<td>* Cultural Studies in Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
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<td>English Language and Literature</td>
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<td>English Literature</td>
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<td>Theatre Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Japanese Studies</td>
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<td>Malay Studies</td>
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<td>* Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeast Asian Studies</td>
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<td>South Asian Studies</td>
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* These are available only for those pursuing PhD studies.

Master of Science (Speech & Language Pathology)

FASS and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (SoM) offer a coursework Master of Science (Speech & Language Pathology) programme. This is the first degree to be offered jointly by FASS and SoM, and represents a significant milestone for allied health training at NUS.
Study Abroad
Joint / Double Degree Options

The Faculty offers several joint / double degree programmes for Masters and PhD students.

These degrees enable students to enhance their training and research work as they benefit from the teaching and resources of two institutions.

Both types of degree programmes offer jointly supervised and assessed degree(s) conferring a doubly validated qualification. These programmes enable students to take advantage of the complementary academic strengths of our partner universities. They also allow international experience to be fully integrated into a student’s research training with the opportunity to stretch their academic capabilities. FASS expects to attract good students and hopes to play a major role in developing the next generation of researchers across Southeast Asia.

Programmes Available:
1. Joint PhD (King’s College London)
2. Joint PhD (University of Edinburgh)
3. Double Masters in Chinese Language (Peking University)
Graduate students can apply to go for an exchange programme at a partner university for three months or more as part of their graduate research programme. These exchange programmes enable students to receive supervision and guidance from professors in our partner universities, gain access to data that may not be readily available in NUS, as well as be exposed to graduate training beyond NUS.

Furthermore, they allow students to expand their networks for future academic collaboration and career development.
Research Clusters @FASS

The interdiscplinary Research Clusters bring intellectual excitement and vibrancy to the FASS community. These Clusters integrate graduate students into the FASS research community as they participate in the reading groups, seminars, workshops and conferences organised by the Clusters.

The Research Clusters at FASS:
- Cities
- Environment
- Health
- Migration
- Religion
- Science, Technology and Society
- Social Science and Policy

For more information on the Research Clusters: www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/researchclusters.html

Research Centres @FASS / FASS currently has 4 research centres:
- The Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR)
- The Next Age Institute (NAI)
- The Global Production Networks Centre at NUS (GPN@NUS)
- The Social Service Research Centre (SSR)

The Singapore Research Nexus

The Singapore Research Nexus (SRN) serves as a showcase for past research, a resource for current research and a platform for future research on Singapore. It provides a useful tool for academics, policy makers and those with a general interest in how research has helped shape the story of Singapore.

For more information on The Singapore Research Nexus: www.fas.nus.edu.sg/srn/

Money Matters & Accommodation

Tuition Fees

FASS offers different kinds of graduate programmes and tuition fees vary from programme to programme. The fee range (per annum) by nationality for both Coursework and Research Programmes is listed as a reference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONALITY</th>
<th>COURSEWORK (SGD)</th>
<th>RESEARCH (SGD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singapore Citizen</td>
<td>$9,000 - $37,000</td>
<td>$8,000 - $33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore Permanent Residents</td>
<td>$13,000 - $37,000</td>
<td>$11,000 - $33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Students</td>
<td>$35,000 - $37,000</td>
<td>$18,000 - $33,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All Singaporeans aged 25 and above can use their $500 SkillsFuture Credit from the government to pay for a wide range of approved skills-related courses. Visit the SkillsFuture Credit website (www.skillsfuture.sg/credit) to choose from the courses available on the SkillsFuture Credit course directory.

Except for the Master of Arts (Chinese Culture and Language) coursework programme, the SkillsFuture Credit is applicable to the graduate programmes.

Detailed fee information on specific programmes as well as self-funded / government subsidised fee schemes / sponsorships / medical benefit schemes and other miscellaneous student fees can be found at: www.fas.nus.edu.sg/prospective/grad.html

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

There are several different types of scholarships available for graduate students. These scholarships are highly competitive and are given to students who have attained an excellent academic record. Applying for these scholarships is done concurrently with the application for admission to the graduate programme.

The amount of scholarships and the application requirements vary. Students who are unable to qualify for such scholarships can also apply for study loans or part-time teaching/research appointments.

The full list of scholarships and other financial assistance schemes can be found at: www.fas.nus.edu.sg/prospective/grad/index.html

Accommodation

Housing facilities are available at various parts of the NUS campus. Graduate Residence at UTown provides different options for accommodation and a chance to meet other graduate students in a student community characterised by cultural diversity.

Look out for the timelines of application for student accommodation on campus at: www.nus.edu.sg/osa/has
WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

TAN TECK HENG
Current PhD student in English Language and Literature and Joint Degree Programme with King’s College London

As a single-child of a working-class family, I especially value the financial stability provided by my scholarship. The programme allows me to remain in Singapore, and in the lives of my ageing parents.

SHOBHA VADREPU
Current PhD student in Communications and New Media

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has provided a very supportive context for the realisation of my goals. Significantly for me, stepping into FASS meant access to experienced scholars and an abundantly stocked library.

EGOR ANANYEV
Current PhD student in Psychology

As a Russian student who studied and worked in the United States of America, I was always fascinated with Asia and considered the NUS programme a natural extension of both my interests and academic career as FASS, NUS has a very competitive research focus.

Admission and Application Procedures

Admission Information

FASS minimum criterion for admission into the graduate programmes is a good Masters degree in a relevant discipline (for PhD) or an NUS Honours degree (Merit/Second Class and above) or equivalent (e.g., a four-year Bachelors degree with at least an average grade of 8) in a relevant discipline (for Masters).

For detailed requirements of specific programmes, please refer to the website at: www.fas.nus.edu.sg/prospective/grad.html

English Language Requirement (TOEFL/IELTS)

Applicants whose native tongue and medium of previous university instruction are not English should submit the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score as evidence of their proficiency.

The following minimum TOEFL score is required:

85 for the internet-based test (with a minimum score of 22 for the writing section); or
580 for the paper-based test; or
237 for the computer-based test

Alternatively, an IELTS result of 6.0 is required

TOEFL and IELTS are only valid for two years after the test and the validity should not expire before the beginning of the application period for the graduate programme.

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) has indicated that score reports are valid only if our University receives them directly from ETS.

The Faculty's TOEFL institution code is 9081.

NOTE:

1. Some Departments / Programmes may set higher requirements than those stated above; for example, the Master of Social Work coursework programme requires a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 while the graduate research programmes require a minimum IELTS score of 7.0.
2. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) reports are necessary for admission into the Department of Political Science, Department of Psychology, Department of Social Work and Cultural Studies in Asia Programme.

cont'd
Applications can be paper-based or made online but online applications are **STRONGLY** preferred.

