What employers say about our graduates:

As one of the pioneering batches of the MAAP programme and a current Clinical Supervisor for the ongoing batches of students, it is with pride that I can say the quality of the students have been consistent throughout the years. The curriculum prepares the students to go straight into the field. This is only possible with a teaching faculty and student body that are passionate about their work! I am proud to be part of the past, present and the future of this elite environment.

Dr Geraldine Tan
Director / Principal Registered Psychologist
The Therapy Room

The Applied Psychology programme offered by NIE has contributed to our efforts to level up the professional qualifications of psychologists within the Prison Service. Graduates from the programme currently hold professional leadership positions within the Service.

Mr Timothy Leo
Director, Psychological and Correctional Rehabilitation Division, Singapore Prison Service

The MAAP programme stands out from other master’s programmes in psychology as it is the longest running programme locally. Many graduates from earlier batches are very established in various organisations and many psychologists in Singapore are proud to say that they are graduates of this programme. The MAAP is a very rigorous programme. The faculty teaching the programme are highly committed to ensuring the MAAP graduates are well-prepared and armed with the relevant skills for the workplace. MAAP graduates are also able to work from a systematic perspective, and streamline processes with efficiency. There is always an assurance that MAAP graduates have certain levels of competency in assessment and intervention upon graduation and are highly sought after.

Dr Chelsea Chew
Senior Educational Psychologist
Community Psychology Hub (CPH)

What students say about the programme:

Joining the MAAP programme, specialising in Counselling Psychology, has been a fulfilling journey that has allowed me to grow personally and professionally, and has set the foundation for me to become a registered psychologist in Singapore. The programme provides both breadth and depth in applied psychology. While the programme is demanding in nature, the lecturers have been approachable and tireless in guiding us throughout. The practicum aspect of the programme provided me with the invaluable experience to have the exposure and intense supervision to develop my skills and ability to connect therapeutically with others. More importantly, being a working adult with a young family, the faculty members were always understanding and encouraging, and were always supportive of me. I often look back to those days when I was a student of this programme, with fondness and immense gratitude for the enriching experience I have gained.

Tang Pei Wen June
2017 MAAP Gold Medallist
Senior Counsellor
National Addictions Management Service (NAMS)
Institute of Mental Health

The MAAP programme has provided me with the knowledge and skills required to be a competent psychologist in the early intervention setting. Practicum was a highlight for me as it gave me the opportunity to experience working with different populations. This allowed me to better understand my areas of interests and strengths, and prepared me for my current job. I am thankful for the stringent assignments, hands-on training and quality supervision, which allowed me to be proficient in conducting psychological assessments and writing reports.

Lynette Tan
Educational Psychologist
Community Psychologist Hub
Scoring a succession of ‘firsts’

Since its inception in 1997, the rigorous, innovation-based approach to training in the field of applied psychology has moulded our students into confident, skilled and highly-regarded practitioners and outstanding leaders in the fields of Educational Psychology and Counselling Psychology in Singapore. For more than two decades, the Master of Arts (Applied Psychology) (MAAP) programme has been known as a forerunner in applied psychology education and an originator of ideas and initiatives.

Key features of the MAAP programme:

- It is the applied psychology programme with the longest legacy in Singapore.
- The only postgraduate specialist training programme in psychology in Singapore that offers two tracks – Educational Psychology and Counselling Psychology.
- The only programme to offer the Educational Psychology track.
- The use of a scientist-practitioner model of instruction to equip students with two sets of skills, those of a researcher and those of a clinician.
- An unmatched faculty of practitioners (adjunct) and academicians who are experts in their field.
- A body of about 400 accomplished alumni.
- A range of teaching resources designed specifically to enhance learning.

Structure

The programme has a twin-track structure, one offering a specialisation in Educational Psychology and the other in Counselling Psychology. You are required to take four core courses plus one required elective in your area of specialisation. A research-based dissertation is optional and subject to approval. Students who do not write a dissertation are required to take an additional two elective courses. All students are required to undertake two practica attachments totaling 600 hours. All students are expected to possess at least basic counselling skills, regardless of specialisation track. Students without relevant training or experience in basic counselling skills will be informed of the requirement to take a 12-hour Pre-Practicum Foundational Skills Training course subsequent to their admission into the MAAP programme. No Academic Units (AUs) will be granted for this course, though a certificate of participation will be given. The course will be charged according to prevailing market rates.

Specialisation I: Educational Psychology

The hallmark of Educational Psychology is its emphasis on understanding and promoting the learning, behavioural, and affective development of children and adolescents in educational or related settings. This specialisation is best suited for students with an abiding interest in acquiring the knowledge and skills to understand and evaluate the nature of developmental/learning disabilities and behaviour/emotional difficulties and to work collaboratively with significant adults to provide appropriate interventions that can make a difference to the children’s learning and development.

Specialisation II: Counselling Psychology

Counselling psychology is one of the most popular fields in psychology. It focuses on facilitating personal and interpersonal functioning in mainly emotional, social, vocational, and developmental domains. It encompasses a wide range of practices that help people enhance their well-being, alleviate distress and maladjustment, resolve crises, and increase their ability to live more fully functioning lives.

The counselling psychology programme seems best suited for those with established interests in the areas of vocational and career processes, human diversity, and in assisting a variety of individuals with their emotional difficulties by addressing the prevention, causes, diagnosis, and treatment of the disorders.

Employment Opportunities

Graduates of the Educational Psychology track can look forward to employment as educational psychologists in a variety of settings such as the education and health ministries. Graduates of the Counselling Psychology track are currently employed as counselling psychologists or counsellors in human service settings such as family service centres, university counselling centres, and mental health facilities.

Additionally, MAAP graduates have the professional benefit of becoming eligible for registration as psychologists with the Singapore Register of Psychologists.

Duration of Study

The programme may be completed in two to three years on a full-time basis, or two to four years on a part-time basis.

Entry Requirements

You must have a good undergraduate degree, preferably with honors, from a reputable university. Preference will be given to those with a first degree in psychology, at least two years of relevant work experience and who are able to pursue the programme full time.

International applicants whose first language is not English and graduates of universities with non-English medium of instruction are required to submit an official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score. These tests dates must be no more than two years before the date of application.

As the MAAP programme is highly competitive, only applicants who meet the minimum entry requirements will be considered for admission.

Application

Applications may be made online. Hard copies of all supporting documents must be submitted within one week from the date of successful online submission.

Further Queries

For more information on application details, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/appl_course.htm.

For more information, please visit our website at www.nie.edu.sg/maap or e-mail us at nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg.