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## ENQUIRIES

All enquiries on admission to initial teacher preparation programmes offered by NIE are to be directed to:

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Nanyang Technological University  
National Institute of Education  
1 Nanyang Walk  
Singapore 637616

or visit the NIE homepage at:

*<http://www.nie.edu.sg>*

Because of the large number of candidates seeking admission, it is regretted that no telephone or personal enquiries will be entertained.

## Contents

	Page
<b>General Information</b>	
Introduction	2
Applications	6
Examinations, Assessment of Coursework & Practicum	7
<b>Academic Structure of Programme</b>	
Structure of PGDE Programme	14
<b>PGDE Programme Specialising in Secondary School Teaching</b>	
Curriculum Structure	19
Contents of Core Modules and Prescribed Electives	23
• Education Studies	23
• Curriculum Studies	37
• Practicum	62
• Language Enhancement and Academic Discourse Skills	63

*The information in this handbook is based on information available at the time of publication. The Institute reserves the right to make alterations without notice.*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## INTRODUCTION

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The National Institute of Education offers a postgraduate teacher preparation programme leading to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) of the Nanyang Technological University. The one-year full-time programme beginning in January 2006 provides for some degree of specialisation in secondary school teaching.

### **Aims of PGDE Programme**

The programme aims to prepare teachers who are **well-informed, competent, and thinking professionals**. These teachers will have an understanding of the key concepts and principles of teaching and learning and should be able to **implement, analyse and theorise** about key instructional processes.

The PGDE programme is designed to prepare student teachers to:

- (a) have the knowledge and skills to teach two secondary school subjects, depending on the specialisation;
- (b) be aware of and sensitive to the needs, abilities, interests and aptitudes of students in schools;
- (c) be able to teach students of different abilities, interests and backgrounds effectively and creatively;
- (d) be committed to the nurturing and development of the students in their charge; and
- (e) be committed to self-initiated and sustained professional development.

## **Duration of Programme**

The PGDE programme is of one academic year's duration (an academic year consists of two semesters). It leads to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education, with specialisations in secondary education. Student teachers specialising in Secondary Education are further sub-divided into two categories: "General" and "Language Specialisation".

## **The Academic Unit System**

The Institute adopts the Academic Unit System. Academic Units are used to measure academic workload per semester and per academic year. The academic year is currently divided into two semesters.

The Academic Unit (AU) provides a consistent measure of the student teacher's academic workload related to both class attendance and independent preparation. Used to weight modules in a subject taught for the duration of one semester of 13 teaching weeks, each Academic Unit represents an average workload of one hour per week in the form of lecture/tutorial classes, or three hours per week in the form of laboratory/field sessions. For example, a typical subject with one lecture hour per week and one tutorial hour per week carries 2 AUs. Academic Units are calculated on a modular basis, that is, subjects are made up of modules and each module carries a certain number of AUs.

## Academic Calendar

The academic year is made up of two semesters as follows:

<b>Programme/Course</b>	<b>Dates of Semester/ Recess (R) / Vacation (V)</b>	<b>Dates of Revision/ Examination</b>	<b>Dates of Practicum</b>
PGDE (S) # (Jan 2006 Intake)	3 Jan 2006 - 26 May 2006 V: 27 May 2006 - 25 Jun 2006  26 Jun 2006 – 1 Dec 2006 R: 2 Sep 2006 - 10 Sep 2006	-  -	-  26 Jun 2006 - 1 Sep 2006 (10 weeks of Teaching Practice)

# Cohort undergoing the new curriculum.

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## APPLICATIONS

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### **Application through the Ministry of Education**

Candidates can apply for entry into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education programme through the Ministry of Education, Singapore. Successful applicants will be provided sponsorship by the Ministry and will have to abide by Ministry's terms and conditions. Application for admission must be made online through the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.moe.gov.sg/teach>

### **Direct Application to NIE**

Candidates can apply for entry into the Postgraduate Diploma in Education Programme directly to NIE on a full fee-paying basis. Application forms can be downloaded from the website at <http://www.nie.edu.sg/foundation/admissions>

### **Application Closing Date**

The programme commences in January. Although applications are accepted throughout the year, it is advisable to submit applications early to be considered for admission.

### **Entry Requirements for the PGDE Programme**

To be considered for admission, applicants should have at least a degree from the Nanyang Technological University, the National University of Singapore or other universities whose degrees are acceptable to the education service of Singapore.

Applicants may be required to sit for the Entrance Proficiency Test and other tests.

**NO STUDENT TEACHER MAY PURSUE CONCURRENTLY ANY COURSE OF STUDY AT ANOTHER INSTITUTION OF LEARNING WHEN ENROLLED AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT TEACHER AT THIS INSTITUTE.**

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## **EXAMINATIONS, ASSESSMENT OF COURSEWORK & PRACTICUM**

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Different modes of assessment have been built into the coursework. These include tests/practical tests, assignments, project work, progress ratings and examinations. Examinations will be held at the end of each semester. There are no supplementary examinations. No special examination will be held for student teachers who are not able to take any paper because of illness or other special reason. They will be allowed to take the examination only on the next occasion when it is conducted.

