PhD students are extremely important in this setting because they are young, they come with a very open mind, they are full of energy and they don’t come with any preconceived notions of what can be done and what cannot be done. So they are always challenging and pushing the knowledge boundaries. This combination of expertise, experience and uninhibited enthusiasm is potent.

And why is this research important for NUS and for Singapore and for the world? Because, unfortunately, the world has become more complicated, more complex. Problems are becoming hard and in fact we are grappling with many problems, such as food security, which are “wicked” problems: they have no easy solution.

Many of the fundamental breakthroughs for society have originated in universities. And often in the PhD thesis of a student who is working with a group of experts in a very friendly yet adversarial setting - friendly in that it is nurturing; and adversarial in that it challenges conventions; you want to challenge the assumptions. It is very important to us to have the most talented PhD students come here to solve the most difficult problems.

What does a PhD student typically do after receiving their PhD?

The bulk of our PhD students engage in research and development activities, either in academia or in one of the national research labs, or in corporate research labs. And if not, they are actually managing innovation, or they are managing policy. This is a result of having a deep understanding of how research is done and how research works.

They are very much into helping advance research, development and innovation in both the public sector and private sector.
Our Champions, Our Ambassadors

We would like to thank the following volunteers who are involved in supporting and advising on giving to the University (as of 31 March 2016).

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Scholarship from Senior Alumni Honouring Their Loving, Supportive Parents

Associate Professor Kwa Chong Guan ('68) and Ms Kwa Kim Hwa ('73) have made a gift to enable NUS to establish the Mabel and Soon Siew Kwa Scholarship in memory of named parents.

Scholarship will provide full-term financial assistance to Singaporean undergraduates during their studies at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, PASS or NUS Business School.

Prof Kwa hopes that the recipients will remember that the Scholarship is enabling them to realise their dreams and that some at time in their future, reflect on enabling others to achieve theirs, in keeping with the spirit of the quote by William Penn that his father would have read every day, “I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any creature fellow, let me do it now. Let me not defier or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

This gift was facilitated by Mr David Ho, President of the National University of Singapore Society (NUS). Mr Ho and NUS have been actively appealing to members to support the campaign.

President of the National University of Singapore (NUS) (1-800-338-3567)
askdvo@nus.edu.sg

To learn more about honouring a loved one through a named scholarship, please contactaskdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

The Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship

The Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship, which prioritises female students, was established with a generous gift from the Kewalram Chanrai Group to empower and inspire female undergraduates to be future leaders and entrepreneurs.

Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship

The Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship offers annual awards of $15,000 for undergraduate female students to support them in completing their studies.

To explore how to support the Scholarship, please contactaskdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

The Power of Potential

The Power of Potential (1-800-338-3567)
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Join NUS in creating a vibrant university learning environment. To explore how to set up a named scholarship, please contactaskdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).
SCHOLARSHIP BROADENS SCIENCE STUDENT’S HORIZONS

Life Sciences major, Celestine Cai Xueting, is enjoying a fulfilling university experience thanks to the Daisy and Robert Pang Scholarship.

Receiving the Daisy and Robert Pang Scholarship at NUS meant a lot to Science student Celestine Cai Xueting. It allowed her to make full use of the wide range of opportunities that NUS has to offer.

“The award has not only given me the chance to study in NUS and pursue my passion in science, it has also allowed me to throw myself headfirst into the world of science and research without having to worry about finances. I feel so grateful because all these used to be just a dream,” Celestine shares.

“The award has given me access to many helpful and stimulating specialist textbooks that would have been otherwise too costly and unaffordable. Last summer, I was also able to participate in a research programme working on a multiplex PCR diagnostic panel used for detection and diagnosis of illnesses and diseases. This summer, I hope to participate in research programmes overseas to gain exposure to the laboratory practices of international institutes. This valuable research experience would have been a pipe dream without the award,” she adds.

According to the Year 2 Life Sciences major however, being a Science student is a lot more than just hitting the books. “Every day at the Science Faculty has been filled with learning. The professors are very experienced in their diverse fields, and there are many opportunities to do research under them. The curriculum is such that there is enough flexibility for students to choose their modules and explore the fields of their liking, whilst ensuring sufficient broad based scientific knowledge. On top of that, the Science Club organises many fun extracurricular activities for students to broaden their experiences and step away from all the academic stress,” Celestine shares.