The Graduate Admission System for Coursework/Research enables candidates to apply for admission into the graduate coursework/research programmes offered by FASS at:


**Application into the Programme**

Applications can be paper-based or made online but online applications are **STRONGLY** preferred.

The Graduate Admission System for Coursework/Research enables candidates to apply for admission into the graduate coursework/research programmes offered by FASS at:


**Application Fee**

Applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of S$50 when an application is submitted.

**Application Documents**

Although an application is submitted online, relevant supporting documents must be sent via post. In order for the applicant to be considered for a specific intake, the online application, payment and available supporting documents must reach the office by the relevant deadlines. Please refer to the website for details.

For more information about applications, please visit our website at:

www.fas.nus.edu.sg/prospective/grad.html

**For Coursework Programmes, the application periods are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER I (August)</th>
<th>APPLICATION PERIOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Social Sciences (Applied Economics)</td>
<td>1st October (in the year preceding the intake) to 15th January (in the same year as the intake)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (Chinese Studies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (Chinese Culture and Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (English Language and Linguistics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (Literary Studies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (Southeast Asian Studies)</td>
<td>1st November (in the year preceding the intake) to 15th January (in the same year as the intake)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Psychology (Clinical)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Science (Applied Geographic Information Systems)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Diploma in Social Work</td>
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**For Research Programmes, the application periods are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER I (August)</th>
<th>APPLICATION PERIOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>1st April (in the year preceding the intake) to 1 November (in the year preceding the intake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Departments / Programmes (refer to page 18)</td>
<td>16th May (in the year preceding the intake) to 1st November (in the year preceding the intake)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SEMESTER II (January)</th>
<th>APPLICATION PERIOD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Studies</td>
<td>2nd November (14 months before the intake) to 15th May (in the year preceding the intake)</td>
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<td>Communications and New Media</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Japanese Studies</td>
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**Processing Time:**

- **SEMESTER I (August) — By 31st MAY**
- **SEMESTER II (January) — By 31st OCT**

For an up-to-date and detailed overview of the above, please visit:

www.fas.nus.edu.sg/prospective/grad.html
CONTACT US

GRADUATE STUDIES DIVISION
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National University of Singapore
The Shaw Foundation Building
AS7, Level 6, 5 Arts Link
Singapore 117570
Tel: +65 6516 6164 / 8033 / 8036
Fax: +65 6773 6878

www.fas.nus.edu.sg

FAQs

You can find the list of questions frequently asked by students on our website:

Coursework
www.fas.nus.edu.sg/coursework/faq-csewrk.html

Research
www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/faq-rsh.html

If you cannot find the answer to your question there, you can contact the Graduate Studies Division by email:

Coursework – fasbox4@nus.edu.sg

Research – fasbox3@nus.edu.sg

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

The support offered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for overseas fieldwork has enriched my research and deepened my perspective. Additionally, the opportunity to participate at overseas conferences has allowed access to feedback from experts and from colleagues working in similar areas elsewhere.

RITU JAIN
Graduated in 2017 with a PhD in South Asian Studies

There are always opportunities provided by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Department of Japanese Studies to learn more about my field and build networks with like-minded scholars through study trips and international conferences, and to develop my personal attributes and professional skills through seminars and workshops.

MARIA THAEMAR CAMANAG TANA
Current PhD student in Japanese Studies
WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

Joseph Tan Hua Hui
Current Masters student in Applied Geographic Information Systems

I am a senior curriculum specialist for school geography at the Ministry of Education, Singapore. In the last few years, we had promoted the use of geospatial technologies. More recently, we also started re-designing the way young students develop spatial thinking. The MSc in Applied GIS programme had equipped me with relevant skills in spatial data mining, remote sensing, computer programming etc. I have also grown much in my understanding of key topics in geographic information science, such as data quality and spatial cognition. I look forward to applying these skills and knowledge in creating the next generation of school geography syllabuses.

Marie Yeo Hsuyin
Graduated in 2015 with a Master of Social Work

Coming back to school after a long hiatus was a new and enriching experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the learning and hearing new perspectives in considering issues affecting social services and social policy. The Masters in Social Work allowed me to delve deeper into social issues and offered flexibility in combining electives from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. It was invigorating to learn from and interact with lecturers and students from various disciplines. I only wished I had done my Masters earlier!

Nicolas ReneESCOFFIER
Graduated in 2013 with a PhD in Psychology

The Department of Psychology offered an ideal environment that has been instrumental in my academic development during the course of my PhD studies. The diversity of the research conducted in the department exposed me to a broad range of approaches, which have been sources of inspiration. The quality of the courses offered, notably in methodology, have given me decisive skills that have opened new research paths both during my studies and afterward.

Research & Coursework Programmes @FASS
DEPARTMENT OF Chinese Studies

The Department is one of the leading centres for Chinese Studies in Asia. Home to a team of dedicated researchers from prestigious universities in different parts of the world, the Department plays an important role in bridging Chinese cultural heritage and modern Singapore, promoting cutting-edge research in Chinese studies and linguistics, as well as providing effective academic training to students from different cultural backgrounds.

Our courses and research areas cover a broad academic spectrum, including Chinese philosophy, pre-modern and modern history, traditional and modern literature, cultural studies, Chinese Diaspora and overseas Chinese, religious studies, cognitive linguistics, historical linguistics, pragmatics, lexical semantics, first language acquisition, and translation studies.

Our Department has six research groups, namely the Southeast Asian Chinese and Modern China, Chinese Linguistics, Ming-Qing, Print & Popular Culture, Chinese Religions, and Classical Chinese Literature & Thought which are very active in nurturing academic interests and organising scholastic events.

The Department offers the following programmes:

- Master of Arts by Coursework
  - MA (Chinese Culture & Language)
  - MA (Chinese Studies)
- Master of Arts by Research
- Double Degree Master of Arts by Research in Chinese Language with Peking University
- PhD

Owing to the strategic location of Singapore, the Department has always been an active site of cultural and intellectual exchange in the region. “Chinese Studies” is not only about China. The vibrant and unique structure of the Department, including the rich resources available, have undoubtedly broadened graduates’ research insights and worldview.

Not only has the programme offered me opportunities to further pursue my interests in linguistics, the professors and staffs in the Department have also provided great support and guidance along the way. The semester spent in PKU as part of this programme was also a really enriching and fulfilling experience that has benefited me greatly.

