

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

Be inspired by Singaporeans who are chasing big dreams on global stage

PG. 3

Navigate the education landscape to work towards your animation aspiration

PG. 5

Find out where animation graduates went after graduation



HOMEGROWN TALENT

SINGAPOREAN ANIMATORS IN HOLLYWOOD

You probably have watched Disney animation movies like Frozen, Zootopia, Big Hero 6, Wreck-It-Ralph and Moana. But did you know that working behind the scenes to bring you these box-office hits is a Singaporean?

Meet Roger Lee, a Lighting and Compositing Artist with Walt Disney Animation Studios, who is now based in the US.

*Written and contributed by North & South Zones ECG Counsellors:
Corinne Tan, Christopher Tan, Teoh Fan Yun, Valerie Phua, Tiang Ginn Wah*



WALT DISNEY

LIGHTING AND COMPOSITING ARTIST

Roger's interest in Film & Animation began as a child when he watched Mickey Mouse on TV. He also loved to draw. His passion led him to study Film and Sound at Ngee Ann Polytechnic where he majored in computer animation. With the diploma, he started his career at local post-production houses and went on to work for Disney TV Singapore, Lucasfilm Singapore, before landing his childhood dream job at Walt Disney Animation Studios.

Listen to the radio interview where Roger Lee shared about his job role, skill-sets required and challenges he faced breaking into the Hollywood market. <https://bit.ly/rl-podcast> , or read more about him here: <https://bit.ly/rl-article> (Photo source: *The Straits Times*, 21 Nov 2018)



BLUE SKY STUDIOS

ANIMATOR

Like Roger Lee, Jason Ho, has always been passionate about animation. He grew up watching lots of cartoons and was fascinated by drawings and computers. In fact, watching Toy Story, the first entirely computer-animated film, gave him a revelation of what he wanted to do. Jason, who obtained an Interactive Media Design diploma from Temasek Polytechnic, professed to be terrible at academics until he found his passion and topped his class in polytechnic. After finishing poly, he spent a year in Canada pursuing a post-grad certificate in digital character animation.

Today, Jason is based in the US with his family, and has worked on Hollywood animated blockbusters like Ice Age Continental Drift, Rio and Spies in Disguise. Read more about how Jason remained undaunted in his efforts to pursue his passion. <https://bit.ly/jh-article> (Photo source: *The Straits Times*, 27 Oct 2019)

What goes behind the scenes to produce a film like “Toy Story”?

- Pixar in a Box is a behind-the-scenes look at how Pixar artists do their jobs. You will be able to animate bouncing balls, build a swarm of robots, and make virtual fireworks explode.
- The subjects you learn in school — math, science, computer science, and humanities — are used every day to create amazing movies at Pixar. <https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/pixar>



(Source - <https://bit.ly/2018-NYP-SIDM>)

Diploma

Nanyang Polytechnic: Diploma in Animation and Visual Effects
<https://bit.ly/NYP-Dip-AVE>

Singapore Polytechnic: Diploma in Media, Arts & Design
<https://bit.ly/SP-Dip-MAD>

LASALLE: Diploma in Animation <https://bit.ly/LASALLE-Dip-Animation>

NAFA: Diploma in Illustration Design with Animation
<https://bit.ly/NAFA-Dip-illustrationDesign-Animaton>

EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ANIMATION PROGRAMMES THAT ARE AVAILABLE HERE TODAY

Nitec Certificate

ITE: Nitec in Digital Animation <https://bit.ly/Nitec-DA>

Degree

NTU: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media Art

<https://bit.ly/NTU-BFA-MediaArts>

Singapore Institute of Technology: Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Digital Art and Animation programme <https://bit.ly/SIT-Bfa-DAA>

LASALLE: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Animation Art:
<https://bit.ly/LASALLE-BA-AnimationArts>

(Source - <https://bit.ly/SIT-Animation-Films>)

