

Education & Career Guidance Newsletter



**APRIL 2020
TERM 2, YEAR 2020**

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*I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music.
I see my life in terms of music. ~ Albert Einstein*

Is there a career in the Singapore music scene?

At career fairs in school, how many times have you asked yourself: what do I want to be?

While many may consider doctor, lawyer, teacher, pilot, or a policeman/woman, for some, especially those of you who have the passion and talent in music, the thought of musician, conductor, songwriter, or music producer, would probably cross your mind.

You probably have wondered too, whether a music career is viable. In this article, you will find out what it takes to have a music career, as local musicians share their journey and thoughts.

Click to read the article ...

<http://bit.ly/CareerInSingaporeMusicScene>

Source: Cadence at Baybeats 2016, a Budding Band alumni from Baybeats 2015



Singapore, Unite as One

Apart from preparing cards and writing personal messages of appreciation to show their support and gratitude to all the healthcare workers working at the frontline, one of Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) students, Jacob Neo (Primary 6B) composed a song entitled, "Singapore, Unite as One!"



Despite not having any formal music education outside school, and only having his first taste in songwriting in 2019 as part of his learning in the General Music Programme (GMP), he wrote both melody and lyrics in two days!

Enjoy the song ...

<https://bit.ly/SingaporeUniteAsOne>

Early Admission Exercise (EAE)

EAE is an aptitude-based admissions exercise that allows you to apply and receive a conditional offer for admission to Polytechnic (Poly EAE) or ITE (ITE EAE), based on your aptitude and interest, before taking your GCE N-Level or O-Level exams.

ITE EAE

ITE EAE portal will open on 18 May 2020 and you can apply online at the ITE website. List 3 choices in order of preference and do 1 write-up (100 words) on each course. Find out more at these sites:

<u>Application</u> 18 May – 22 May	For GCE N Level Students: <u>Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) for Nitec Courses</u>
<u>Interviews</u> 22 Jun – 24 Jul	
<u>Offers & Acceptance</u> 24 Aug – 28 Aug	For GCE O Level Students: <u>Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) for Full-time Higher Nitec Courses</u>
<u>Withdrawal</u> 31 Aug – 4 Sep	

Polytechnic EAE

2020 dates are not released yet. It will be published on the following site.

Bookmark this site: [Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise \(EAE\)](#).

Other Aptitude Admission Exercises for GCE O Level Students

Direct School Admission - Junior Colleges (DSA-JC)

DSA allows students to apply to a DSA school before taking the GCE O-Level examinations. The application starts from early May and the application period, procedures and selection criteria **differs from school to school**, please check the individual JC website for details.

Students can apply based on talent areas that may not be demonstrated at the O-Level examinations. Examples of Talent Areas range from Sports, Performing Arts, Debate, Science, Mathematics, Languages and Humanities to Leadership.



DSA SOTA

The application starts from March 2020 and students will be shortlisted in June 2020 for individual auditions, portfolio presentations, interviews.

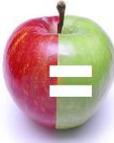
Find out more ... [SOTA Talent Academy - DSA-Junior Colleges](#).

For those who are clear what they want to pursue, we should support them as much as possible, to facilitate their admission into our PSEIs based on interests and aptitudes, and not solely based on academic results.

~ Mr Ong Ye Kung (Minister for Education)

Different Degree or Double Major?

With a double degree programme, you are certified with two separate degrees. When you double major, you graduate with one degree, but with two or more areas of specialisation or disciplines. You may also have a degree with a major, and a minor in a secondary field.

				
Double Degree	Special Programme	Double Major	Second Major	Minor
Additional 1 year in programme duration	Additional 0.5 to 1 year in programme duration	Equal weightage of <u>42%</u> each	25%	10%
2 degree certificates		Printed on cert	Not mentioned on cert but on transcript	

A double degree is usually more suitable for students who have multiple interests and are determined to obtain separate recognised qualifications for each of their respective fields of interests. Most likely, these students also intend to seek employment in an area related to both of their degrees, or plan to switch careers later on in their career path.

