

The background is a dark grey-green color with faint, light-colored sketches of various scientific and educational items. These include a globe, a telescope, a microscope, a stack of books, a cross-section of a cell or organism, a percentage sign, and other geometric shapes. The sketches are rendered in a light, almost white, chalk-like style.

Post-Secondary Experiences from senior GESSians

17th December 2018

The background is a dark grey-green color with faint, light-colored sketches of various scientific and technical items. These include a globe in the upper left, a microscope on the left side, a stack of books at the bottom left, a cross-section of a mechanical part at the bottom center, and a percentage sign and other symbols at the bottom right. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper right, containing the main title, and a solid yellow horizontal bar is located below it.

Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)

Huang Yancheng

(4C 2016)



Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP)
School of Infocomm Technology
Diploma in Financial Informatics (Year 1)
Latest GPA: 3.9444 out of 4

WHY choose this pathway?

- 7 points for N-level, before CCA bonus point deduction.
- Concern about doing well for O-level English.

HOW was the journey so far?

- Did not manage to get into the first choice of my PFP application, despite going through the appeal process.
- No concerns from parents about not getting an O-level certificate.
- PFP provides better preparation for polytechnic education, compared to secondary 5.

WHAT advice to your juniors?

Pros:

- PFP can prepare you better for your polytechnic education as it exposes you to the teaching style in polytechnic and allows you to have an extra year to adapt.

Cons:

- Once you have accept the course offered to you via PFP, it will not be easy for you to switch the courses if you do not like it.
- Polytechnic education requires you to be self-directed learners.

Takeuchi Asuka
(4B 2017)



Singapore Polytechnic (SP)

School of Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering
Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics (PFP)

Lu Xin Yi
(4C 2016)

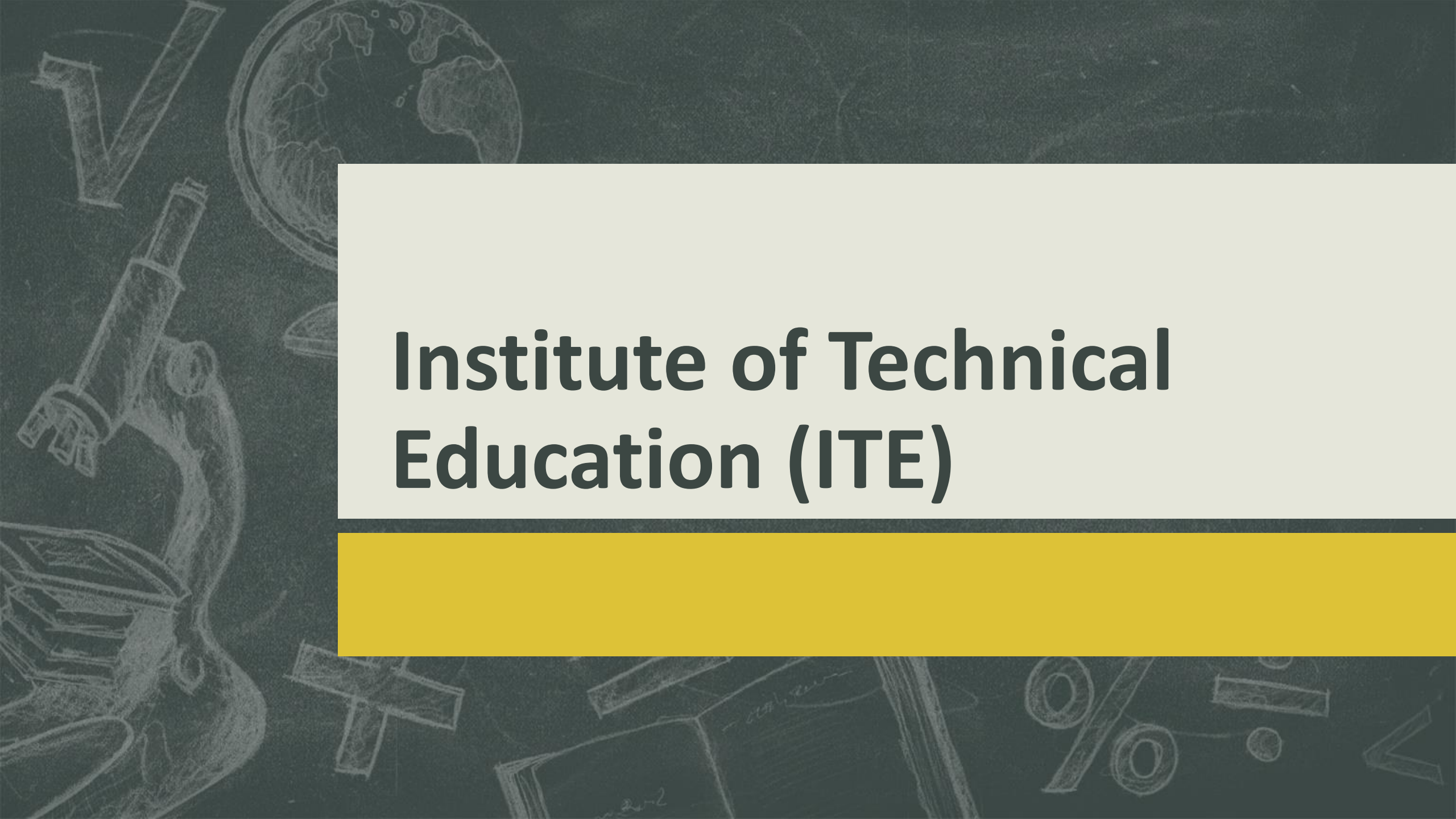


Singapore Polytechnic

School of Business

Diploma in Financial Informatics (Year 1)

Current GPA: 3.909 out of 4

The background is a dark grey, textured surface with faint, light-colored sketches of various technical and scientific objects. These include a globe in the upper left, a microscope on the left side, a stack of books at the bottom left, and various geometric shapes and symbols like a plus sign, a percentage sign, and an exclamation mark scattered across the bottom. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper right, containing the main text, and a solid yellow horizontal bar is located below it.