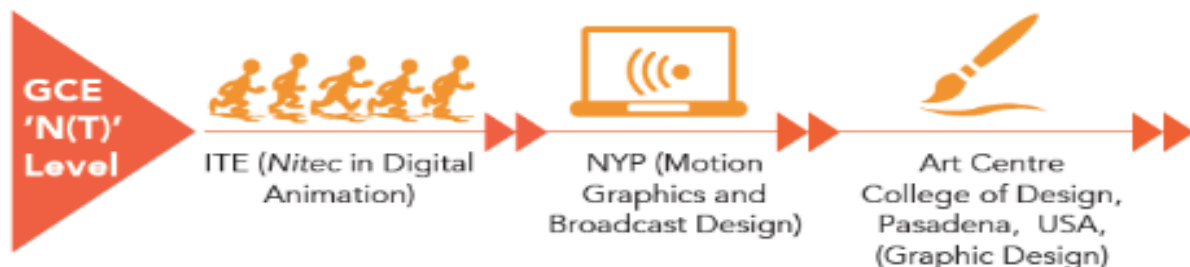
ROUTE TO SUCCESS

KIMBERLY'S JOURNEY

Kimberly's route to success was not smooth sailing with dyslexia. She needed to put in more time and effort than her peers but that had never deterred her from putting her best foot forward. Read more about her journey here: <https://bit.ly/Kimberly-Ong>



Kimberly's Education and Career Pathway





CAREER LANDSCAPE

10 MOST IMPORTANT JOB SKILLS IN DEMAND BY EMPLOYERS IN THE WORKING WORLD

(Straits Times APR 20, 2020)

1. DATA LITERACY

- The ability to derive meaningful information from data - this has become an important asset to have.

2. CRITICAL THINKING

- Critical thinking skills allow you to analyse a situation and find workable solutions.

3. TECH-SAVVINESS

- Technical skills will be required by employees doing just about every job since digital tools are becoming commonplace. Artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, virtual and augmented reality, robotics, blockchain and more will become a part of all workers' everyday experience, whether the workplace is a factory or a law firm. So, not only do people need to be comfortable around these tools, they will also need to develop skills to work with them.

4. ADAPTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY

- All businesses face the challenge of keeping up with the breakneck speed of technological and other changes. This means employers see adaptability - being able to rapidly learn new skills and behaviours in response to changing circumstances - as an essential work skill.

5. CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

- While creativity is the ability to produce new and unique ideas, innovation is the implementation of that creativity - that is, the introduction of a new idea, solution, process or product. Regardless of how many machines work beside us, humans are still better at creativity. Companies are always looking for workers who are able to invent, imagine something new and dream up a better tomorrow.

6. EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

- An area where humans have the edge on machines is with emotional intelligence - our ability to be aware of, control and express our emotions and relate to the emotions of others.

7. CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIVERSITY

- Organisations are increasingly diverse, and effective employees must be able to respect differences and work with people of a different race, religion, age, gender or sexual orientation. This is important as businesses are increasingly operating across international boundaries.

8. LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- If you think leadership is a soft skill that only senior management needs to possess and cultivate, think again. In today's fast-moving business world with flatter hierarchies, every professional needs good leadership skills.

9. JUDGMENT AND COMPLEX DECISION-MAKING

- The skill of complex decision-making is needed where there is no one obvious right solution to a problem, but multiple solutions that can lead down multiple paths. Those with this critical skill are able to identify key factors which will affect the outcome of a decision. They are able to evaluate options and establish priorities. They are also able to anticipate outcomes and see logical consequences before arriving at a solution.

10. COLLABORATION AND TEAM WORKING SKILLS

- The ability to work with a group of people to achieve a shared goal or outcome in an effective way is very much in demand by organisations.



FEATURED VIDEO

HARRY AND HENRY ZHUANG'S STORY

Harry almost became a policeman while Henry would have become a teacher. Instead, they decided that animation was what they truly wanted to do. When asked why they took the plunge and turned their backs on a stable career in the public service, Harry shares, "Life is short, not many people can find their own passion. If you know what your passion is, you should pursue it..."

Henry and Harry Zhuang - most often known as the Zhuang Brothers, graduated from Animation in NYP, and after working in the local animation industry for a period of time, started their own Animation studio Weaving Clouds.

You can watch the video of their story here: <https://www.facebook.com/MothershipSG/videos/1625383467501299/?t=1>

(Source: One of Us: They could've been a teacher and policeman, they chose to be animators instead)

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

EVER WONDERED WHERE THE ANIMATION GRADUATES WENT AFTER GRADUATION? DO THEY WORK LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS?