Student teachers must successfully complete all the prescribed academic unit requirement as set out by the course curriculum and earn a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.00 at the end of the final semester of study before qualifying for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education. Student teachers are responsible for ensuring that they register for all the modules and examinations necessary to fulfill the requirements of their course of study. Student teachers are not allowed to retake an examination in order to improve on the grades of modules they have passed. The grades for a module taken by any student teachers in all attempts are reflected on the official transcript. The Postgraduate diploma classification will be based on the CGPA student teachers obtain throughout their course of study as well as performance in Practicum. Credits earned in other approved institutions will be excluded from CGPA computation. Under normal circumstances, no candidate will be permitted to take more than two years to complete the programme of study and pass the examination for the Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

## Grade Point Average (GPA) System

The Grade Point Average (GPA) system is applicable to all student teachers admitted to Year 1 with effect from the Academic Year 2005-2006.

- Grade and grade points are assigned as follows:

Letter-Grade	Grade Point	Academic Unit (AU)
A+	5.00	AU is earned
A	5.00	
A-	4.50	
B+	4.00	
B	3.50	
B-	3.00	
C+	2.50	
C	2.00	
D+	1.50	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	No AU is earned

- The following non-letter grades and notations are also used, but will not be counted in computation of CGPA:

*	-	Modules with Pass/Fail grading only
IP	-	In-Progress
ABS	-	Leave of absence granted
TC	-	Transfer Credit
DIST/CR/P/F	-	Distinction/Credit/Pass/Fail (Grading for Practicum only)

- The Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) represents the grade average of all modules (including failed modules) attempted by a student teacher.

The computation of CGPA is as follows:

$$\frac{[\text{Grade Point} \times \text{AU for module 1}] + [\text{Grade Point} \times \text{AU for module X}] + \dots}{[\text{Total AU attempted in all the semesters so far}]}$$

- 4 The CGPA will be reflected on student teachers' transcripts.
- 5 An 'F' grade obtained in a module, and a new grade attained for the subsequent repeat, will be both reflected on the transcript. Both grades will also be counted in the computation of CGPA. No AU is earned for modules with 'F' grade.
- 6 Student teachers are not allowed to repeat any modules taken except those with 'F' grade.
- 7 **The requirements for graduation are as follows:**
  - a) Successful completion of the prescribed academic unit requirement as set out by the course curriculum.
  - b) A minimum CGPA of 2.00 is required at the end of the final semester of study.
- 8 **The criteria for satisfactory academic standing in any given semester are:**
  - a) Maintaining a minimum CGPA of 2.00
  - b) Completing at least 75% of the normal AU workload
- 9 **Student teachers with poor standing will be subjected to the following performance review:**
  - a) Academic Warning – if the CGPA falls below 2.00 for any given semester.

- b) Academic Probation – if the CGPA falls below 2.00 for the following semester
- c) Academic Termination – if the CGPA falls below 2.00 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive semester, or at the end of the final semester of study. A letter of termination will be issued.

Appeal against termination on the grounds of extenuating circumstances may be made, subject to the following rules:

- the appeal must be submitted to NIE by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the semester following the termination
- normally only one appeal is allowed per candidature.

10 A minimum CGPA of 2.00 must be maintained at the end of each semester to qualify for the overloading of modules.

11 The cut-off for PGDE classification is as follows:

Class of Award	CGPA Range	Minimum Final Practicum Grade
Distinction	4.50 – 5.00	Credit *
Credit	3.50 – 4.49	Pass *
Pass	2.00 – 3.49	Pass

\* The final Practicum Grade is based on the grade obtained at the first attempt for Practicum. Student teacher who fails at the first attempt for Practicum but subsequently passes it is only eligible for the Pass Award for PGDE regardless of the grade obtained for repeat Practicum and the CGPA obtained.

## **Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) Project**

Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) is a compulsory project work that all student teachers are required to undertake. Student teachers in an assigned group are to collaboratively complete a project in a community service within the course of study. Student teachers will benefit from the GESL experience in acquiring generic knowledge and skills of project management in service-learning. Groups will showcase their completed projects and a record of GESL involvement will be issued at the end of the programme.

## **Talks, Seminars, Workshops and Other Activities**

During the period of training, student teachers are expected not only to study diligently but also to participate actively in talks, seminars, workshops and other activities organised for them, such as the National Education programme and the Induction Seminar. These activities form an integral part of the programme.

## **Plagiarism and Copyright**

The Institute advises all student teachers to respect all copyrighted works and encourages the purchase of original textbooks and/or other copyrighted materials that are required for your courses of study. Student teachers should not plagiarise or pass off as one's own, the writing or ideas of another, without acknowledging or crediting the source from which the ideas are taken.

The Institute takes a serious view of any form of plagiarism and infringement of copyright by student teachers. A contravention of the provisions of the Copyright Act is deemed to be a breach of the Institute's rules and regulations, which could result in disciplinary action. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are considered serious offences for which disciplinary penalties will be imposed.