



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS STUDIES BY SINGAPORE SPORTS SCHOOL AND Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC OFFERS ANOTHER ATHLETE-FRIENDLY ACADEMIC OPTION FOR SPORTSMEN

In January 2017, the first cohort of Singapore Sports School student-athletes will commence studies on a new Diploma in Business Studies programme offered by Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP). Sports School, in collaboration with NP, will offer student-athletes an additional through-train academic option to a post-secondary education while they pursue their sport aspirations.

This follows from one of the recommendations of the Singapore Sports School Review, which was initiated in 2014 in response to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's challenge for the Sports School to "become a national sports academy of excellence". In particular, the Review Committee recommended that the Sports School enhance its value proposition by providing additional extended academic pathways to better support the sport development of outstanding youth athletes.

NP's School of Business and Accountancy (BA), a premier and established provider of quality business and accountancy education at polytechnic level in Singapore, has customised a diploma course in Business Studies with a focus on Entrepreneurship Management for up to 25 high-performing student-athletes per cohort. The new Diploma in Business Studies (Entrepreneurship Management Option) (BS-EMGT) prepares graduates for work in an array of business sectors such as banking, finance, retailing, service operations, and hospitality and tourism.

"Ngee Ann Polytechnic is pleased to partner Singapore Sports School in developing a customised programme that will help our student-athletes achieve their sport and academic aspirations. Much effort will be put into the customisation, such as adopting flexible lesson schedules and suitable delivery pedagogy with the help of technology, to ensure minimal disruption to their training. The Diploma in Business Studies has always been one of NP's most sought-after courses by students offering the 'O' Levels; we are therefore happy that we can adapt it and offer it to the student-athletes at the Sports School," said Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

The BS-EMGT will build a strong business management foundation in student-athletes in the initial years. It exposes them to key functional business areas in the intermediate years and, in the final years, strengthens the spirit of enterprise in students through a suite of entrepreneurship-related modules.

Similar to what the other students from the BA undergo, lessons will be delivered through a combination of on- and off-site learning practices, such as class discussions and projects. Through the use of mobile e-learning tools, a "flipped classroom" approach will be adopted in lessons

delivery. Student-athletes will also have to complete a 6-month internship at enterprises with an entrepreneurship focus before the end of their diploma programme to deepen their business knowledge. Compulsory Interdisciplinary Study modules complement the core ones to prepare them holistically for the next phase of life.

Sports School student-athletes on this academic pathway will bypass the GCE “O” Level Examinations. This provides a seamless progression to a polytechnic education in an athlete-friendly environment, where student-athletes are given more time and flexibility to complete the programme. The BS-EMGT is the latest addition to the existing post-secondary through-train academic programmes offered at the Sports School – the other two being the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and the Republic Polytechnic-Singapore Sports School Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management (RP-SSP DSLM).

“The collaboration with Ngee Ann Polytechnic to launch the customised Diploma in Business Studies is an outcome of one of the recommendations coming from the Singapore Sports School Review. There has been much anticipation from our student-athletes as they will now have an alternative through-train post-secondary academic option available. The Diploma in Business Studies will cater to the segment of student-athletes who have an interest in a business-related education,” said Singapore Sports School Principal, Mr Tan Teck Hock.

“We have worked well with Republic Polytechnic to support the aspirations of our student-athletes in the development of our first customised polytechnic diploma programme, and we are excited to include Ngee Ann Polytechnic as another valued partner in offering the second one. It is heartening to see the growing support that the Institutes of Higher Learning have in the Sports School in our bid to nurture Champions for Singapore.”

Attachments

- Annex A: About Ngee Ann Polytechnic (School of Business and Accountancy) and Singapore Sports School
- Annex B: About the Diploma in Business Studies (Entrepreneurship Management Option) Programme
- Annex C: Quotes from Singapore Sports School Student-Athletes and Alumni

**About
Ngee Ann Polytechnic (School of Business and Accountancy)
and
Singapore Sports School**

Ngee Ann Polytechnic (School of Business and Accountancy)

Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Business and Accountancy is a premier and established provider of quality business and accountancy education at polytechnic level in Singapore. It is a popular choice among prospective students due to its up-to-date curriculum, excellent student development programmes, internships with reputable organisations, modern facilities, state-of-the-art technology, dedicated teaching staff and connection with a wide network of business communities and professional bodies.

Singapore Sports School

Singapore Sports School is a Specialised Independent School under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and is the only school in Singapore that offers selected youths an integrated academic and sports programme in a world-class environment. Sports School nurtures Learned Champions With Character for the 21st Century.

Sports School develops Sport Champions, Champions for Sports and Champions for Others by providing a sport programme based on Long-Term Athlete Development, delivering an athlete-friendly and sport-focused academic programme, and customising the student development curriculum for the holistic development of its student-athletes.