Double major tracks are usually suitable for students with a primary interest in one field, and would like to be equipped with knowledge and skills in a different field which may help them have a future advantage over others in the industry and/or careers they have in mind.

... Continue next page

Let's take a look at some of the programmes offered by NTU today:

Double Degree Programme	Double Major Programme
<u>Accountancy & Business</u>	Biomedical Sciences and BioBusiness*
<u>Biomedical Sciences & Chinese Medicine</u>	Biological Sciences and Psychology*
<u>Business & Computing</u>	Economics & Media Analytics*
<u>Business & Computer Engineering</u>	Economics & Psychology*
<u>Aerospace Engineering & Economics</u>	Economics & Public Policy and Global Affairs*
<u>Bioengineering & Economics</u>	English Literature & Art History*
<u>Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering & Economics</u>	Environmental Earth Systems Science and Public Policy and Global Affairs*
<u>Civil Engineering & Economics</u>	Mathematical and Computer Sciences*
<u>Computer Engineering & Economics</u>	Mathematical Sciences And Economics*
<u>Computer Science & Economics</u>	Physics and Mathematical Sciences*
<u>Electrical and Electronic Engineering & Economics</u>	Psychology & Media Analytics*
<u>Environmental Engineering & Economics</u>	Psychology & Linguistics and Multilingual Studies*
<u>Information Engineering and Media & Economics</u>	
<u>Materials Engineering & Economics</u>	
<u>Mechanical Engineering & Economics</u>	
<p>Students taking double degree programmes will graduate with 2 Bachelor degrees instead of the normal single degree programme. (E.g. students doing double degree in Business and Computing will graduate with a BA in Business and B.Eng. in Computer Science upon completion of the programme.)</p>	<p>*The programme is offered as a single degree programme with two distinct majors; each major carries equal weight in the degree.</p>

Arts, Entertainment and Recreation Industry

So, you want to be a Music Conductor?

A quick glance at Arts, Entertainment and Recreation

Background
Singapore is the cultural melting pot for the Arts in Southeast Asia. Singapore engages with the world through theatre, dance and music.

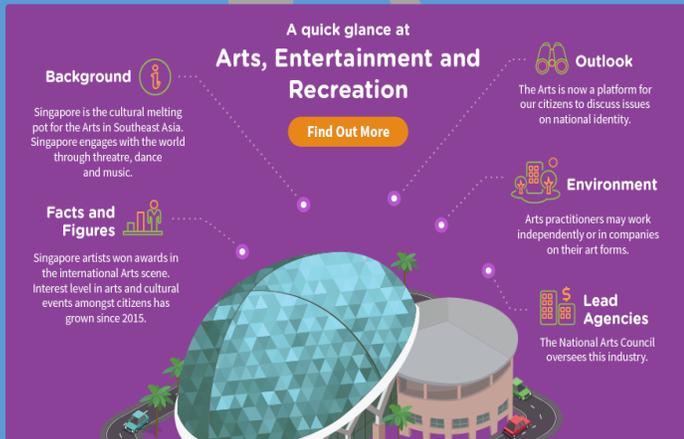
Outlook
The Arts is now a platform for our citizens to discuss issues on national identity.

Environment
Arts practitioners may work independently or in companies on their art forms.

Lead Agencies
The National Arts Council oversees this industry.

Facts and Figures
Singapore artists won awards in the international Arts scene. Interest level in arts and cultural events amongst citizens has grown since 2015.

Find Out More



The Conductor directs, conducts and leads instrumental or voices of musical teams such as orchestras, bands or choirs. Besides working with the musical team to prepare for all the performances and ensure that they perform smoothly together, there are also other key responsibilities that most are not aware of.

Find out more ...
<https://bit.ly/MusicConductor>

Singapore is the cultural melting pot of Southeast Asia and the gateway to arts of the region. Through a diversity of genres - theatre, dance, music, traditional crafts, visual arts, and literary arts - the world engages Singapore through her history, cultures and ideas.

Explore further ... <https://bit.ly/SingaporeArts>



What's your story?

Had the conductor and composer, Mr Wong Kar Chun, taken the path of his schoolmates after his A-levels more than a decade ago, he might have specialised in Physics instead.