Having been on some community service trips, Celestine has developed a deep interest in point-of-care diagnostics and aspires to become a research scientist to develop cheaper, more accurate, and more accessible test kits.

SCHOLARSHIP IN CANCER RESEARCH SPURS PHD STUDENT FORWARD

Lim Jia Pei, recipient of the Ong Hin Tiang PhD Scholarship in Cancer Research is inspired to make a difference.

“I think the greatest gifts that one can give are hope and an opportunity to others to realise their dreams, and this is exactly what I have been given by the Ong Pang family through this Scholarship. I am truly very thankful,” expresses the Malaysian Chinese student. The aspiring scientist is highly inspired by stories of those who have made a difference in people’s lives through research and discoveries in the medical field.

First Private Gift to Solar Energy Research Scholarship

RenewSys-Enpee Group PhD Scholarship aims to shed new light on solar technology.

To Mr Sanjay Kirpalani, NUS was the obvious choice. The Chairman of RenewSys, an Enpee Group enterprise, which is in the business of manufacturing solar panels and components, became the first private donor to work with the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) at NUS to establish a scholarship to further the research and development of the solar industry.

“With both SERIS and NUS being globally recognised institutions located in a world-class city state like Singapore, it was clear that our gift would be well-utilised for the intended purposes,” states Mr Kirpalani.

The RenewSys-Enpee Group PhD Scholarship will support an NUS doctoral Singaporean student who is pursuing studies in a topic of relevance to the local solar industry.

“The hope is that a student will focus on the research of groundbreaking sustainable technologies to enhance the use of solar energy in Singapore, and to use that understanding to take the message globally. NUS and SERIS should be an ‘innovator and exporter of research and development’,” shares Mr Kirpalani.

He emphasises that the candidate must share a passion for wanting to make solar energy a viable alternative to traditional forms of power generation, and possess a desire for sustainability and a drive to innovate.

The successful Enpee Group takes its corporate social responsibility very seriously, supporting many outreach programmes in India and Nigeria. The Group also believes very much in empowering through education and has another Scholarship in Public Administration at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS.

To find out more about advancing knowledge through a named PhD scholarship, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

Partner with NUS in influencing the future. To explore setting up a named PhD scholarship, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).
The Power of Potential

PHD SCHOLARS HELP SOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS

The Lee Kong Chian Graduate Scholarship, the University’s most prestigious scholarship award for graduate students, was established with gifts from the Lee Foundation. Three recipients share their reasons for undertaking research and the difference the Scholarship has made.

Kamonlawan Chomchopbun
Faculty of Science

What is the subject of your PhD thesis?

My PhD is about searching for potential drugs from medicinal plants. I am working on malaria – an infectious disease that is jeopardising people’s lives especially in the tropical regions. In addition, similar to other infectious diseases, drug resistance is on the rise. Hence, it is crucial to find novel treatments to fight the infection. What I do is extracting compounds from plants and testing them for anti-malarial properties, hoping to identify drugs that might potentially be the cure for malaria.

Why do you enjoy doing research?

To me, research is about the journey to find answers to unanswered questions. It is difficult. It is very time-consuming. At times, it can be very stressful. The constant learning and challenges that we face daily are what repel many people away from research but they are also the charms that keep some of us in the field. At the end of the journey, we may not find the answers to the questions we set out to answer but I truly believe that we will definitely stumble upon answers to other questions or even totally new unanswered questions as we go along.

What difference has the Scholarship made to you?

Choosing a PhD over working means one less source of income for my family. The Scholarship does not only change my life, it also changes the lives of my parents and my siblings. It frees them from worrying about me and lessens my worries for them. The Scholarship allows me to pursue my dreams of touching the lives of others. If I am successful, the Lee Kong Chian Scholarship will have a great share of the credits. It indirectly benefits them, allowing them to benefit others and pass on this gift of kindness. Thank you.

Wang Yeli
NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health

What is the subject of your PhD thesis?

My PhD focuses on using different blood biomarkers to predict or understand the mechanisms of developing type 2 diabetes. My PhD thesis will generate knowledge that could be applicable to disease prevention, or identify risk biomarkers that could be developed for early detection or screening of type 2 diabetes.

Why do you enjoy doing research?

I enjoy doing research very much because research is tackling existing problems, therefore, it can make the world a better place to live in. In addition, I like the idea of exploring unknown things and I really enjoy working with a group of smart and kind people. Moreover, research offers me an opportunity of constant learning and it keeps reminding me to be humble, because there are so many things I do not know.

