

Getting To Know Our Professors

Dr Hanin Binte Hussain



Dr Hanin
is currently a lecturer
with the Early Childhood
and Special Needs
Education Academic
Group.

What research area(s) are you working on now? How does it impact your work at NIE?

I am working with my early childhood colleagues to develop a transition position statement. We hope that this statement can support teachers, parents, schools and preschools to work together to provide a smoother transition experience for children starting Primary 1. This research couples nicely with my service opportunities, where I supported two primary schools to develop their Primary 1 transition programme.

Why do you enjoy teaching and supporting higher degree students? What have you learnt from your students?

I enjoy interacting with my students and listening to the ideas and insights that emerge in our interactions. There is much for me to learn from their thinking. This is especially so when the group is made up of students from diverse educational backgrounds and experiences, and each person offers different perspectives on a particular issue or topic. For example, I have learnt (and continue to learn) much from my students about the different ways in which early childhood is lived in Singapore's preschools and lower primary settings since much of my early childhood teaching experiences have been in New Zealand. This has enabled me to consider ways to illustrate this diversity in my teaching and to prompt my students to make meaningful sense of the diversity.

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

At NIE, I can couple my teaching with my areas of interest. For example, I teach curriculum design and development; and one of my areas of interest is complexity thinking in education, which is an emerging discourse in education. I have the freedom to explore with my students the multiple influences on their curriculum design and development and meaningfully negotiate the complexities that emerge from these multiple influences. This, in turn, helps me to better understand the nature of complexity in educational settings.

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

NIE offers students a learning experience that values both theory and practice. There is an opportunity to share and connect ideas and experiences, and in the process, enables students to continually nurture their ongoing identity as a teacher and a learner.

How would you describe NIE higher degree students?

While all students are different, I find that the students I work with are generally hardworking, eager to learn and willing to share their perspectives.