About the Diploma in Business Studies (Entrepreneurship Management Option) Programme

Fast Facts

- Commences in January 2017
- Customised Diploma in Business Studies (Entrepreneurship Management Option) (BS-EMGT) offered to selected high-performing youth athletes, up to 25 per cohort
- Athlete-friendly course allows:
 - **Extra Time:** Deferment of up to 4 semesters for completion of the course within 5 years;
 - **Extra Convenience:** Lessons conducted on-site in Singapore Sports School;
 - **Extra Focus:** Completion of one module a month sequentially with all assessments concluded within the same month of study of the module, rather than the taking of several modules concurrently;
 - **Extra Flexibility:** Grant of leave of absence for approved competitions, training and events;
 - **Extra Independence:** Use of appropriate technology and pedagogies such as mobile e-learning and flipped classroom to facilitate self-directed learning at any time and any place.
- BS-EMGT will prepare graduates for business sectors such as:
 - Banking
 - Finance
 - Food and Beverage
 - Hospitality and Tourism
 - Human Capital Management
 - Marketing and Sales
 - Real Estate
 - Retailing
 - Service Operations
- Graduates will be equipped for the following:
 - Embark on a career as a business professional in the business sectors mentioned above or work for the government or non-profit organisations;
 - Pursue further studies at local universities or overseas universities (credit exemptions may be granted depending on results); and
 - Take up relevant SkillsFuture Earn-and-Learn Programmes which are work-study programmes designed for graduates to gain a head-start in careers related to the discipline of study.

Quotes from Singapore Sports School Student-Athletes and Alumni

Sean Lee Teik Ren, Alumnus (2004 to 2007)

**GCE 'O' Level Examinations to Singapore Polytechnic (Diploma in Business Information Technology)
Nanyang Scholarship for double degrees in Accountancy and Business (Banking and Finance)**

Student-athletes enrolling in Singapore Sports School all have a common goal in mind: To fulfil their sport dreams, while maintaining a good balance in their academics. Till today, it remains the unbeaten path which more are willing to take. I attribute increasing confidence in the Sports School, to produce well rounded student athletes, to each and every staff who, together, push students to reach their fullest potential, while ensuring that they enjoy the process. As the current student-athletes and alumni can attest to, it was a decision well made. To me, Sports School wasn't just a school to receive a secondary education. It was the place that groomed me as an individual and prepared me for obstacles life holds for me. Many of my fellow alumni are testament of Sports School's good work.

I am certain that the new diploma programme that Sports School is offering, in collaboration with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, will be athlete-friendly like its other programmes. This means ensuring no compromise in student-athletes' learning despite having to travel extensively for competitions. As a polytechnic graduate myself, I know how much this customised diploma programme in business studies would have benefited me if it existed during my time at Sports School.

I was still competing at the elite level when I was studying in Singapore Polytechnic. I struggled to schedule training sessions and arrange for make-up lessons as I had to plan trainings and extra consultations around the timetable given to me. If I had the privilege of continuing my polytechnic studies with the same athlete-friendly structure and customisation as what the Sports School post-secondary programmes provide, I would have been able to compete at my best, knowing that I am supported academically and in sport.

Looking back, the Sports School played a major role in shaping me into the person I am today. The traits of discipline, perseverance, professionalism and responsibility that were instilled in me whilst I was in the Sports School helped me to achieve success in both my studies and sport. If I had the option of pursuing my tertiary education at the Sports School by means of a diploma, I would have definitely done so.

Jefferson Cheong Jia Hui, Secondary 4 Student-Athlete (2013 to 2016)

Prospective BS-EMGT student-athlete

“I’ve always had an interest in business. Watching my father grow his business and meet clients inspired my dream of starting my own business venture. This new Diploma in Business Studies specialising in Entrepreneurship Management will prepare me for the business world. The through-train nature of the course allows me to bypass the GCE ‘O’ Level Examinations without disrupting my training and competition plans.

“The flexible timetable and allowances for granting Leave of Absence opens up more opportunities for me to participate in overseas training and competitions. This is especially crucial for fencers, where international exposure will give us that extra edge over our competitors. Yet, the unique structure of the course, such as the delivery of one module a month and the use of technology in teaching, will help me keep abreast with my work even with my busy competition schedules.

“The customised programme conducted at Singapore Sports School also allows me to continue training with my coach, Giorgio Guerrini. Working with Coach Giorgio, who knows my strengths and weaknesses, to carefully plan my training and competition schedules will definitely help me make that break into the national senior team. My target is to represent Singapore at the Manila 2019 Southeast Asian Games, so the option of a through-train to a diploma programme, even better that it’s of interest to me, will definitely help me in my sport progression.”

Tammy Boey (Mei Haoling), Secondary 4 Student-Athlete (2013 to 2016)

Prospective BS-EMGT student-athlete

“When I first heard about the Diploma in Business Studies course that Ngee Ann Polytechnic was offering to Sports School student-athletes, I was very happy as I saw it as a golden opportunity to study something I enjoy and continue sport at a high level.

“I’ve liked numbers since young and had set my mind to pursue something involving numbers in the future. Naturally, I hoped to study a business-related course. NP’s School of Business and Accountancy is prestigious and is well-known for delivering quality programmes with up-to-date curricula.

“The athlete-friendliness of the BS-EMGT programme conducted at Sports School will not only ensure I obtain a good foundation in business studies but also help in my sport development. It allows student-athletes, who like me have an interest in business studies, to continue training at the elite level so that we can one day represent Singapore. The timetable is structured to wrap around our training, while lessons are delivered in a monthly modular system which makes it easier for us to catch up on lessons if we miss any due to competitions. Furthermore, academic arrangements can be made to support us when we travel overseas for competitions. Such a win-win situation is hard to come by and is what motivated me to take up this course.”