

Media Factsheet

2018 Arts & Heritage Scholarships



The National Arts Council (NAC) scholars with Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth; together with NAC CEO Mrs Rosa Daniel, Deputy CE Paul Tan, Assistant CE (Planning & Engagement) Kenneth Kwok, Assistant CE (Sector Development) Low Eng Teong, and Director (Education & Development), Grace Ng.



The National Heritage Board (NHB) scholars with Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth; together with NHB Board Member Mr Vincent Hoong, CEO Chang Hwee Nee, and Assistant CE (Corporate Development) Jennifer Chan.

24 July 2018, Singapore – 14 outstanding individuals have been awarded the National Arts Council (NAC) and National Heritage Board (NHB) Scholarships this year. The scholarships nurture promising individuals who have the potential to drive the development of Singapore’s arts and culture sector. The NAC has committed close to \$850,000 to 10 scholarship recipients to support talent development in the arts sector; while the four NHB scholarship recipients will receive approximately \$523,000 to further their studies. The broader range of disciplines supported by the scholarships over the years reflects a scene that is growing in sophistication. We hope that the scholarships will continue to encourage talented individuals to explore varied careers in the arts, heritage and culture, and contribute to the development of the landscape.

Please refer to the following pages for the full list of scholarship recipients.

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For NAC Scholarships

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NAC Arts Scholarship (Undergraduate)

The NAC Arts Scholarship (Undergraduate) aims to nurture outstanding individuals who wish to pursue a career as an arts practitioner or professional, and have the potential to lead in the fields of performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, community arts, arts education, technical design and production management, or arts management in Singapore.

The recipients will fulfil a service commitment of a specific duration in the arts sector upon graduation.

The service commitment duration depends on the Scholarship quantum as follows:

Up to \$50,000 : 1-year service commitment, to be completed within 2 years

More than \$50,000 : 2-year service commitment, to be completed within 3 years

S/N	Name/Field of Study/Education Institution	Bio
1	Ho Yuhan Ashley Bachelor of Dance, ArtEZ University of the Arts	<p>Ashley will be pursuing her undergraduate studies in Dance at ArtEZ University of the Arts in the Netherlands. An alumni of School of The Arts, Singapore (SOTA), she had expanded her knowledge in dance under City Ballet Academy (2014-2018), T.H.E.'s Second Company Training Initiative (2016), and as an intern with Frontier Danceland (2018).</p> <p>Beyond the studio, Ashley engages people with mobility difficulties via creative movement sessions such as <i>Parkinson's Grooves</i> and Elizabeth Rutten-Ng's <i>Embodied Movement Therapy</i>. Ashley hopes to develop and share a perspective that is fresh, genuine, and relevant through her studies and community engagements.</p>
2	Tan Tiag Yi Bachelor of Arts in Music, St Anne's College, University of Oxford	<p>Tiag Yi will be pursuing his undergraduate studies in Music at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. He had previously participated in composition workshops/reading sessions with various musicians and groups such as the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Singapore Chinese Orchestra. His works had been premiered by the Southeastern Ensemble for Today's and Tomorrow's Sounds (SETTS) and ADDO Chamber Orchestra. He is also a member of the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra.</p> <p>Tiag Yi aspires to be an advocate for contemporary classical music of Singapore and the Southeast Asian region. He hopes to promote music of other composers, and to create his own unique body of works that engage with the diverse cultural and aesthetic concerns of his Western-style training and his Singaporean Chinese heritage.</p>
3	Tang Ying Hua Merissa Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production), Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, University of	<p>Merissa is currently pursuing her undergraduate studies in Production (Performance Technology), at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, University of Melbourne. Prior to this, she graduated from Republic Polytechnic with a Diploma in Technology and Arts Management (with Merit), and was</p>

