



**2020**

**Graduate Programmes**

**S R NATHAN SCHOOL OF  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**PhD IN**

**GERONTOLOGY**



## Programme Overview

Singapore University of Social Sciences offers a PhD in Gerontology programme that provides a balance between content knowledge, research skills training and intensive supervision by experts. These aim to deepen your skills and knowledge through rigorous scientific research so that effective solutions may be discovered.

Throughout the programme, issues related to ageing and ageing populations within the Asian context will be highlighted as part of its practice or applied research, making it relevant to students coming from Singapore and the region.

What truly distinguishes this programme is its recognition in the industry as well as government ministries which dwell into the area of gerontology in its policy making, researches and practices. With its increasing demand for highly competent professionals in the industry, academic and research institutes, our PhD in Gerontology will be able to upskill your knowledge so you may excel in your chosen career.



## Unique Features of the Programme:

- Adopts a multidisciplinary perspective through practice-oriented learning approach
- Covers widely on the issues faced by the ageing populations in the region
- Emphasises on applied research to acquire a blend of practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Connects to international/local Gerontology scholars and students through various conferences and seminars



Students dancing with an Okinawan elder during a study trip to Okinawa, Japan.

## Career Prospects

Graduates will have the flexibility and proficiency to take up roles in a variety of fields such as social workers, sociologists, counsellors, care managers, allied health professionals e.g., nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, architects and financial consultants to lead in the eldercare sector.

This doctoral programme also prepares other professionals to play a significant role in the policy-making, health and social services, urban planning and infrastructure, and eldercare sectors.



## Message from Our Students



**Ms Ang Xin Yee, Amberlyce**

Analyst  
Ministry of Defence

“ Many academics describe the PhD journey as a lonely one. However, my experience differs. I received good support from my professors, faculty members from the Gerontology programme and fellow PhD course mates. We shared materials, encouraged one another and lent support to each other with our presence and comments during seminars and presentations. I could easily seek help and advice from the various faculty members because they were approachable and responsive. In line with the intent of my applied research in contributing to and benefiting our society, I appreciate the focus of SR Nathan School of Human Development on applied social sciences. I look forward to a meaningful journey ahead, as I press on to complete my PhD.”

“ I am grateful to SUSS for the opportunity to study gerontology. From this programme, I met like-minded adult learners who were not only interested in ageing matters, but also practice professors who encouraged us to practise what we learnt for our community. The SUSS gerontology programme 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, so much so that I was fascinated with this subject and decided to do a part-time PhD in Gerontology with SUSS! 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.”



**Mr Tan Tai Kiat**

Director, Operations  
SingHealth Community Hospitals

## Programme Structure

Applicants without Gerontology background must do the Core Courses and Research Methodology Courses.



### Core Courses

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



Applicants with Gerontology background (Master of Gerontology) may apply for credit recognition of 4 courses if a min. CGPA of 3.0 is obtained. A min. of two Research Methodology Courses and the Intensive Academic Training must be completed before taking the Qualifying Examination.



### Research Methodology Courses

- Applied Research in Gerontology (compulsory)
- 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

#### Explanatory Notes:

1. It is recommended for applicants without Gerontology background to complete the Graduate Diploma in Gerontology before studying PhD in Gerontology

# ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

## 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) of having at least an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 580 (paper-based) or 85 (Internet-based) [IELTS/TOEFL score must be obtained within the last 2 years at point of application] 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.

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:

- 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 candidates may be required to undergo one or more interviews and/or take such written admission or other evaluation tests as may be prescribed by the Singapore University of Social Sciences from time to time.

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.

## Concessions

SUSS offers the following course fee concessions:

- Applicants who are 60 years old and above will enjoy a 20% course fee concession.
- Alumni (Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral programmes) of SUSS and SIM will enjoy a 20% course fee concession.

Students will enjoy only one of the two categories of concession. The above concessions are applicable to all programmes offered and awarded by SUSS unless specified otherwise.

The concessions are not applicable to students under any scholarship or sponsorship schemes, as well as courses offered with external institutions/organisations. They are also not to be used concurrently with any other concessions.

To encourage further education and upgrading by our alumni, graduates from the Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree programmes awarded by SUSS will enjoy an additional 30% course fee concession for the first two master's courses when they enrol for a Graduate Diploma and/or Master's programme with the University.

Please visit [suss.edu.sg](http://suss.edu.sg) for current tuition fees and concession details.

✉ [student\\_recruitment@suss.edu.sg](mailto:student_recruitment@suss.edu.sg)

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Information is correct at time of print (November 2019)