Institute of Technical Education (ITE)

Nguyen Hoang Long

(4B 2017)

ITE College Central

Nitec in Electronics, Computer
Networking and Communication
Current GPA: 3.0



WHY choose this pathway?

- 23 points for N-level, cannot qualify for Sec 5.
- Nitec in Electronics, Computer Networking and Communication was my **3rd choice.**

HOW was the journey so far?

- Had a lot of doubt and fear for my future when I made my choice .
- Supportive family; although this was not their preferred pathway for me, they still supported me in my decision.
- Exceptional journey in ITE thus far, as I was given so many opportunities to participate in competitions and gained experience that helped me to build my confidence and public speaking skills.
- Sharing of memorable ITE experience

WHAT advice to your juniors?

- No matter what school we tend to end up in, **what really matters is the willingness to seize opportunities and improve.** Ultimately we do not just want to do well academically, but we want to **gain experience and learning opportunities that will mould us into a better person.**



Team DynamITE brings innovation in social care and wins the Social Innovation Relay 2018

Brussels, 20 June 2018

The Global Final of the Social Innovation Relay took place online on 19 June 2018. Team DynamITE from Singapore, won the 8th edition of the Social Innovation Relay, a JA Europe initiative supported by NN Group that challenges secondary school students to develop an innovative business concept that addresses a social need or challenge. This edition involved more than 14,000

students and 250 NN Group volunteers from across 10 countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Singapore, and Spain.

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Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP)

Justin Chen
(4C 2016)



ITE Higher Nitec

Electrical Engineering (Year 2)

GPA: 4.0

WHY choose this pathway?

- In my opinion, **it was easier than secondary 5 given that I prefer more hands-on learning style.** I find that the certificate you get is actually more useful than a O-level certificate.

HOW was the journey so far?

- **I did not have much concern about DPP as I already knew what course I wanted to take in polytechnic and what I want to do in life. The course that I wanted to study in polytechnic is diploma in Energy Systems and Management (SP).**
- My parents are supportive too as they already knew my aspirations.
- It is easy to pass in DPP. However, to score a good Grade Point Average (GPA) requires us to put in hard work. **I find that what I have learnt is more relevant to the needs of industries, as compared to an O-level certificate.**

WHAT advice to your juniors?

- In summary, ITE provides me with a good foundation that allows me to continue with my poly education and beyond. **Also you should not choose sec 5 cause it more popular or choose a course cause your friend is going there, because upon your graduation, you are going to work in that sector for a quite a few years and it will be super boring when you don't even like the your profession.**
- Getting a O-level certificate is easy but to get good enough O-level results to get to the course you want in polytechnic is not that easy.
- **You have only 10 months to prepare for your O levels, as compared to the Express students who are more familiar with the syllabus.** Thus you should really consider whether sec 5 is for you.

Nabillah
(4B 2017)



ITE Higher Nitec

Mechatronics Engineering (Year 1)

GPA: 4.0

WHY choose this pathway?

- I scored 8 points for N-level. However I am not able to go to PFP since I had scored a grade 4 for my English.”
- **I was not confident that I will do well in my English in Secondary 5 O-levels,** which will not allow me to get into the course of my choice.

HOW was the journey so far?

- **Initially, I was concerned about not getting O-level cert**, but I thought, if I were to stop my education journey for some reason, an O-level certificate will not get you a higher pay as compared to a Higher Nitec certificate.
- My family is relatively supportive since a number of my relatives took the route of ITE and they turned out to be successful in their life.
- As I entered ITE, there were people around that gave me the impression that ITE is the most horrible place to be at, **but I have to work hard regardless of what people think about my life choices as it is my life to live.**

HOW was the journey so far? (cont'd)

- “I find my course very interesting and fun as I am really interested in the course I am in.”
- But if any of them is to have problems persuading their parents, they should talk to the teachers and ECG counsellor and show their parents the good points that DPP have and not from O level.

WHAT advice to your juniors?

- Regardless of your path choice, just do it based on your interests, strengths and aspirations. **Always do what you love. Success will only come when you are happy in learning what you learn.**
- If any of them has problems persuading their parents, they should talk to their teachers and ECG counsellor and highlight to their parents the good points that DPP has.

FINALLY...

“There are no fixed paths in learning, so just keep on progressing and improving.”



Ong Ye Kung

December 14 at 6:00 PM · 🌐

I'd like to share a story of a student today.

Wei Ting enrolled in ITE to pursue a NITEC in Aerospace Avionics after his N Levels. His interest in Aerospace came across strongly during his polytechnic application and he secured a place in [Nanyang Polytechnic](#)'s Diploma in Aerospace Systems and Management course.

He became so good at what he was doing that he represented Singapore at the [WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017](#) competition. I was there to cheer him and his team mates on!

Our education system offers multiple pathways to cater to students like Wei Ting, who all have different strengths and interests. Whether it is JC for the more academically inclined, or Polytechnics or ITE for those who prefer a more applied, hands-on education, there is a pathway for you to go as far as you can, and at a pace that suits you.

For those of you who are receiving your N Level results next week, talk to your parents and ECG counsellors about your options and see which pathway would suit you best. There are no fixed paths in learning, so just keep on progressing and improving.