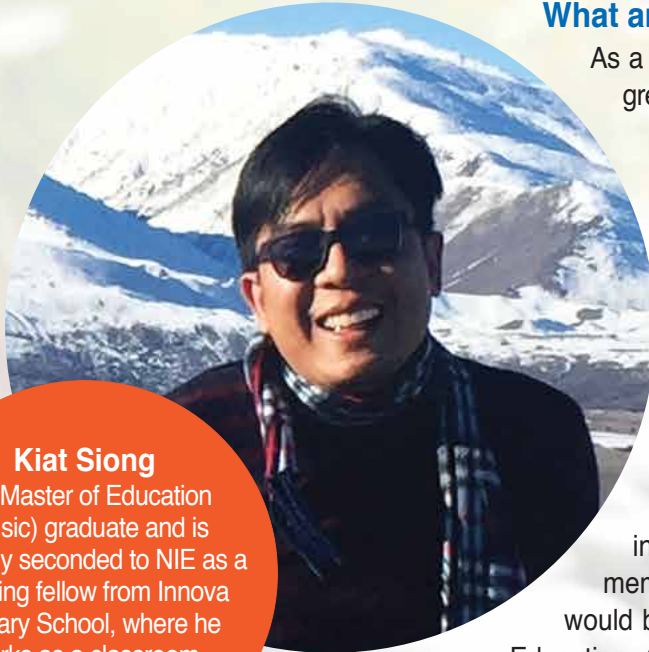


# Getting To Know Our Students

Tok Kiat Siong, Master of Education (Music) graduate



## Kiat Siong

is a Master of Education (Music) graduate and is currently seconded to NIE as a teaching fellow from Innova Primary School, where he works as a classroom teacher and middle manager.

### What are you currently working as?

As a classroom teacher and middle manager in school, I have greatly benefitted from my various learning experiences with NIE across the different stages in my professional life. These professional development experiences (e.g., Bachelor of Arts (Education), Data-Driven Decision Making, Master of Education, and many other in-service courses) have provided me with invaluable insights and the confidence to face many challenges in my course of work.

### What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

NIE is a top-notch teacher education and research institute and my past experiences with many of the faculty members gave me the confidence that my learning journey would be a fruitful one when I considered doing my Master of Education (Music) programme. I feel that it is not only the knowledge the professors possess, but rather, their willingness to share the knowledge; their ability to challenge and develop a critical mind; and most importantly, the passion they bring with them in the subject areas.

### What was your research on?

My research interest was on informal music learning practices. I reckon this research area has great potential to help classroom teachers by informing them of the way our students learn and appreciate music.

### How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

The faculty members care deeply about teaching and learning. I appreciate my tutors' willingness to discuss both the width and depth of many of the subject areas we encountered. They were able to guide and at the same time allow sufficient freedom for me to pursue my interests in research topics.

### What was the best part of being a student at NIE?

The environment was really conducive for learning, albeit a tad far. Haha!

### How did the programme help you in your career progression?

The programme has not only developed me to be a more confident teacher and person, it also developed me in both my speech and thoughts too. I have learned to be more articulate and critical. The experience has provided me the chance to be seconded from MOE to NIE as a teaching fellow in music.