What difference has the Scholarship made to you?

First of all, this Scholarship is a great honour for me and has brought a lot of recognition and attention since starting my PhD study. Second of all, it has brought me more opportunities and responsibilities. Recently, I was selected as the student representative in our School for Masters and PhD students, to bring the student body together, and this is a great opportunity to serve the students and exercise my leadership ability. Additionally, living in Singapore is quite expensive, and thanks to the Scholarship, all my basic needs are met and I can focus more on research.

Phua Chao Rong, Charles Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)

What is the subject of your PhD thesis?

My PhD thesis examines how pragmatism is used differently by China, US and Singapore policymakers in foreign policy making. Pragmatism is often loosely used but under-theorised. I strongly believe pragmatism is important to both practitioners and academics and can serve to enhance collaboration between both worlds for the betterment of society. One needs to be pragmatic (be realistic by not being ideological, experimentally explore multiple means to an end and humbly recognise the limits of humans) in order to navigate and solve problems in our increasingly complex world. Pragmatism can serve as a compass.

Why do you enjoy doing research?

I enjoy doing research that can inform policy. Research and knowledge creation are critical drivers of our humanity’s progress. Academics have an important social function: help the masses understand and possibly explain complex phenomena through rigorous theorisation and crystallisation of insights across time and space. I enjoy being an agent in this process.

What difference has the Scholarship made to you?

The NUS Lee Kong Chian Graduate Scholarship has offered me the opportunity to pursue my academic endeavours and use my public policy skills to contribute to society. There is an intrinsic motivation for me to live up to the ethos of the Scholarship by excelling in academics, leadership and service to LKYSPP, NUS, and Singapore.

Continued from page 1

“Why should a donor consider a gift to PhD Scholarships?”

If you make a gift of a PhD scholarship, you are contributing to doing research which is going to help solve some of the most difficult problems that society faces. You are then making a gift to make the future better, for your descendants and for everybody. And you are helping to support a talented student, a talented young person, to achieve their passion for research. To create this future generation of researchers and faculty members is like buying insurance for our descendants for the future. This is a fantastic way of investing your gift money for the future of NUS, the future of research, the future of society, the future of Singapore and the future of young dreams.

And therefore, having other sources of funds will enable us to do research at a greater intensity.

“The Power of Potential”

To discuss making a gift towards a named PhD Scholarship, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

Work with NUS to help answer the World’s questions. To discuss making a gift towards a named PhD Scholarship, please contact askdvo@nus.edu.sg or call 1-800-DEVELOP (1-800-338-3567).

Continued from page 1

Why do you enjoy doing research?

I enjoy doing research since it pushes me to discover something new. The constant learning and challenges that we face daily are what makes research interesting. I enjoy being part of a collaborative group where we help each other to solve problems.

What difference has the Scholarship made to you?

The Scholarship has offered me the opportunity of constant learning and it keeps reminding me to be humble, because there are so many things I do not know. Moreover, research offers me an opportunity of constant learning and it keeps reminding me to be humble, because there are so many things I do not know.

What is the subject of your PhD thesis?

My PhD is about how China, US and Singapore policymakers in foreign policy making. Pragmatism is often loosely used but under-theorised. I strongly believe pragmatism is important to both practitioners and academics and can serve to enhance collaboration between both worlds for the betterment of society. One needs to be pragmatic (be realistic by not being ideological, experimentally explore multiple means to an end and humbly recognise the limits of humans) in order to navigate and solve problems in our increasingly complex world. Pragmatism can serve as a compass.
The Ng Peck Lian and Tan Teng Hian Scholarship was established by a loyal NUS donor and alumna, and her husband, to honour her late parents-in-law.

“If it is fitting therefore that we should set up this Scholarship in their names to honour them and their legacy to their progeny.”

“My husband feels strongly that what he and his siblings are today, they owe to their mother and father. It is fitting therefore that we should set up this Scholarship in their names to honour them and their legacy to their progeny: a legacy of honesty, hard work and frugality, time honoured values of filial piety, a deep sense of responsibility and care for kith and kin and for the less fortunate and needy.”

Mrs Tan, who was conferred the NUS Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2009 and the FASS Inaugural Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Award in 2015, spends her time helping NUS and FASS reach out to alumni to invite them to return to their alma mater to help build a culture of giving and philanthropy. She also tries to engage and connect friends whose generosity can make a difference in the lives of deserving students.