2021
Graduate Programmes
S R Nathan School of Human Development

PhD in Gerontology

Master of Gerontology

Graduate Diploma in Gerontology

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology
The Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) is a university with a rich heritage in providing lifelong, learner-centric and industry-relevant education. Our mission is to champion lifelong education to develop future thinkers and leaders to their fullest potential through our 3H’s education philosophy.

Established in 2005
One of the six autonomous universities in Singapore
About 15,000 students

More than 70 degree programmes across five schools
High academic standards
Over 30,000 alumni

Engaging industry-relevant curricula
Flexible and practice-oriented learning approach
Home to Singapore’s third law school

Transforming Lives, Serving Society

The S R Nathan School of Human Development (NSHD) is a multidisciplinary school dedicated to the applied study of inherent human potential across a broad spectrum of social disciplines. The School’s teaching and research encompass the range of factors influencing the abilities of the individual, the family and the community. With programmes from Early Childhood Education to Gerontology, our interests cover humanity’s socio-cultural growth throughout a lifespan. Our work has the advancement of service at its heart, and this is especially manifested in disciplines such as social work and counselling. Other programmes, such as Education, Human Resource Management, and Community Leadership recognise the dynamic relationship between the individual and the community as one that is transformative, and always with the extension of well-being as an imperative.

The School’s vision of “Transforming Lives, Serving Society” is a tribute to the legacy of the late President S.R. Nathan. His contribution to Singapore’s social service sector, the labour movement, as well as other nurturing professions, continues to inspire our dedication.
SUSS Gerontology Programme

Developing people to positively impact the lives of our older persons

The rapidly ageing population in Singapore and concomitant need for trained professionals in the health, social and psychological services have given rise to an imperative need for graduate programmes in gerontology. As the needs of older persons are specialised, dedicated attention within the training to address specific characteristics such as the ageing process demands for interdisciplinary courses in gerontology.

SUSS offers flexible entry and exit points to suit different academic needs. One can choose to take certain gerontology courses on their own, or build them up to a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Master of Gerontology, subject to meeting the necessary requirements. There is also a PhD in Gerontology programme for those who wish to pursue a doctoral degree in gerontology. SUSS’ Master of Gerontology, with Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and PhD option, is the first in Singapore to offer holistic training for a rewarding career in the eldercare sector. Graduates from the programme will have acquired advanced knowledge and skills to be leaders and consultants in the field of gerontology. They will be prepared to perform challenging roles and functions in both government and private sectors.

Unique Features of the Programme

- Multidisciplinary Applied Learning
- Industry-Relevant Work Attachment
- Overseas Learning Experience
- Conducive Environment to Network and Grow
Gerontology
Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/Master’s

Modular and Stackable Programme Structure
All courses are 5 credit units (cu) unless stated otherwise.

Core Courses
- Ageing and Society in Asia
- Lifespan Development and Psychology of Ageing
- Physiology and Healthcare

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology
- Ageing Families: Multigenerational and Cultural Issues
  - Applied Research in Gerontology
  - Social Policy in Gerontology

Graduate Diploma in Gerontology

Applied Research Track
- Statistics and Data Analysis OR Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis
- Applied Research Project in Gerontology (10 cu)

Practitioner Track
- End of Life Policies, Issues and Care
- Dementia Care: A Multidisciplinary Approach
- Case Management in Eldercare

Management Track
- Management of Eldercare Services
- Financial Planning and Retirement Management
- Managing an Ageing Workforce

Elective Courses (Choose 15 cu)
- Internship
- Technology in an Ageing Society
- Environment and Ageing
- Programme Planning and Evaluation
- Gerontological Counselling

Master of Gerontology

Explanatory Notes:
1. Need a min. CGPA of 2.5 to be awarded Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.
2. Need a min. CGPA of 2.5 to be awarded Graduate Diploma in Gerontology; need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to proceed to Master of Gerontology.
3. Students can choose to take up to 10 cu of Graduate Unrestricted Electives in lieu of elective courses.
4. Internship is compulsory for those without any prior experience in the eldercare sector.
5. Need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to be awarded Master of Gerontology.

For more information on our Master of Gerontology, please visit sus.edu.sg/MGER
PhD in Gerontology

Modular and Stackable Programme Structure
All courses are 5 credit units (cu) unless stated otherwise.