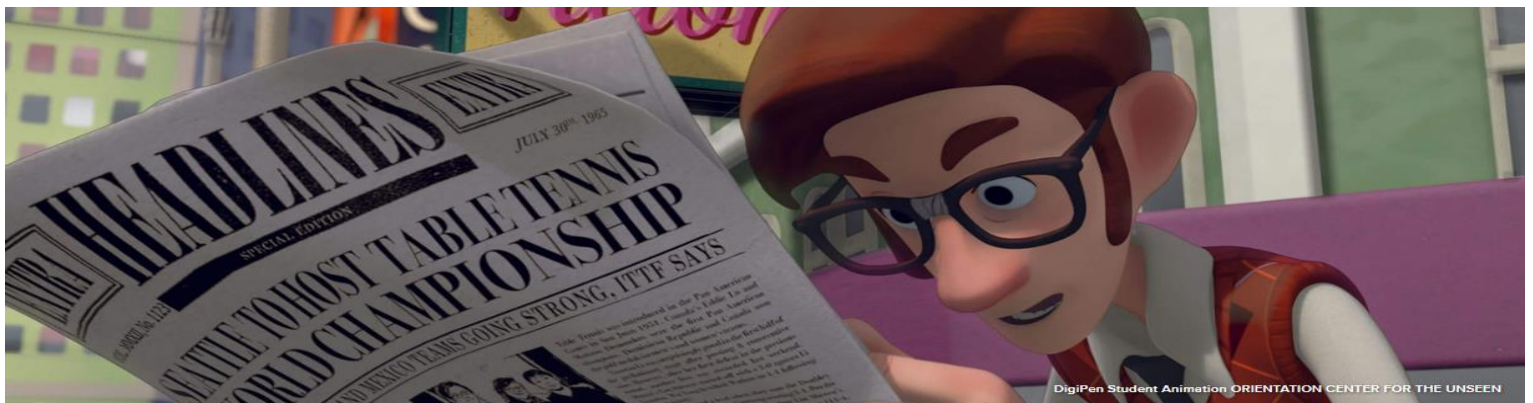
Click on the below links to find out more.

Alumni of NYP's School of Interactive and Digital Media: <https://www.nyp.edu.sg/schools/sidm/sidm-alumni.html>

Alumni of Lasalle's Degree in Animation Art: <https://www.lasalle.edu.sg/about/star-alumni> , <https://bit.ly/LASALLE-Kiki-Teo>

Alumni of NAFA's Design and Media: <https://bit.ly/NAFA-Julian-Futanto> , <https://bit.ly/NAFA-Erwin>

Alumni of SIT's Digital Art & Animation: <https://bit.ly/Digipen-Tan-Rijian> , <https://bit.ly/Digipen-Gentlebroos>





ASK OUR FRIENDLY ECGC

1. My parents say that doing animation in Singapore has no career prospects. Is that true?

Individuals with a qualification in animation are usually hired by companies within the creative media sector, such as film/video production companies, **broadcast media companies**, and **game development companies**, which are made up of many local Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), as well as some 'big guys' (e.g. *home-grown corporations like MediaCorp, and transnational companies like Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros, Ubisoft, Koei Tecmo, etc.*). Besides the creative media sector, they are also hired by **events companies** (e.g. *PICO, SingEx, etc.*), **educational content production firms**, **education institutions**, etc.

Besides working as 2D or 3D Animator, they may be employed as Modeler/Texture Artist, Lighting Artist, Effects Animator, Character Designer, Storyboard Artist, Concept Artist, Illustrator, etc. After years of experience, they may move up to become Lead Designer, Lead Illustrator, Technical Art Lead (Rigging), Technical Director (Animation), etc. In the course of their career, some may prefer to **move from one industry to try another**, e.g. from a video production company to a game development company. You will have some flexibility in this sector, especially if you are keen to learn.

While some of the local SMEs may find it tough to compete with the large transnational companies, there will still be good jobs available across the entire sector, and also as new companies spring up every year. The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), the government agency that drives the growth of Singapore's media sector, has been nurturing Singapore media companies and developing local media content. There are also **opportunities for those who want to work overseas**.