	<p>Melbourne (Previously known as Victorian College of the Arts)</p>	<p>Valedictorian for the School of Technology for the Arts' 2016 Cohort.</p> <p>Merissa has experience working on an array of local productions such as <i>Guilty Landscapes III</i> (Singapore International Festival of Arts, 2017) and <i>The Flying Dutchman</i> (Richard Wagner Association, with OperaViva Limited and The Finger Players, 2016). She has a particular passion for Singaporean works that engage the community, and considered <i>The Lesson</i> by Dramabox as her most memorable work.</p> <p>Merissa hopes to establish herself as a well-rounded Production/Technical manager who can cater to the ever-growing theatre scene in Singapore. Upon graduation, she is keen to develop local works that engage the community while managing them at a global standard of practice.</p>
4	<p>Ryan Benjamin Lee Meng Kiat</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts in Experimental Animation, California Institute of the Arts</p>	<p>Ryan Benjamin will be pursuing his undergraduate studies in Experimental Animation at California Institute of the Arts. He graduated from the School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA)'s International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) in 2015, and has since participated in multiple exhibitions and performances locally and overseas such as <i>Untapped Emerging 2016</i> (Chan + Hori Contemporary, 2016) and <i>Traverse Video Edition 2018</i> (Toulouse, France, 2018).</p> <p>Ryan hopes to expand his knowledge of moving image, animation and film history and allow these disciplines to intersect with other art forms via multidisciplinary productions and performances. He aspires to push for greater accessibility and public appreciation of video art in Singapore.</p>

NAC Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate)

The NAC Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate) recognises outstanding arts practitioners and professionals with the vision to lead and advance the development of their practice in the fields of performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, community arts, arts education, technical design and production management, or arts management in Singapore. The NAC Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate) supports the deepening of knowledge and skills of practising artists and professionals who are seeking to assume a bigger role in their artistic or professional practice and bring about positive changes in the arts and cultural sector in Singapore.

The recipients will fulfill a service commitment of a specific duration in the arts sector upon graduation.

The service commitment duration depends on the Scholarship quantum as follows:

Up to \$50,000 : 1-year service commitment, to be completed within 2 years

More than \$50,000 : 2-year service commitment, to be completed within 3 years

S/N	Name/Field of Study/Education Institution	Bio
1	Nurul Shaza Binte Mohd Ishak Master of Arts in Creative Producing, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London	Shaza is the Company Director and General Manager of Teater Ekamatra, curating and producing works together with the company's Artistic Director. She will be pursuing an MA in Creative Producing at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Shaza aspires to be an informed leader in the theatre scene, and is particularly intent on supporting practitioners of diverse ethnicities and employing arts as a means for empowering the marginalised. She is working on establishing a performing arts alliance for ethnic minority artists in Singapore and a regional alliance within the Malay Archipelago, to facilitate collaboration and sharing of resources between practitioners.
2	Cai Huining Master of Science in Creative Writing, University of Edinburgh (UK)	Huining will be pursuing her postgraduate studies in Creative Writing (Fiction) at the University of Edinburgh. Huining (pen name Ning Cai) has written five books that have been published by Epigram Books and Marshall Cavendish International (Asia). Her first book <i>Adventures of 2 Girls</i> debuted on the Straits Times bestsellers list at #8 in 2012. In 2016, she was nominated for the Singapore Literature Prize (English/non-fiction) and longlisted for the Epigram Books Fiction Prize, with a contract to turn her manuscript into a Young Adult trilogy. Upon graduation, Hui Ning aspires to educate and inspire the next generation of young writers while continuing to produce more creative works of fiction in various forms.
3	Khairul Shahrin Bin Muhamad Johry	Shahrin will be pursuing his postgraduate studies in dance politics and sociology at University of Roehampton, London.

	<p>Master of Arts in Dance Politics and Sociology, University of Roehampton, London</p>	<p>He has been working with Maya Dance Theatre as principal dancer and assistant choreographer since 2007. He has also independently created several short works and full-length productions performed locally and internationally. Shahrin has also contributed his artistry to special needs communities, teaching in various youth programmes supported by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and The Business Times Budding Artists Fund since 2014.</p> <p>Upon graduation, Shahrin aspires to produce more choreographic works, be an effective and thoughtful community dance practitioner, curate arts projects/festivals and lead in education and outreach programs for dance.</p>
4	<p>Rachel Lim Rui Min</p> <p>Master of Music in Vocal Pedagogy, Boston Conservatory at Berklee</p>	<p>Rachel will be pursuing her graduate studies in vocal pedagogy at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She recently graduated from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore (NUS) with a Bachelor of Music Honours (Distinction) in Voice Performance. During her time at the conservatory, she was actively involved in organising and facilitating community engagement projects such as <i>Project Infinitude</i> (with Superhero Me and Enabling Village, created for children with disabilities), <i>The Enchanted Garden</i> (a multi-sensory show for children with special needs) and <i>Transitions</i>, a self-initiated project aimed at building confidence in children recovering from cancer. She has also performed at outreach events in schools and community venues, organised a lecture-recital for the public and created a series of voice discovery workshops.</p> <p>Rachel hopes to form a voice association in Singapore, to encourage high standards of vocal art and ethical practices in vocal education. She hopes to inspire others to collectively build an inclusive arts society through the highest level of artistic excellence.</p>
5	<p>Low Chen Wah, Benjamin</p> <p>Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, University of Oxford</p>	<p>Benjamin will be pursuing his doctoral studies in Sociology at the University of Oxford. He graduated with a degree in Sociology and Minor in Theatre Studies from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2013, and had continued his involvement in the arts through freelance practice in jazz, theatre and critical writing. In 2016, Benjamin entered the Erasmus University Rotterdam's Masters in Arts and Cultural Studies programme, writing a thesis on intercultural learning and digital technology in jazz practice. He will be expanding his thesis for his doctoral project.</p> <p>Benjamin aspires to be an all-rounded musician and academic, as well as a Singaporean arts and cultural ambassador to pave</p>

