

# Getting To Know Our Professors

## Associate Professor Hairon Salleh



**A/P Hairon Salleh**  
is currently the Assistant Dean for Higher Degrees by coursework at the Office of Graduate Studies & Professional Learning, and an Associate Professor with Policy & Leadership Studies (PLS) Academic Group.

### Why do you enjoy teaching and mentoring higher degree students?

Our higher degree students are our future scholars and researchers who will continue with the arduous task of breaking new grounds in the various fields of study. They often give new perspectives and insights in understanding certain phenomena which we as established academics may overlook or take for granted. Although the questions which they often raise may seemingly sound familiar, the simplicity, honesty and fervor expressed are very heartening. Curiosity is indeed a hallmark of an astute researcher. I find great satisfaction when students are able to provide valuable insights and interpretations during the many collective interactions and discussions.

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

My research interest includes school leadership and teacher learning in communities. The research projects which I am involved in either as principal investigator, co-principal investigator or collaborator directly translate to my teaching of master's and doctoral degree programmes and professional learning programmes such as the Management and Leadership in Schools (MLS) programme and the Leaders in Education Programme (LEP) at NIE. My current research project investigates the relationships between distributed leadership, teacher leadership, collective learning, and teacher and student outcomes.

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

NIE provides the ideal environment in which one can impact Singapore education in a most efficient manner. NIE is the national teacher education institute in Singapore. NIE partners very well with the Ministry of Education (MOE), Singapore. Hence, the work of researching, teaching and administration will inadvertently translate to positive impact on student teachers, schools and the MOE. In addition, the NIE faculty members are very collegial and we work well together. We also have very supportive and dedicated administrative staff to support the work of faculty members.

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

We provide an integrated holistic experience to our higher degree students so that they can progress from one level to another. We also endeavour to care for our students in terms of well-being and academic progress. We very much look forward to the successful completion of their studies whilst aspiring for them to impact on societies and communities at large.

### How would you describe NIE higher degree students?

Our higher degree students are generally hardworking and conscientious. They love interacting with both faculty staff members and making friends with fellow students. They are serious in completing their studies on time and strive to do well.

### What have you learned from your students?

My students have taught me to be humble, curious and pure in the way I see and investigate the world, and to love doing what I am doing at NIE.