"I was at a crossroads... My peers were doing quite well, getting into the top schools in (the) Ivy League. At that point when (Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music) offered me a full scholarship, I told my parents this was where I wanted to make a final decision. I'd always wanted to be a professional musician." Mr Wong Kar Chun said.

His parents supported him every step of the way, he added, even though there were no musicians in his family back then. "They saw my interest in music and there was never once where they said I should focus on my studies and stop practising the trumpet or anything," he said. "That really encouraged me to pursue a very balanced education."

Watch the video to find out where Mr Wong's dreams take him.

View the video ... <https://bit.ly/DayungSampaninGermany>

Source: National Day Rally 2018: 10 Singaporeans who got special mention in PM Lee Hsien Loong's speech

What should I put in the EAE course write-up?

The write-up should demonstrate your strong aptitude and passion in course-specific areas. You may start with how your interest come about, or why this field fascinates you. List what you have done so far that are relevant to the course. For example, if you are applying for the Information Technology related courses, mention about your knowledge in computers, coding, or websites you have built. Talk about your CCA, responsibilities, or VIA activities, that prove your ability to do the related tasks, or your qualities to take up the related job role in future (for example, being the school newsletter's editor, if you are applying for Communications type of courses). You may read up more on the [tips](#) shared by Ngee Ann Polytechnic, or [THE GUIDE](#) from Temasek Polytechnic for write-up samples, or see your ECG Counsellor, Ms Corinne, for further guidance (email: mailto:corinne_tan_cheng_hong@schools.gov.sg).

What is a Portfolio?

It is an organised collection of evidences that showcase what you have accomplished both in and outside of school. It contains samples of your work, your accomplishments, relevant skills and experiences. It can be a Digital Portfolio and/or Hardcopy Portfolio. Do organize it in a logical, easy-to-read manner. Make it sharp and interesting. If you are interested in Design & Digital Media courses, Nanyang Polytechnic organizes a series of [SIDM Portfolio Workshops](#). Another good reference is [THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN GUIDE](#) published by Temasek Polytechnic.

Can I apply for both DSA & EAE?

Yes, you can participate in DSA and EAE concurrently, however, you can only accept one offer. Students found to have accepted both DSA and EAE offers will be disqualified from these exercises, unless they cancel either of their acceptances before the end of the Acceptance Stage. Perhaps you may want to ask yourself which is more suitable for you: a Poly education with an applied learning environment, or a more academic learning environment in a JC.

I am interested in Science-related industries, but I am not sure which Diploma to apply?



It is daunting and confusing to choose from so many Applied Sciences courses. Now you may consider the new **Common Science Programme (R59) (CSP)**. The CSP is another Common Entry Programme which aims to give students more time to discover where your strengths lie before selecting your specialisation.

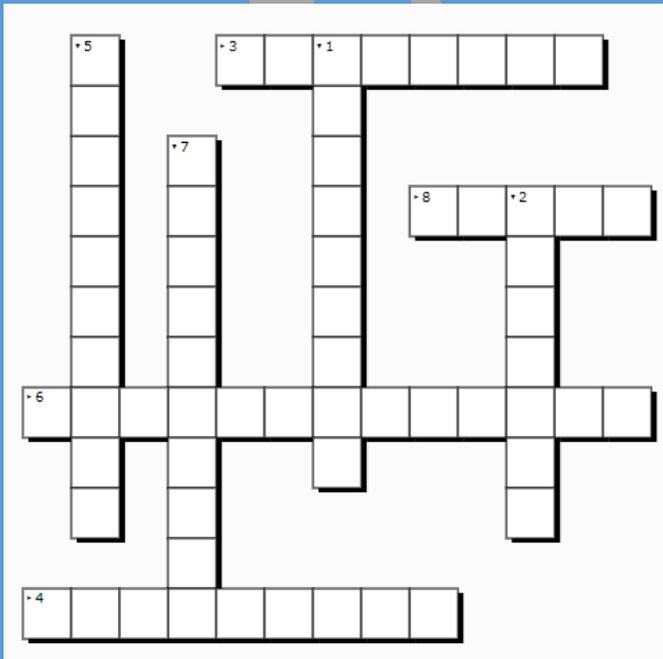
In the first semester of your first year of study, CSP will equip you with adequate science knowledge and essential life skills required in a range of applied science industries. Towards the end of Semester 1, you will have a better idea which diploma specialisation you prefer to graduate with.