Studying in the Department of Chinese Studies in NUS was a great experience for me. With the guidance of my supervisors, I received excellent exposure to research experiences during my PhD!
Our graduate students hail from various parts of the world, including Canada, China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, and Singapore. We welcome students with diverse backgrounds who are determined to take a social sciences approach to study new information-communications technologies.
Comparative Asian Studies PhD Programme
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
National University of Singapore
Blk AS8, Level 6, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent,
Singapore 119260
Tel: +65 6601 3601
Fax: +65 6777 6608
Email: seabox4@nus.edu.sg
www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cas/

Officially launched in 2013, the Comparative Asian Studies (CAS) PhD programme offers an intensive course of study that promotes a trans-regional understanding of Asia. Students will be exposed to ideas designed to shift attention beyond the conceptual boundaries of area-studies scholarship towards the dynamics and processes that connect the region’s vast peoples, cultures, and worldviews.

Qualified candidates will have training in at least two geographical/cultural areas (South, East, Southeast, Northeast, West Asia) enabling them to explore the varying methods, debates, and issues that have shaped those respective fields comparatively. Every candidate will also be exposed to scholarship and conversations drawn from Inter-Asia Studies that highlight the interconnectedness within the broader Asia region.

Participating faculty members, located in our area-studies departments and disciplinary-based departments, represent one of the largest concentrations of Asia-focused scholars in the world. FASS’s research clusters bring together graduate students and faculty regularly to explore topics in (but not limited to): comparative religions, transnational flows, and global histories. Taken together with the CAS PhD’s innovative curriculum, participating candidates have the opportunity to not only engage with leading specialists of Asian Studies, but to contribute to the process of producing knowledge about Asia from within the region.

The programme is unique because it offers the scope of transnational Asian Studies while providing the intensity and focus offered by area-studies training. This combination of breadth and depth encourages research that explores the connectedness of Asia without compromising a deep understanding of its various locales.

The foundation of this programme is based on three components:

- Intensive training in two languages representing two different Asian Studies regions or two different cultural zones;
- An innovative coursework programme;
- Research and writing of a dissertation that is based on research concerning two regions.

Students who apply to the programme can look forward to graduate training in one of Asia’s top universities that is global in scope but tailored to the demands and dynamics of the region.

THAI VINH TRAN
Current CAS PhD Student/University of Michigan and Korea Fellowships holder

“ I have benefitted so much from the programme - the intensive and innovative coursework, the Asian languages undertaken, interactions from dedicated Asian scholars and researchers and the opportunity to conduct deep and insightful fieldwork research in Vietnam and South Korea. I am also very honoured to be awarded Fellowships from the University of Michigan to conduct archival research at its prestigious Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and the Korea Foundation to continue my fieldwork programme in South Korea. ”

CARLO SAMSON GUTIERREZ
Current CAS PhD Student

“ The Comparative Asian Studies programme provides a unique vantage point to conceive and behold Asian discourses and social science in general. Its intricate advantage is the requisite towards a minimum bilingualism and in reality the multilingual demands. The nice thing is it embraces all students of society who are interested in engaging with the issue of Asia - which is extremely timely and relevant in recent years. The challenge it poses, in addition, is the transformative nature of every willed-engagement; as the programmes is relatively novel, all research agenda will ultimately reflect what CAS will look like. It is a demanding, interesting, new, and an all-encompassing programme open to all! ”

MAGDALENA MARIA JEZIORNA
Current CAS PhD Student

“ I have always been a great believer in the idea of studying Asia in Asia and by coming to NUS, hoped to cultivate less Eurocentric approach to my research. The programme enabled me to do so by providing a larger Asian context for my project. My teaching experience too contributed greatly to my understanding of Asia and has been a source of true joy and inspiration. ”
There has always been a conscious effort in the programme to rethink ideas such as identity, representation, power relations, subject formation, and politics of the body in Asian context, and I found it indispensable for my research progress. Thus, I found Cultural Studies in Asia fitting to my criteria to further my study.

ANNISA RIDZKINOOR BETA
Current PhD student in Cultural Studies in Asia programme

Cultural Studies in Asia Programme
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www.fas.nus.edu.sg/soc/graduate/csa-requirements.html

Cultural Studies in Asia
is a field of teaching and research which challenges conventional disciplinary boundaries to rethink received knowledge on existing issues and to address emergent concerns thrown up by the rapid changes and impact on cultural practices, brought on by new technologies and the new phase of global capitalism. Adopting a multidisciplinary methodology, the programme will provide teaching and research skills in the analysis of the flows and exchanges of popular cultural practices in contemporary Asia, across fluid and porous national and cultural boundaries.

The aims of this graduate programme are to (1) promote specialist and expert study and research of contemporary cultural practices in Asia, and (2) provide the necessary intellectual training that equips individuals for a variety of careers in the creative industry, in both the private and public sectors.

The research interests undertaken by our candidates range from art and the Cold War, transnational female Muslim communities, intangible cultural heritage making, art policy and practice, memories and the politics of literary translation, exhibiting migration in national museums, and the production of war memorials and cemeteries. In these cases, supervisors for the dissertation research have been drawn from Anthropology, Chinese Studies, Communications and New Media, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Sociology, Theatre Studies.
# DEPARTMENT OF Economics

The Department of Economics, set up in 1934, has an established reputation as one of the largest and leading departments of Economics in the Asia-Pacific region. Programmes offered by the Department:

## Coursework
- Master of Social Sciences (Applied Economics)

## Research
- Master of Social Sciences
- Doctor of Philosophy

The Department of Economics at NUS consistently ranks as one of the top programmes in the Asia-Pacific region. The Economics graduate programme prepares students for employment in universities, government, business and financial sectors. Recent graduates of the Department have been placed in well-known universities such as Monash University and University of Western Australia, as well as leading investment institutions such as Citibank, Credit Suisse, DBS Bank, and TC Capital.

Faculty members’ research areas span a wide range of economic fields, with strength in the core areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics, as well as in particular fields such as game theory and industrial organisation, labour economics, education, financial economics, and growth theory and development with special reference to Asia.

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**VANINDER SINGH**  
(MAE, NUS, 2017)

"The biggest testament to the Applied nature of the programme is that even as I studied the various subjects I could see those courses adding value to my professional life; I am a practicing economist working for a global investment bank. More than the core economics subjects, it is the eclectic mix of electives on offer that have provided me with my biggest take-aways. To name just a few: Chinese economy, Urban Economics and Applied Macroeconomics have been some of the courses that I have been able to apply in my everyday work. As a part-time student, the fact that the programme structure is quite flexible has been crucial for me to be able to absorb the most from my studies."

