

Getting To Know Our Students

Cassim Munshi, PhD student



Cassim is a PhD student of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL) Academic Group and is also a recipient of the NTU Research Scholarship.

What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

My previous job in A*Star had a great part to play in this decision. I was working as a Research Engineer in A*Star's Institute for Infocomm Research and we were doing a project on technology in education. It was during my involvement in this project that I realised that all the cutting-edge technology that A*Star offers can be made so much more meaningful and effective if they could somehow be married to developments in educational research. This developed my interest in educational research, and subsequently, in my decision to apply into NIE's PhD in Education programme.

How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

One thing I found unique about NIE's faculty members is the level of openness that we, as students, are able to enjoy in our interactions with them. My course lecturers are extremely approachable, and this creates a very comfortable and productive working relationship. I guess this has, in part, to do with the idea that when it comes to education research, everyone you meet has an innate passion in teaching and learning.

What is your research on?

I am investigating how students engage in self-regulated learning when they are given feedback in an online environment. In particular, I want to explore how students engage in self-assessment when they receive such feedback.

What impact do you wish to make with your research?

I believe that the findings from this research can help me develop theories that help us understand how technology can be effectively used to develop habits of self-directed learning amongst our students. The desired impact is that such a theoretical understanding can help teachers, policy makers and developers of technology make better-informed decisions on the types of tools that help develop students effectively with regards to their ability to self-assess.

What is the best part of being a student at NIE?

I would say the best part of being a student here is the very experience of being educated by people who actually study education.

How will the programme prepare you for your career progression?

I think the PhD programme, together with the research culture that NIE adopts, provides us research students with a brilliant platform to enter the world of academia, which I hope to do one day. It must also be said, however, that the more I conduct my research, the more it appears that a lot of the richness in education research has not quite found its way into practice, and this comes across to me as an opportunity to embark on an entrepreneurial endeavour of bringing our ideas out into the world.