Besides CSP, the other courses under the Common Entry Programmes are: Common Business Programme, Common ICT Programme, and Common Engineering Programme.

Crossword Puzzle

Complete this puzzle and submit it to: corinne_tan_cheng_hong@schools.gov.sg

Top 3 lucky students with all correct answers will be contacted by your ECG Counsellor (Ms Corinne) to collect the prize.



Across

- _____ Polytechnic is the only Poly that offers Common Entry Programme for Applied Sciences.
- You will get to talk to the _____ and students of the Early Childhood course at the event **P.L.A.Y. 2020**.
- In the article 'Is there a career in the Singapore music scene', we learn that it's "not enough to only have the passion burning in you, it's also about your _____ to make things work out in the end.
- Anyone can help _____ our society with the job they do, just like Wong Kah Chun, the Singaporean conductor in Germany.

Down

- If you have been shortlisted for the interview, bring along your _____ to showcase the works you are most proud of.
- Instead of only focusing on your passion for the course, demonstrate your _____ to handle the rigour of poly education too.
- Course write-up for ITE EAE is maximum 100 words, while the Poly EAE is 600 _____.
- One of the tasks of a Conductor is to carry out administrative and _____ duties to ensure that the orchestra has a working and supportive budget.

Answers to previous quiz:

- How long will the entire "through-train" programme for Poly students take? (**Ans: 5 years**)
- Where is the venue for SingHealth Nursing Open House 2020? (**Ans: Level 1, Academia**)
- What is the most important skill that Ong Zheng Chao has learnt that he must have in order to do his job well? (**Ans: adaptability**)
- What is the RIASEC (career interests code) profile of an Investment Research Analyst? (**Ans: I, E, C**)
- The estimated total asset of our local banking industry in 2013 is \$___ trillion. (**Ans: 2.7**)

(In view of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation, please check in with the organizer again if the event will still be taking place)



PLAY
National Institute of Early Childhood Development
3 - 4 JUN 2020
HORTPARK, 33 HYDERABAD RD
CALLING ALL O-LEVEL STUDENTS!

Join us for
P.L.A.Y. 2020: Play with Early Learners And You,
an event specially for all aspiring preschool teachers to learn about
applying for an **early childhood course** via EAE.

**ACE YOUR
EARLY ADMISSIONS
EXERCISE (EAE)**

Learn **tips and tricks for EAE** to
secure a spot in NIEC before your
O-levels!

Get a **certificate of participation**
that you can add into your EAE
portfolio!

MORE HIGHLIGHTS!

Talk to our lecturers and students
about our vibrant campus life.

Get a **sneak peek of lessons** that
you'll take as an early childhood
students.

Experience **outdoor learning**
with preschoolers during our
Preschool Teacher Experience

Meet other O-level students who
have the same passion for early
childhood as you!

**ABOUT
NIEC** Early childhood courses are conducted by the **National Institute of Early Childhood
Development (NIEC)** in collaboration with Ngee Ann Polytechnic/Temasek Polytechnic/Institute
of Technical Education at the NIEC (NP)/NIEC (TP)/NIEC (ITE) campuses.

contact_niec@niec.edu.sg | niec.edu.sg | NIECSingapore | NIECSingapore | bit.ly/niecyoutube

niec

NIEC's P.L.A.Y. Event

Register for the National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC)'s P.L.A.Y. event, if you are considering a career in the Early Childhood sector!

P.L.A.Y. (Play for Early Learners and You) is a 2-day day-camp where you will learn more about the Early Childhood courses offered by NIEC in NYP & TP, and how to ace the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) for these courses.

3 Jun, 9am - 5pm and
4 Jun, 8.30am - 2pm
@ HortPark, 33 Hyderabad
Road

[Sign up here.](#)