OFFICE OF TEACHER EDUCATION
Nurturing Tomorrow’s Educators

National Institute of Education
1 Nanyang Walk, Singapore 637616
Tel: (65) 6790 3888 Fax: (65) 6896 9158
Email: nieadmtp@nie.edu.sg
Website: www.nie.edu.sg
Reg. No. 20060 4393R
Information is correct as of January 2014

An Institute of

www.nie.edu.sg
INTRODUCTION

The National Institute of Education, (NIE) Singapore is a founding member of the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes and an integral part of Singapore’s education system for the past 60 years. NIE prepares new teachers, provides ongoing professional development to existing teachers and school leaders, and conducts extensive educational research. We aim to nurture tomorrow’s educators.

NIE’s programmes provide student teachers with a strong educational foundation, pedagogies for effective teaching and specialized subject knowledge in at least one academic discipline. Our initial teacher preparation programmes offer three teaching tracks at the primary, secondary and junior college levels. There are multiple pathways catering to student teachers with diverse educational backgrounds. NIE offers the Bachelor of Arts/Science (Education) programmes and Diploma in Education for those with pre-university qualifications, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Education for university graduates.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION

The Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme prepares university graduates to become teachers at the primary, secondary schools or junior colleges. It is a one-year programme except for those specialising in the two-year PGDE (Physical Education) programme.

The PGDE prepares graduates for a challenging and satisfying teaching career and equips beginning teachers with the essential values, skills and knowledge needed to be effective members of the school community.

TIME FRAME

- One-year programme for all subjects except Physical Education
- Two-year programme for Physical Education

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

The PGDE programmes comprise the following areas of study:

- **Education Studies (ES)**
  This area of study covers the key concepts and principles of education that are necessary for effective teaching and reflective practice in schools.

- **Curriculum Studies (CS)**
  These are designed to give student teachers the pedagogical skills in teaching specific subjects in Singapore schools.

- **Subject Knowledge (SK)**
  This group of courses, for the PGDE (Primary) programme, helps to reinforce subject content mastery for primary school teaching.

- **Academic Subject (AS)**
  This area of study, for the two-year PGDE (Physical Education) programme, covers the breadth and depth of key concepts and principles within the academic discipline of Physical Education.

- **Practicum**
  Student teachers will be attached to schools in blocks of up to 10 weeks so that they can develop teaching competencies in a variety of contexts and at different levels. Student teachers will be closely supervised by university lecturers and will also learn from experienced teachers in the schools about the schooling process.

- **Language Enhancement and Academic Discourse Skills (LEADS)**
  The courses in this component equip student teachers with the basic language and vocal skills that they require for teaching.

- **Knowledge Skills (Junior College)**
  Student teachers are required to read a Knowledge Skills course that helps to develop the values, skills and knowledge expected of Junior College teachers.

- **Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL)**
  GESL seeks to empower student teachers with the skills of conducting service-learning projects while getting in touch with the community around us.

- **Using e-Portfolio for Learning and Teaching**
  The Learning and Teaching e-Portfolio serves as a tool for PGDE student teachers to track their growth and experiences as teachers and to chart their developmental journeys.
TEACHING SUBJECTS

Student teachers will specialise in teaching at the primary, secondary or junior college levels.

TEACHING SUBJECTS FOR PGDE (PRIMARY)

Those in the primary school teaching track will be prepared to teach up to 3 subjects, depending on the specialisation. The PGDE (Primary) General track prepares student teachers to teach 3 primary school subjects. Apart from the General track, there are specialisation tracks in the teaching of Chinese/Malay/Tamil Languages, Art or Music and Physical Education.

PGDE (Primary) teaching subjects:

- Art
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Studies

Those specialising in Teaching of Chinese, Malay or Tamil Language at the primary level will focus on the following teaching subjects:

- Chinese/Malay/Tamil Language
- Moral Education (Chinese/Malay/Tamil)

The Teaching of Art or Music is a single-subject specialisation.

TEACHING SUBJECTS FOR PGDE (SECONDARY)

PGDE (Secondary) student teachers will specialise in the methodology for teaching two subjects at secondary level.

PGDE (Secondary) teaching subjects:

- Accounting
- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language
- Chinese Literature
- Computer Applications
- Design and Technology
- Elements of Business Skills
- English Language
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Lower Secondary Mathematics
- Malay Language
- Malay Literature
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Social Studies
- Tamil Language
- Tamil Literature

TEACHING SUBJECTS FOR PGDE (JUNIOR COLLEGE)

PGDE (Junior College) student teachers will specialise in the methodology for teaching one subject at junior college level and one subject at secondary level.

PGDE (Junior College) teaching subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Economics
- General Paper
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
ENTRY REQUIREMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES

In addition to the entry requirements above, international applicants must submit either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test scores together with their application.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Application through the Ministry of Education

For applicants seeking sponsorship from the Ministry of Education (MOE), applications for admission must be submitted online through the Ministry of Education website at www.moe.gov.sg/careers/teach/.

Application to NIE (Full-Fee Paying)

For applicants seeking full-fee paying admission, please complete the application form obtainable from www.nie.edu.sg/teacher-ed/admissions. Completed forms should be submitted to NIE Office of Academic Administration and Services (Admissions and Student Records).

Application Closing Date

The programmes commence in July each year. Although applications through MOE sponsorship are accepted throughout the year, it is advisable to submit applications by February in order to be considered for admission in July of the same year.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME

To be considered for admission, applicants should possess at least a Bachelor’s degree from the Nanyang Technological University, the National University of Singapore or other universities whose degrees are acceptable to the education service of Singapore.

Other special requirements include the following:

- GCE ‘O’ Level passes in English, Mathematics and any Science Subject for teaching general subjects at the primary school level;
- an interest and ability in Physical Education and sports as well as a pass in the Physical Proficiency Test to teach Physical Education;
- a five-minute audition for applicants shortlisted to teach Music. The audition will include at least one of the following: performance of prepared pieces on first and/or second instruments; sight reading on first instrument; sight singing; harmonising a simple melody on piano; or improvising a simple piece;
- an art-focused interview for applicants shortlisted to teach Art.

Applicants may be required to sit for the Entrance Proficiency Test and other tests.