Global competition of skills and talents poses a huge challenge for Singapore, not just in the creative media sector, but in ALL sectors (*some more than the others, for instance, the IT sector*). This is because the same level of technical knowledge and skill-sets can also be found in countries with cheaper manpower cost, such as in China, India, Vietnam, Philippines, and Thailand. Therefore, it is important to **pick up diverse skills, as well as to be really good in what you do, in order to be competitive in the global job market**.

So, rather than look at job prospects alone to decide whether to pursue a particular career interest, it is very important to also consider **your own suitability - your strengths or abilities, preferred job tasks and work environment, and what will make you most happy and fulfilled at work**.

2. I like animation, but I don't know if I want to make a living out of it.

Do you have other job roles/careers that you are interested in? If you have, you may want to **continue exploring** these options, and at the same time, **find out more about the creative media sector, the various animation-related job roles, and how it is like working as an animator in Singapore.** You will be clearer whether you want a career in animation or not when you explore further and gain more accurate information, and understand deeper about your own preferences and abilities, and what is important in a job for you.

This newsletter includes much information about pursuing a career in animation, so do click on the links and read up on the articles. You may also want to **have a chat with your ECG Counsellor in school** to have greater clarity regarding suitable future career options.



3. I really love animation but I don't think I can draw well. Can I still be an animator?

Besides love for animation, there are **other qualities essential for an animator.** For example, are you naturally curious, and have good observation ability to grasp how things move or work? Objects can come alive because animators are able to express this knowledge well in animation. Do you have an artistic and detailed eye, and a love for storytelling? Animation is about telling a story to an audience, even if it is a 10-sec animation (remember the cute desk lamp at the start of any Pixar animation movies?). Do you like to work with software programmes and online tools to create various animation artwork? Are you able to focus for many hours on a task you enjoy? If all or most of these descriptions fit you well, you have the aptitude for a career in animation, even though you are not able to draw well.

The animation industry has **various job roles that suit different blends of abilities and skills.** For instance, if drawing is not your strength, you can focus on the more technical type of job roles, such as VFX (Visual Effects) Animator or Artist, 3D Modeler (Rigging), instead of being a Character Designer or an Illustrator. With keen observation, great storytelling, and knowledge in animation software and tools, you will still be able to excel as an Animator.

Besides **drawing, sculpting and modeling** are also part of the skills you will learn in animation. You will need to draw frequently in certain modules (e.g. 2D animation, character illustration, etc.) during your course in animation. Some Polys, ITEs or art institutes may include sample drawing as part of their aptitude or selection process to assess the applicants' ability to observe well and their artistic ability. You may also face a challenge in the future should you come across a client's project that may require you to draw before animating it. However, **many skills can be trained, including drawing.** You may want to consider an online workshop to start picking up drawing skills during your free time. There are free online courses in Udemy, Schoolism, etc.



10 Jobs related to the Animation Industry

QUIZ

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Search for the words listed and circle your answers in the puzzle. The words may go in any direction. Spaces of two words are ignored in the puzzle.

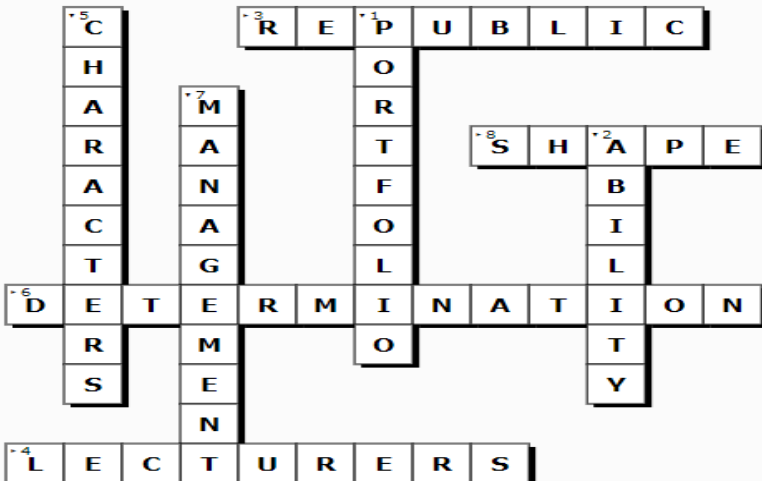
H A F J L O O N L C S J A Y G P Y C N R
 F N X A R Q W K G C N A V F I K F F X L
 Q C S T O R Y B O A R D A R T I S T G V
 C H Y E D X X X J F A D S E C C C E H T
 F A T L D I Z W U T U L M N Z K G R Y X
 J R E Y L W G K A O C A R T O O N I S T
 D A J F V C C I J E C M M O N K R Y U O
 S C I T F S O T T H R J O H Z W A W E P
 E T L U L E N G Q A L U L D J C T I F M
 W E L W Y G C W A M L G P S E T Y I F W
 M R U T S Z E T O E T P P F B L Y B W H
 A R S V B M P Z S A X G A N I V L Q X R
 N I T R Q P T G O A Z I Y I O S R E H U
 I G R F V T A A B Y N O C Q N W E O R W
 M G A T O Z R I M G X I K Y E T U L K I
 A E T B R D T X A K Z Y M T V D E T L K
 T R O K A I I N Q N C T C A I J N R L U
 O R R Z G T S T D B V L A F T I V O V H
 R Y T M C V T R B H N M O Z H O R R F L
 J A P K W A R T D I R E C T O R R M F P