Core Courses
- Ageing and Society in Asia
- Lifespan Development and Psychology of Ageing
- Physiology and Healthcare
- Social Policy in Gerontology

Research Methodology Courses
- Applied Research in Gerontology
- Statistics and Data Analysis OR Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis

Intensive Academic Training
- Advanced Topics in Gerontology

Qualifying Examination

Confirmed as PhD candidate

Data Collection, Analysis and Writing of Dissertation

Dissertation Submission about 3 years upon confirmation

Dissertation Examination and Oral Defense

PhD in Gerontology

Important Note:
- It is recommended for applicants without gerontology background to complete the Graduate Diploma in Gerontology before studying PhD in Gerontology

For more information on our PhD in Gerontology, please visit suss.edu.sg/PHDGER
Messages from Our Alumni

Mr Tan Tai Kiat
Director, Operations
Singhealth Community Hospitals

“[I am grateful to SUSS for it has equipped me with the skill sets to understand gerontology as a science and art through practice, and an art and science through research. Its balanced approach on life course and bio-psychosocial understanding of ageing has enriched my caregiving journey. It was a natural choice to study in SUSS given its strong gerontology faculty, the learning environment and support that made my gerontological study ever so enjoyable and meaningful.”

Ms Dean Ng
Co-Founder
The Affirmative People

“The programme facilitated deep reflection on how we can better create environments that nurture our seniors to age well and holistically. It is heartening to know that with collective effort, the right tools and network, we can reverse trends such as chronic illnesses and face the future with much optimism. I am proud to be a part of the alumni network as we work closely to solve issues and serve the community lovingly and impactfully.”

Mr Sng Hock Lin
Deputy Chief
ActiveSG

“The multidisciplinary approach in the curriculum has enriched my worldviews to look at issues with a more holistic perspective. I am applying what I have learnt in my current work at ActiveSG to promote healthy ageing and to encourage Singaporeans to lead an active lifestyle and transform our Singaporean Spirit together!”

Ms Khor Hwai Lin
Head of Sale and Business Development
Infineon
(South Asia & South Korea)

“The course enlightened me about the non-visible psychological, social and spiritual changes that a person experiences during ageing. With the right problem statement defined, I can derive values-driven technological solution to address the issues. Blending technology, business and sociology knowledge cum experiences, I can help the sector to leapfrog to the next frontier.”

Ms Ang Xin Yee, Ambberyce Analyst
Ministry of Defence

“I received good support from my professors, faculty members from the Gerontology programme and fellow PhD course mates. We shared materials, encouraged and lent support to one another. My PhD journey is meaningful as the school and my applied research is aligned with my intent to contribute and benefit our society.”
What do you want to contribute to the eldercare sector?
Admission Criteria

Applicants must possess an undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification from a recognised institution.

For SUSS graduate programmes that are conducted in the English Language, you must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR)* if your undergraduate degree is not awarded by an English-medium university, or your undergraduate degree is awarded by an English-medium university but the language of instruction was not English.

*at least an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5, or a TOEFL score of 580 (paper-based) or 85 (internet-based), or a PTE Academic score of 58, or C1 Advanced score of 180 [score must be obtained within the last 2 years at point of application].

Applicants with an undergraduate degree that was conducted in English but awarded by a non-English medium university must produce an official letter from the university to certify as such in order to seek waiver of the ELPR requirement.

In addition, you will need to meet these minimum requirements for the PhD in Gerontology programme:

- A Bachelor’s degree, preferably with a Second Class Honours and above in a relevant discipline from a reputable university or equivalent qualification; and
- A Master's degree or its equivalent; and
- A minimum of two years of work experience

Applicants without a degree from the local universities will have to furnish GRE scores of at least 160 (verbal) and 163 (quantitative), which are obtained within 5 years before the date of application.

Shortlisted applicants will be required to undergo one or more interviews and/or take such written admission or other evaluation tests as may be prescribed by SUSS from time to time.

All applications are considered individually on merit, and the offer of admission is dependent on the number of places available in individual programmes. The decision of the Admissions Committee of the University is final and binding. The University reserves the right to refuse admission and is not obliged to offer an explanation for the non-admission of unsuccessful candidates.

Tuition Fees

Our tuition fees are on par with those of other local universities. The amount of course fees you pay in each semester depends on the number of courses you take in that semester. The course fees cover all study materials, classes, tutor supervision, assignments and examinations. They do not include fees for textbooks and other additional items specified by SUSS from time to time.

Funding and Sponsorships Schemes

VCF funding is available for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents who are from NCSS member SSAs and MSF-funded SSAs. To apply for VCF Funding, please visit the NCSS website. Interested SSA staff can be advised to apply for VCF under non-pre-approval on a case-by-case basis.

Outstanding students enrolled in the PhD in Gerontology and Master of Gerontology programmes may also apply for the Alice Lim Memorial Fund sponsorship, amongst others.

Applicants from health-related organisations should check with their respective organisations and health clusters for possible sponsorship.

For SkillsFuture funding, please go to www.myskillsfuture.sg