

Getting To Know Our Professors

Asst/P Ruanni Tupas



Asst/P Ruanni Tupas

is currently the Programme Leader for Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) at the English Language and Literature (ELL) Academic Group.

Why do you enjoy teaching and mentoring higher degree students?

The students have immense classroom and workplace experience and this enriches our classroom discussions. Occasionally, their experiences challenge the theories that circulate in our respective research and teaching fields.

What research area(s) are you working on now? How does it impact your work at NIE?

I am an applied sociolinguist who examines how linguistic diversity relates to educational inequality. In my teaching, my students are always reminded about the need to constantly interrogate diversity and how it impacts their students' lives.

Why is NIE a good place for you to do your work?

NIE pushes me to think about theory and practice all the time – how language issues and classroom issues are interrelated. Our students bring into the classroom a wealth of linguistic, cultural and pedagogical experiences, so they always push you to think and rethink about the lenses you use in understanding the world.

What does NIE offer to higher degree students that is unique?

The areas of expertise of its faculty are diverse in so many ways, thus students can access different ways of looking at the world. While research is very important, NIE also puts a premium on the quality of teaching. Up-to-date topics in class are complemented with innovative teaching.

How would you describe NIE higher degree students?

They are articulate, driven and mature. I especially admire those who hold a full-time job, and yet still strive to be present in all sessions. Their desire for learning despite their years of work experience is inspiring. Our classroom demographics has become even more diverse, with more students coming from other parts of the world, thus our discussions are richer and more animated.

What have you learnt from your students?

Everyone comes to class with exciting stories about their own and their students' language-learning journeys. My NIE students have taught me how to listen to each story – because many stories have been silenced by dominant theories and thinking about education.