- Storyboard Artist
- Character Rigger
- Effects Animator
- Digital Painter
- Art Director
- Cartoonist
- Illustrator
- Animator
- Modeller
- Concept Artist

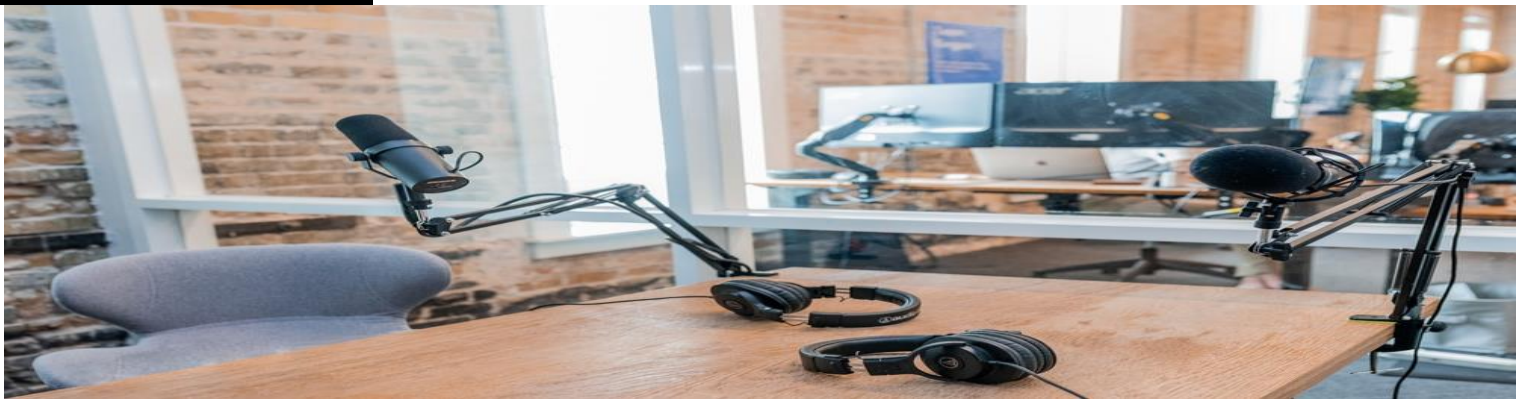
ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS ISSUE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

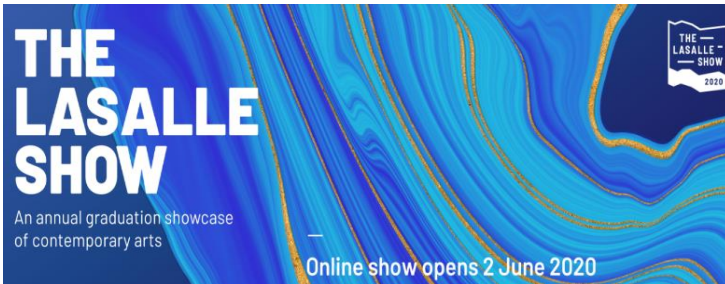
Solution



1. If you have been shortlisted for the interview, bring along your _____ to showcase the works you are most proud of.
2. Instead of only focusing on your passion for the course, demonstrate your _____ to handle the rigour of poly education too.
3. _____ Polytechnic is the only Poly that offers Common Entry Programme for Applied Sciences.
4. You will get to talk to the _____ and students of the Early Childhood course at the event P.L.A.Y.
5. Course write-up for ITE EAE is maximum 100 words, while the Poly EAE is 600 _____.
6. In '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.
7. 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.
8. Anyone can help _____ our society with the job they do, just like Wong Kah Chun, the Singaporean conductor in Germany.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Don't miss the Top Three Animations created by the students of LASALLE Puttnam School of Film & Animation where it will be screened during **THE LASALLE Show 2020 on 2nd June 2020**