**CAI XIQIAN**  
(PhD, NUS, 2015) Assistant Professor, Xiamen University, China

"I am glad that I had the chance to study in the Economics graduate programme. I met students who came from all around the world. During the years I was in FASS, all of us were able to share not only our knowledge and experience, but to share our culture and enjoy lots of wonderful memories. The professors are not only qualified and knowledgeable; they are also very nice people. I approached them whenever I faced difficulties in understanding certain topics. I would certainly recommend the graduate programme to prospective students looking to gain a deeper knowledge in Economics."

**LIU XUYUAN**  
(PhD, NUS, 2014) Research Fellow, Risk Management Institute, National University of Singapore

"Studying in the FASS Department of Economics was a remarkable experience for me. The graduate research programme enabled me to get full rounded experiences in analysing various economics models, which established my solid foundation of analytical and quantitative skill."

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The Department offers graduate degrees in three areas:

- **English Language and Linguistics**
- **Literary Studies**
- **Theatre Studies**

at three levels

- **MA by coursework** (in English Language and Linguistics, and Literary Studies)
- **MA by research** (in English Language and Linguistics, English Literature, and Theatre Studies)
- **PhD** (in English Language and Linguistics, English Literature, and Theatre Studies)
The Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore is ranked among the top ten Geography departments in the world, and number one in Asia. With more than 30 full-time faculty members, the Department offers research-based graduate programmes in both human and physical geography, with a particular focus on Asia and the tropical world. The graduate programme in Geography plays a central role in keeping the Department at the forefront of geographical education and research internationally.

Our research interests are clustered into three groups, each covering a range of more specific themes and topics for which we welcome graduate research applications:

### Social and Cultural Geographies
- Children and young people's geographies
- Cultural/heritage landscapes
- Development geographies
- Geographies of urban life
- Migration and transnationalism
- Tourism geographies

### Politics, Economies, and Space
- Financialisation in Asia
- Global production networks
- Nature and society
- Politics of economic development
- Transnational corporations from Asia
- Technologies and innovations

### Tropical Environmental Change
- Dynamic environmental processes, including climate change, biogeochemical cycling, land cover transformations, extreme hydrological events
- Environmental consequences of rapid economic development and high levels of consumption, including pollution
- Human-environment interactions, including hazards, natural resource exploitation, conservation

### Master of Science in Applied Geographic Information Systems

The programme of Master of Science in Applied Geographic Information Systems (hereafter MSc in Applied GIS), a single-degree coursework Masters programme hosted in the Department of Geography at NUS, is designed to reflect the cutting-edge technologies and latest developments in GIS and its applications with the reputation of NUS Geography as one of the top ten geography departments around the world. This innovative programme provides an exciting opportunity for the prospective students to study at NUS, one of the top university in Asia, as a pathway to a PhD or further practical career in applied GIS or related disciplines.

**CHUAH CHONG JOON**
(PhD, NUS, 2016) Research Fellow, Institute of Water Policy, NUS

> I was a PhD candidate at the Department between 2011 and 2016. I was not always a student of Geography and the last time I studied Geography was for my ‘Penilaian Menengah Rendah’ (lower secondary education assessment) back home in Penang (Malaysia). After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and then a master’s degree in environmental engineering and stints in engineering consultancy afterwards, I wanted a change. For my PhD, I assessed the quality of the drinking-water resources in Northern Thailand where I was stationed for almost two years. I studied various health hazards in drinking-water supplies from pathogens of faecal origin (e.g. Giardia, Cryptosporidium) originating from humans and livestock to naturally-occurring ones from the environment (e.g. fluoride). My research involved work out in the field and in laboratories. I was also very fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with many scientists and other researchers from different countries and institutions (Universiti Malaya; Duke-NUS; the Intercountry Centre for Oral Health, Chiang Mai etc.).

**EVANGELINE O. KATIGBAK**
(PhD, NUS, 2014) Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore

> Studying at NUS has truly been a life changing experience for me. I had the great opportunity of learning from many world-renown geographers both through the modules that I took at NUS and the many conferences, workshops, seminars and lectures held at the University while I was there. I was also able to work on a research topic that I was truly passionate about. My dissertation focused on the negotiations of transnational familyhood among overseas Filipino workers in Italy and their left-behind families in the Philippines, and I have had many opportunities to present the various works that branched out from this study in different conferences in many places.
RACHEL OH
(M.Soc.Sci., NUS, 2015) Researcher,
CUGE (Urban Ecology) National Parks Board

My time in the Department of Geography has been extremely fulfilling. It involved a great amount of independent research that required much initiative and self-motivation, and has been a supportive platform that allowed me to develop a diverse range of skills. For one, my research stint in both Sulawesi and Singapore has better developed my analytical and language proficiencies.

This proved highly essential in my current job as an urban ecology researcher where I have to develop and implement research projects. Being able to present at regional and international conferences has provided great exposure to learning from and sharing with a diverse audience. This has helped develop the soft skills where I am expected to engage a diverse range of stakeholders on a daily basis. And of course, this multidisciplinary environment has effectively nurtured my love and interest for research as I am constantly surrounded by enthusiastic course mates and academics, who have broadened my horizons and sparked new ideas.

BERNADETTE CHIN SIEW HUI

Current Masters student in Philosophy

One of the key factors I considered doing my MA at FASS was because of the quality of teaching. Having spent my undergraduate years at NUS, I quickly came to respect the outstanding teachers in my department — and really, in other departments too. Speaking of my own department, the professors are deeply knowledgeable about their various areas of specialisation, extremely dedicated in their teaching — my own supervisor dealt patiently with so many extracurricular questions from me, back when I was an undergraduate, and our current Head of Department goes out of his way to ensure excellence in teaching. The professors are also very encouraging, and always challenge you to improve, to be much better; while our department specialises in Chinese philosophy, I’ve been able to receive a significant amount of feedback on work I’m doing in epistemology, in order to make the paper a better one. I’ve benefited immensely from the close mentoring of the professors in the department, as well as how welcoming and open we are as a community. That, more than anything else, inspired me to return to FASS to do my Masters here.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at NUS has been a great place to study. As part of my PhD research, I was able to be part of other research projects, to teach things I’m passionate about and to go on field trips to Indonesia, which was a fundamental part of my research project. I was very happy to be able to talk to researchers from other fields and attend talks by experts from many different places. I also had access to great resources at the library. Overall, it was the perfect place to conduct research, share it with others and get feedback.

