

# Getting To Know Our Professors

## Prof Berinderjeet Kaur



**Prof Berinderjeet Kaur** is currently a Professor with the Mathematics and Mathematics Education (MME) Academic Group.

### What research area do you specialise in? How does it impact your work at NIE?

My research is mainly in the area of mathematics pedagogy. Unpacking the complexity of the teaching and learning processes that mathematics teachers engage in is an engaging process. My research directly impacts my work with school teachers who are enrolled in NIE's pre-service, in-service or higher degree programmes, as it contributes to the core of mathematics education.

### How did your interest in the research area come about?

At heart, I am a mathematics teacher. Though I was only a secondary school mathematics teacher for 8 years prior to my joining the then Institute of Education in 1989, my love for the teaching and learning of mathematics has taken me thus far. I have been actively pursuing my passion for the last 30 years at NIE.

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

NIE has been a good place for me to work as I have opportunities to work with school teachers, their students and most importantly, shape the mathematics teacher education in Singapore. As an institute of distinction, NIE's professors are also sought internationally for their contributions and this has provided me with significant opportunities to work with international peers on studies like the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

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

NIE provides its higher degree students with a rigorous programme of study which is embedded in a friendly and nurturing environment. Most of our students are school teachers who have responsibilities in their schools.

### What have you learnt from your students?

Working with my students has allowed me to appreciate the constraints within which they attempt to do their best for their studies at NIE. They persevere and constantly look to me for guidance. Whilst observing my students juggle school, family and studies, I have constantly searched for ways to be a better guide.

### What advice would you give to those who would like to pursue a higher degree programme?

You must be passionate about what you wish to pursue! All higher degree programmes at NIE are rigorous but you can rest assured that the faculty is nurturing. A good work ethic coupled with perseverance and resilience will lead to success.