<https://bit.ly/2020-LASALLE-Show>

Entrepreneurship First Steps (EFS) is an online course specially designed by Ngee Ann Polytechnic for secondary school students to learn all about starting a business. By the end of the course, participating students will be able to come up with their very own business idea and kickstart their entrepreneurial dreams! Students will have to complete the entire course **by 14 June to receive their certificate.**

[OPTIONAL] **Business Plan Creation** - At the end of the course, you can create your very own business plan, using a downloadable template! You can use this business plan to **supplement your EAE portfolio!** Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/NP-EFS>



Republic Polytechnic, School of Hospitality : Live EAE Webinar (19 Jun, 3pm)

Let RP's Hospitality Industry Professionals, Alumni & Students help empower YOU to make more informed decisions about tertiary education & career choices after graduation! Learn about Career Prospects of Hospitality Industry & Tips on how to ACE your e-interview!

Register here: <https://bit.ly/RP-SOH>

THE ULTIMATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EAE GUIDE
From 28 May to 1 July

O-LEVEL STUDENTS!
JOIN US ONLINE FOR ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD COURSES AND EAE!
SEE YOU ONLINE FROM 28 MAY TO 1 JULY 2020
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND STAY UPDATED!

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ACE YOUR EAE** - Get tips for your EAE application in our live talks
- Download a checklist to help with your EAE prep!
- LEARN ABOUT NIEC** - Find out what and how our students learn
- Get a taste of what lessons are like with our lecturers
- "Tour" our EC facilities in our different campuses!
- GET THE INSIDE SCOOP** - Hear what our students have to say about life in NIEC!
- Discover what working as a preschool teacher is like, as told by our graduate!

PLUS! SCORE AN E-CERTIFICATE TO ADD IN YOUR EAE PORTFOLIO WHEN YOU COMPLETE THE GUIDE & FINISH OUR ULTIMATE EC EAE QUIZ!

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

National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC): EAE Help Chat (20 Jun, 1pm - 3pm)

<https://niec.edu.sg/early-childhood-eae-guide/>

Live Talk : Ace your EAE and get the details on applying for EAE, plus exclusive tips for your write-up, portfolio and interview on **20 and 27 Jun 1130am and 26 Jun 430pm**

EAE Help Chat (20 Jun and 27 Jun, 1pm - 3pm)
Telegram them at @niecsingapore

NP Admissions Talk & Sharing Sessions by Academic Schools

1 EAE Admissions Talk & Sharing Sessions

Attend our zoom webinars to find out how you can score a spot in NP via EAE! Our Lecturers and Admissions Team will be there to answer your queries so if you're interested, sign up now!

25, 26, 29 & 30 JUNE
3.30PM - 5.30PM

SIGN UP

Sharing Sessions by Academic Schools

Date / Time	25 June, Thursday	26 June, Friday	29 June, Monday	30 June, Tuesday
4:15pm - 4:45pm	School of InfoComm Technology	School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology	School of Humanities & Social Sciences	School of Design & Environment
5pm - 5:30pm	School of Film & Media Studies	School of Health Sciences	School of Business & Accountancy	School of Engineering



NYP: EAE - Come Chat & Ask Us Anything. 13 June 2020, 10am to 12pm

Have you got questions about EAE? Chat with NYP from the comfort of your home as they go LIVE. Ask us anything about the EAE, how to maximise your chances and why NYP among other choices.

<https://bit.ly/NYP-EAE-Chat>

EAE Guides from Polytechnics

NP : <https://bit.ly/NP-EAE>

SP: <https://bit.ly/SP-EAE>

NYP: <https://bit.ly/NYP-EAE>

RP: <https://bit.ly/RP-EAE>

TP : <https://bit.ly/TP-EAE>