MIGUEL ESCOBAR VARELA
Graduated in 2015 with a PhD in Theatre Studies
The Department of History offers degrees by research and dissertation at both the MA and PhD levels. The Department is especially well-known for its concentration in Asian history, notably Southeast and East Asian. Faculty members also supervise cutting-edge research in European, American, and South Asian history, as well as in such thematic fields as military history, the history of art, business, and science & technology, among others. Graduates from the Department have secured tenure-track positions in prestigious universities in North America, Europe, Singapore, China, and many other Asian countries; many Honours and MA graduates have been admitted with scholarship to top graduate schools across the world.

Looking back, these two years at the NUS Department of History was when I felt most free and creative. The faculty members including my supervisor empowered and encouraged me to explore my diverse academic interests while ensuring that there was still some structure to my learning. The coursework modules were challenging but they have stretched my imagination on the range of scholarship possible. I greatly appreciate the department’s multi-disciplinary approach to studying the past, as we learnt how anthropology, architecture, literature and film spoke to historiography and vice versa. There were also regular seminars where we got the chance to hear from and interact with world-renowned scholars. Through tutoring in undergraduate modules and experiencing the inspiring pedagogies from the professors, I have also found my calling in teaching. The cherry that really topped the cake was the supportive graduate community – their diverse worldviews and personalities brought much cheer to the many late nights spent working on my thesis in the graduate room. I am grateful to have had such a rich and fulfilling time in NUS.

Before I came to Singapore to pursue my PhD degree in the Department of History, NUS, I had very limited knowledge of Southeast and South Asian history. The cosmopolitan atmosphere in the department (we have graduate students and faculty members from more than ten countries with research topics ranging from ancient Champa archaeology to the twentieth century United States popular culture) offered me a great chance to broaden my understanding of cultures and histories across the globe. Thanks to the conversations, talks, and sometimes even quarrels with these excellent colleagues during my stay in the department, I have successfully transformed myself from a narrow-minded student who knew nothing more than his own research subject to a global scholar based in Asia.

The department also provided me bountiful grants and fellowships to facilitate my field work in Hong Kong and Shanghai as well as my participation in international conferences in North America. Faculty members of the department, my supervisor and thesis committee members in particular, were always helpful and supportive at every stage of my study. I was, am, and will always be proud to be a member of the history department community.

One day, while in a class about the Indian Ocean, I looked out of our seminar room window and realised that I could actually see the Indian Ocean in the distance, littered with ships. Having done my BA and the MA in the United States, the experience of studying Asia while actually being in Asia had advantages. I appreciated the spatial proximity of the histories studied, the nature of research conducted by the faculty, and the conferences held on campus. Asianists from all over the world came to Singapore, in larger numbers than I had seen anywhere else, to debate, discuss, and try to understand this complex region. This immersion and access to academics and fellow students from fascinating backgrounds proved to be invaluable, especially for someone with inter-disciplinary interests. When it was time for me to travel abroad to find sources unavailable in Southeast Asia, I was supported generously by the department. It was a rich 4-year immersion; I’d do it all over again.
The Department of Japanese Studies offers both Masters and PhD programmes. Candidates have to do coursework and submit an original research dissertation to be awarded the degree. Faculty members at the Department of Japanese Studies specialise in a wide array of disciplines and graduate students will work closely with specific professor(s) in the area of their research. We want students who are well-versed in the discipline and in their understanding of Japan and thus we expect students to also take courses in the disciplinary departments. Students will normally spend time in Japan for fieldwork or archival studies. Being located in Singapore, we especially invite students who work on topics that deal with Japan’s relationship with Asia, be that in economics, politics or culture.

The research was on environmental communication by Japanese companies. Before starting the research, I had to take courses as part of the requirement. I had the opportunity to take courses from not only my department, but related courses from other departments as well. This enabled me to expand my study to a more multidisciplinary approach. During my study, I went to Japan several times for occasions such as guiding undergraduate students in Japan, seminars and field work. While doing so, I had the opportunity to conduct research in Japan. Other than Japan, I went to conferences in other countries to present my research findings and expand my network with scholars from various countries. Pursuing my study in the department and my interactions with my supervisor Associate Professor Hendrik Meyer-Ohle and other faculty members allowed me to develop better socially and professionally when working as a teaching assistant in the Department and learned how to handle responsibilities and to better interact with fellow students and invigorate their passion for subjects on Japan. I received invaluable guidance, instruction and advice not just from my advisor but many of the professors in the Department, which contributed to my growth as both a student and a person. The academic education I received in the Department was priceless and stimulated my desire to study more, opening up a path for lifelong learning. This allowed me to progress forward into learning more about Japanese folklore, literature, history and culture even today, after I have graduated from the National University of Singapore. I will always treasure my memories and experiences during my two years of graduate school.

I was able to learn a lot during my time in the Department of Japanese Studies, benefiting from the incredible diversity of courses, opportunities and support that the Department provided. I was exposed to a wide range of theoretical frameworks, literary analyses and history, and was even able to learn classical Japanese under the tutelage of my advisor Dr Scot Hislop. I was also able to develop better socially and professionally when working as a teaching assistant in the Department and learned how to handle responsibilities and to better interact with fellow students and invigorate their passion for subjects on Japan. I received invaluable guidance, instruction and advice not just from my advisor but many of the professors in the Department, which contributed to my growth as both a student and a person. The academic education I received in the Department was priceless and stimulated my desire to study more, opening up a path for lifelong learning. This allowed me to progress forward into learning more about Japanese folklore, literature, history and culture even today, after I have graduated from the National University of Singapore. I will always treasure my memories and experiences during my two years of graduate school.

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The Department runs a Graduate Programme for Masters by research and PhD Graduate courses that cover theoretical frameworks as well as more in-depth examination of specific issues pertaining to Malays and Malay societies. These modules expose students to ideas and perspectives which they can apply in the course of their independent research. The Department welcomes students with a good honours degree in Malay Studies or other relevant disciplines such as History, Political Science, Sociology, Social Work, Linguistics, Literature and Southeast Asian Studies. Since a good working knowledge of Malay is required in order to conduct research on the Malays, students will be required to take a Malay/Indonesian language course if they have not done so. This could be done either before or during the course of their research.

From Literature and Art to studying the elite and intellectuals in Malay society, understanding the change of modernisation faced by Malays as well as examining the development of capitalism and Malay culture are some of the key areas of this programme. A forum is also made available for students to share their research and to engage one another in discussion of their research projects.

Being a Malay Studies graduate student has been an immensely fulfilling experience. From being pushed to think outside the box, to constantly reminding me to question my assumptions, the guidance and academic tutorship I have received at the Department is unparalleled. No matter how tough the topic of choice, be it for an essay or a thesis, the professors have never discouraged me or tried to divert my attention towards easier or more familiar paths. Instead, they have encouraged me to transcend the limits of my boundaries and to constantly strive for excellence beyond what is expected of me. My time at Malay Studies was also enriched due to the diversity of topics explored and the ways in which were continuously exhorted to think about the applicability of the discussions beyond the classroom setting. The fieldtrips and study trips conducted by the passionate professors also allowed me to explore the knowledge learnt in a wider and more relevant context.

The post graduate studies I had at NUS, particularly at the Department of Malay Studies, was a stepping stone to widen the horizon of my academic career and shaped me to think critically the concepts and theories that we deal with in the field of social sciences.
The Department of Philosophy at NUS is one of the very few departments in the world that offers specialisation at the graduate level in four independent traditions of philosophical research: Anglo-American (Analytic) Philosophy, Continental (European) Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy, and Indian Philosophy. Our recent graduate students have completed theses in a diverse array of topics cutting across the East-West divide, ranging from a Confucian approach to the tragedy of the commons to the political implications of Kantian ethics and to David Lewis’ modal realism. Though the faculty’s research and teaching interests cover a wide variety of topics, the Department has particular strengths in normative philosophy (both ethics and political philosophy), classical Confucianism, philosophy of language, epistemology, mind, and philosophy of science and technology. Our students hail from different regions of the world, thus making the Department especially attractive to those students who would like to study in Asia in a cosmopolitan environment.

LOO WEI LING, JANE
(MA, NUS 2015) Tutor, Department of Philosophy, FASS, NUS

“My professors made all the difference to studying Philosophy. They instilled in me a love for the subject and a desire to keep learning. They were always available for a chat, be it about coursework, applying to graduate school, or getting published in a journal.”

ABHISHEK MISHRA
Current MA student, Department of Philosophy, FASS, NUS

“What drew me to philosophy was the audacity of the enterprise, to question the most fundamental and deep-seated beliefs we hold. However, the most personal payoff of philosophy has been an unfiltered look at who I am, have been and can be – which, most importantly, has allowed me to be more understanding of others.”

EUGENE YAO
Current MA student, Department of Philosophy, FASS, NUS

“Through my time here, I’ve come to learn that the question of philosophy’s ‘use’ is as outdated as the debate about its importance. Rather, the greatest lesson the discipline has taught me is humility.”
The Department of Political Science is recognised globally for the quality of its faculty. Students benefit from working closely with such a large and growing pool of faculty members who are internationally prominent researchers as well as committed teachers.

Our graduate modules stress theoretical and conceptual analyses, provide practical research skills, and allow diverse methodological choices. Students are encouraged to adopt a multidisciplinary approach and think how politics connects to society, the economy, culture, religion, morality, and other aspirations.

The Department is particularly strong in the study of Asian politics, governance and international relations with specific focus on China and Southeast Asia. However, the curriculum covers many other subjects such as democratic theory, political economy, public policy, international security, state-society relations, political thought (Western and Eastern), and development studies.

It offers comprehensive education and systematic training in four areas or subfields – Comparative Politics, International Relations, Governance & Public Policy, and Political Theory.

1. Comparative Politics deals with the political systems within individual countries as well as cross-national comparisons. Comparativists seek to understand how the domestic political systems and institutions work in specific countries, including Singapore. Modules are focused on the major world regions or specific themes that are relevant across multiple contexts.

2. International Relations is the study of political and diplomatic relationships among countries. In dealing with issues related to the governing of the global order of nation-states, the subfield covers themes such as conflict, security, diplomacy, international economy, international organisations, and globalisation and the state.

3. Governance & Public Policy represents the applied domains of state politics, policy and administration. It deals with institutions and activities involved in public bureaucracy, government organisations, and public policy. While focused specifically on Asian regions or countries (including Singapore), the subfield highlights the significance of interregional and cross-national comparison.

4. Political Theory covers major thinkers and texts of major philosophical traditions; political ideologies and their comparison; and constitutional practices and debates. It also deals with the dissemination of political ideas through persuasion; the embeddedness of politics in cultural means (arts and music); and the implications of political and normative aspirations such as human rights perspectives.

I consider the Political Science Department at FASS to be my second home. I have grown up – intellectually here. The Professors at the department, and more broadly, throughout the faculty, have been inspiring as academics and role-models. The joint PhD programme with King’s College allowed me to spend time at two of the best universities in the world, across two continents, giving me an experience that is rather unique. Being able to teach NUS undergraduates has also been an immensely gratifying, and humbling, experience. Gratifying, because I get to share some knowledge and experience with others; humbling, because often, I learn from them as much as I teach.

WALID JUMBLATT BIN ABDULLAH
Current PhD student in Political Science and Joint Degree Programme with King’s College London

Studying at NUS has been the perfect complement to my diverse international academic experiences. After studying and working in India, the US, and the UK, Singapore provides a unique gateway to Asian society and politics. Under the direction of the department’s renowned faculty, I have been able to pursue varied research interests related to identity, and rising powers, as well as explore new areas of research at the crossroads of political thought, behavioural psychology, and international relations. Opportunities to attend summer school, and conduct fieldwork abroad have also helped me gain invaluable experience and develop essential skills. The intellectually and culturally diverse graduate student community has enriched my academic experience and provided me with lifelong friendships.

MANALI
Current PhD student in Political Science

“Political Science is recognised globally for the quality of its faculty. Students benefit from working closely with such a large and growing pool of faculty members who are internationally prominent researchers as well as committed teachers.”

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Our Department’s core research areas

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Our Department’s core research areas largely overlap with the areas of graduate specialisation. Across these specialisations, we have several areas of strength, two of which are as follows. First, a number of our staff are studying language and speech. Apart from access to special populations such as children or individuals with language impairments, the multilingual context of Singapore makes this work particularly attractive. Emotion research forms a second area of strength. Here, our staff are exploring the relationships between emotions and mental or physical health, the role of emotions in social interactions and decision making as well as the neuronal processes that mediate emotional experiences. These, and other research areas, leverage on a supportive research infrastructure that enables access to state-of-the-art technology and equipment for psychophysiological measurement (e.g., electroencephalography, heart rate monitoring), eye-tracking, and functional magnetic resonance imaging. Our Department also houses a suite of dedicated labs and common space for behavioural observation and psychological testing. Staff research projects and collaborations involve other research institutes within and outside Singapore, including the Duke/NUS Graduate Medical School, the Institute of Mental Health, and A*Star.

Research Graduate Programmes

The Department’s two research programmes comprise specialisations in six major psychological disciplines:

1. Clinical Science and Health Psychology
2. Cognition
3. Developmental Psychology
4. Quantitative Psychology
5. Social and Cognitive Neuroscience
6. Social, Personality, and Industrial-Organisational Psychology

Training in these specialisations comprises coursework and a research thesis conducted under the guidance of an academic supervisor. Degrees are offered at the Masters and PhD levels. Scholarships and other forms of financial support are available on a competitive basis. The Department has also introduced a Concurrent Degree Programme [B.Soc.Sci. (Hons.) and M.Soc. Sci.] which enables psychology majors to make a seamless transition from the undergraduate programme to the graduate programme, and earn both an honours degree and a Master’s degree in five years.

The “trials and tribulations” of the programme helped me develop a strong foundation in my clinical and research skills. Additionally, there were many wonderful memories created together with the rest of my cohort mates, which were invaluable in my personal growth.

Our Department offers a graduate degree programme in Clinical Psychology. The two-year programme consists of a combination of coursework, research and practical placement experience. Completion of requirements is recognised with a Master of Psychology (Clinical) Degree. The programme is based on the scientist-practitioner model and builds on the theoretical knowledge and core competencies for clinical practice. It provides entry-level training for students who seek a professional career in Clinical Psychology.

The programme has its annual intake in August. Successful applicants can apply for the competitive MOH Holdings (MOHH) Healthcare Graduate Studies Award and/or the Ngee Ann Kongsi Post-graduate Scholarship in Social Sciences for financial support. The Clinical and Health Psychology Centre (CHPC) provides an array of specialised psychology services to the public. It is the training clinic for the NUS Master of Psychology (Clinical) programme. Thus, the Centre is staffed by clinical psychology interns who are under the supervision of master-/doctoral-level clinical psychologists.

Our clinical staff have a wide range of research interests spanning traditional cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) and clinical neuropsychology to the assessment and treatment of chronic pain and the incorporation of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) therapies into traditional practice; from the neurobiology of schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), dementia and ageing to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), pediatric psychology and impact of medical illnesses on child development; from cross-cultural issues and development of culturally-responsive interventions to anxiety issues in the developmentally disabled to forensic psychology and the assessment and treatment of sexual and other offenders.

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CHOO RUI QI
(M.Soc.Sci., NUS, 2016) Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, NUS

I am grateful to have been offered a place in the Master of Social Sciences (Research) programme in the Department of Psychology at NUS. The quality research training provided has equipped me with the foundation skills needed and more to pursue a research career. These skills are also valuable and highly sought after outside of Psychology across various applied and multidisciplinary settings, thus allowing me to contribute in and add value to any path I choose to pursue.

WONG TAK WEE CHRISS
(M.Psych (Clinical), NUS, 2016) Clinical Psychologist, Community Psychology Hub Singapore

The two years in the programme had been a wonderful journey of personal and professional growth. Lasting friendships and memories were forged, and a robust training in the scientist-practitioner approach has equipped me with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to continue developing as a clinical psychologist.

YOANNA KURNIA NINGSIH
(PhD, NUS, 2017) Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology, NUS

The NUS Research Graduate Programme has been an exciting journey in pursuit of my passion and interest in research. The insightful supervision and engaging coursework have enlarged my mental capacity and sharpened my research/analytical skills. I benefitted greatly from the many insightful modules offered, and the available opportunities to get involved in various research projects. Overall, the programme has guided me to become a more independent and passionate researcher. It was really enjoyable and I had a lot of fun. Most of all, I am grateful for the positive environment and the constant moral support I received from the department staff and fellow graduate students.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

We have an excellent Singaporean and foreign faculty who are not only prolific academics in their own right but are also well versed in the local context. FASS, NUS scores highly in terms of global ranking. My prior engagement with the faculty members in the Department of Sociology, and in particular my thesis supervisor, assured me that my graduate training would be nothing short of comprehensive and one that would include an appreciation of Singapore as a subject of sociological inquiry given that my research field is also located here. FASS, NUS offers a competitive stipend. There are also several opportunities for graduate students to come together to form reading groups, to organise workshops and seminars all of which provide an enriching learning experience.

Singapore is my home, so there were many reasons to do my PhD here. First, I wanted my research to contribute to Singapore’s development, in any small way. I’m studying social impairments in autism, and there is a lot of research in this area coming out of places like the UK and the US, but autism looks different in different cultures. So, I wanted to study autism in people here – how children and adults in our society live and cope with autism here – in order to usefully apply our findings to help the local population. As a bonus, when it came to data collection, being at home really helped with recruiting participants for my research since I have an existing social and professional network here!
Social Work as a subject in the University first started in 1952, when it offered the first professional social work qualification in Singapore, the two-year Graduate Diploma in Social Work. Since then, it has evolved with the changing times, circumstances and requirements of the country into its present form.

At the graduate level, the Masters and PhD degrees offer graduate students, depending on the course they are enrolled in, a range of modules for advanced direct and indirect social work practice that includes clinical social work intervention with specific client groups, policy analysis and social planning, agency management and programme development, social work research and programme evaluation. The Master of Social Work programme offers specialisations in Family/Community and Health. In addition, the Graduate Diploma in Social Work enables non-social work degree graduates to pursue professional social work education.

Core Research Areas

- Ageing
- Community and Social Development
- End-of-life and Palliative Care
- Family and Community

Research in the Department of Social Work is integrated with our practice and teaching of social work. Many of our research projects are collaborations with local community partners and international researchers. The projects analyse trends on issues of societal concern, and evaluate policies, programmes and direct practice for populations in need with a focus on enhancing social work theory, practice skills, critical thinking and policy contribution in the social services. Research also provides hands-on learning to students who are engaged in the projects.

In 2014, I started doing my Masters in Social Work on a part-time basis while holding full time employment. The five semesters in NUS had been a rewarding experience and added depth to my social work practice. The lecturers were engaging and able to provide fresh perspectives on the current social work issues. The programme also provided a platform for me to think critically on social policies and issues through classroom discussions as well as assignments. I especially enjoyed the module on management of human service organisations which helped equip me with the essential management knowledge and skills as I progress in my social work career. I will strongly recommend social workers in the field to consider embarking on this learning journey with NUS.

The PhD programme has helped establish me as a social worker with a strong ability in 1) critical appraisal, 2) integration, 3) differentiation, 4) synthesis and 5) establishment of coherence. The ability to appraise critically has helped me re-think massive amount of information presented to me. Integration comes in very handy in an acute and fast-paced healthcare environment that requires one to put into perspective, multiple views in a short period of time. The art of differentiation has helped me achieve clarity on the niche of social workers in an environment that values multi- and inter-disciplinary practice. The ability to synthesise arguments has helped me bring together the arguments and arrive at difficult decisions in an acute healthcare setting supported by about 8,000 staff serving the needs of thousands of patients. Lastly, the ability to establish coherence has helped the leadership in my department walk our talk, resulting in lower rate of staff attrition.

The modules were relevant to the industry and provided the students with an intellectually stimulating platform for rigorous discussions. The lecturers had deep academic knowledge in their respective area of expertise, and yet were able to make important connections to actual practice on the ground. In addition, my classmates were mostly practitioners who are very open to sharing their own experiences in relation to topics being taught. All this contributed to a hugely enjoyable and enriching few years being in the Master of Social Work programme.
The Department of Sociology at NUS has been ranked first in Asia, and among the top 20 in the world (QS World University Rankings for Sociology). With over 30 staff members, we are also one of the largest departments in the FASS at NUS. From its earliest beginnings, our Department has combined the disciplines of Sociology and Anthropology. Students therefore benefit from learning a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches within both disciplines. Teaching and research in the sociology and anthropology of Asia, is one of our major strengths.

The department offers three research programmes:
1. Master of Social Sciences in Sociology
2. Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology
3. Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology

The Department’s research and teaching interests are wide-ranging. While many of our staff specialise in research on Singapore society and culture, a number are also engaged in comparative research on other Southeast Asian countries, including China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Palestine, Taiwan and Thailand. Our main research areas include: Deploying diverse research methods such as ethnography, focus group interviews and statistical surveys, our main research areas include: ageing, family and kinship, gender and sexuality, health, media and popular culture, migration, politics and power, race and ethnicity, social networks, and urbanism.

I joined the Department of Sociology at NUS as a PhD student in 2010. These five years have been fulfilling and memorable for me. The scholarship, fieldwork funding, and conference funding have enabled me to concentrate on studying and researching and to attend international conferences and training programme. The NUS Central Library has a fantastic collection of books and a rich subscription to electronic journals, databases, and other resources, which has been extremely helpful to my coursework and research. I have also learnt a lot from the seminars, talks, and conferences organised by the Department of Sociology, Asia Research Institute, Centre for Family and Population Research, and other departments and research institutes of NUS. Daily interactions with my fellow graduate students of various national, ethnic, religious, and cultural origins have broadened my horizons. Some of them have become my closest friends and the time we spent together are and shall remain my fondest memories of NUS graduate student life.

I am grateful to the NUS for offering me a Research Scholarship to pursue my PhD study in Sociology. I learned how to conduct research effectively and write a good thesis, thanks to the guidance of my supervisor and other lecturers in the NUS who were knowledgeable and helpful. I had also benefited a lot from the rich collection of the NUS Library. Overall, I gained a lot of invaluable experience that is essential to my academic career throughout the period of my study in the NUS.
The South Asian Studies Programme (SASP) at the NUS offers degrees by research and dissertation at both the MA and PhD levels. The scope for research is extensive and the interests and backgrounds of the supervising teaching staff are wide-ranging and eclectic. Fluency in English is essential, as all theses must be presented in that language, but the Programme encourages and supports the use of research materials which draws upon South Asian languages.

The Programme has a particular focus on topics which relate to contemporary South Asia. The academic staff includes specialists working in the disciplines of Contemporary History, Political Economy and Development, Religious Studies and Anthropology and Diaspora and Trans-national Studies. An idea of the scope of the Programme’s range of interests may be gained from its list of faculty members and their specialities. The cohort of students in SASP is highly cosmopolitan and students have come to pursue graduate studies from South Korea, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Germany, Italy, the USA and India. Graduate alumni of the NUS South Asian Studies Programme have found rewarding career opportunities in university teaching, the media, the civil service, policy think-tanks, consulting and independent research and writing.

The University’s Central Library has extensive holdings on South Asia. There is also a significant collection of digital and microfilm holdings, in addition to a significant collection of secondary materials which include printed books and journals.

Funding opportunities are available, though by a highly competitive selection process.

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**PRISCILLA VINCENT ANN**
(MA, NUS, 2016) Researcher, National Skills Development Corporation, New Delhi, India

“The courses you will do at the South Asian Studies Programme will excite you. The modules will inform you of the dynamism, paradoxes, mysteries, uniqueness and challenges within the region. I was so inspired by the Programme that I returned to do my Masters with them. The knowledge and exposure gained, has allowed this Singaporean to work well with both the private sector and Government in India. The best part is the long lasting friendships that I have formed with fellow students and professors at the Programme. We still keep in touch, sharing our adventures and explorations from time to time!”

**SOJIN SHIN**
(PhD, NUS, 2015) Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore

“The five years of my learning in South Asian Studies were intensive and extensive. I not only trained rigorously with a political scientist for my doctoral research, but also travelled to various academic subjects in the differing regions of South Asia with historians, anthropologists, and sociologists. The South Asian Studies at NUS would be a good place where one can advance a multidisciplinary approach with great support and encouragement from senior faculty members having excellent academic backgrounds. South Asian Studies at NUS was a worthy challenge for me to change the substantial level of understanding politics, society, development, and culture in South Asia. I am very proud to be an India specialist through the training.”
The Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) research programmes on the other hand provide postgraduate training for individuals who will contribute to knowledge production in and about Southeast Asia. Students will be taught by highly rated staff whose expertise lies in fields ranging from history, economics and political science to anthropology, cultural studies, and archaeology. Our inter-disciplinary structure exposes students to the latest theoretical and methodological issues while also ensuring deep immersion in regional specificities. Graduates are prepared for academic careers and employment in research intensive professions with working knowledge of Southeast Asian languages.

With prior training in political science at the graduate level, pursuing my doctorate in Southeast Asian studies opened new vistas into thinking about my main subject (the Philippines) comparatively. I mean this both in terms of comparisons within the region as well as through insights from other disciplines such as sociology, anthropology and history. I have greatly benefited from the different kinds of expertise that our Faculty has to offer, as well as the considerable time and thoughtful effort that they put into guiding our research. Moreover, Singapore is an ideal base from which to study the rest of the region.

Whilst researching for the right PhD programme several years ago, I was told to look for one that could both enrich and challenge me as a scholar and also where the professors recognised me for my abilities and potential, as well as to question, shape and motivate. It is here at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at NUS that I was able to find all of this. Every semester I am presented with bigger and better opportunities that allow me to progress and improve as scholar through departmental lectures by visiting professors, regional language programmes, conferences and workshops. This is indeed an exemplary world class department in an envious position and I consider myself privileged to be given the opportunity to join its ranks.