		the way for future generations of Singaporean artists to succeed both locally and internationally.
6	Regina De Rozario PhD, School of Art, Design and Media (ADM), Nanyang Technological University	<p>Regina will be pursuing her doctoral studies at the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM), Nanyang Technological University (NTU). As an artist and writer, her practice and research interests include psychogeography, urban visual cultures, and how site-specific interventions can transform our relationship with the spaces and communities in our midst.</p> <p>Regina's solo and collaborative works, including <i>An Atlas of Mirrors</i> (2016) and <i>Urban:ness: Encountering the City</i> (2015), have been exhibited both locally and overseas. She is also part of an interdisciplinary art duo Perception3, and has lectured and facilitated workshops at various local institutions such as Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), LASALLE College of the Arts and Singapore Art Museum.</p> <p>Regina hopes that her research outcomes will allow audiences to engage with artistic interventions in public spaces and contribute to the knowledge base of policy-makers and practitioners vested in these spaces.</p>

NHB Scholarship

The National Heritage Board (NHB) endeavours to grow and nurture capabilities in the cultural sector by providing individuals with a love and passion for heritage opportunities to champion efforts in developing a vibrant heritage and museum landscape in Singapore. The NHB Scholarship supports promising talents in Singapore to pursue full-time undergraduate or post-graduate studies in various disciplines that contribute to the development of heritage and culture in Singapore.

Some of the areas of study include:

Archaeology

Conservation

Museum Studies / Education

Curatorial Studies

History (Singapore, Southeast Asia)

Upon the successful completion of studies, the NHB scholar will be in the employment of NHB serving a three-year (for overseas partial scholarship or local scholarship) or six-year (for overseas full scholarship) bond on a full-time basis.

S/N	Name of Recipient/ Field of Study/ Education Institution	Background
1	Esther Ng Eet Ming Master in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage University of Amsterdam	<p>Esther is currently a Senior Conservator for the Paper Conservation department of the Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC).</p> <p>With more than 17 years of experience in conservation, Esther has proven to be a motivated and passionate conservator who has spearheaded creative and useful ideas to improve paper conservation techniques in HCC.</p> <p>She aspires to become a subject matter expert on photographic conservation in particular, and contribute to the collective knowledge and expertise in the field, within Singapore and Southeast Asia. Presently, photographic conservation is considered relatively new in the region, and formal professional training is far and few between.</p> <p>The Masters programme offered by the University of Amsterdam is one of the few high quality programmes in the world that offers a major in photographic conservation. She is looking forward to acquiring new ideas and working with experienced conservators, whilst facilitating future professional knowledge exchanges between HCC/Singapore and international partners.</p>
2	Ratnawati Erlimus	Ratna will be embarking on a Master of Arts in Museum Studies and Curatorial Practices by NTU's School of Arts, Design and Media. She is currently responsible for driving revenue efforts and events management at the Asian

	<p>Master of Arts in Museum Studies and Curatorial Practices</p> <p>Nanyang Technological University (NTU)</p>	<p>Civilisations Museum (ACM). Prior to her current role, Ratna was part of the Visitor Services team at ACM, and won the Excellent Service Award (Superstar) for her dedication in going the extra mile to improve the visitor experience at the museum.</p> <p>Ratna has always been at the frontline. She hopes that by pursuing her studies in museum studies and curatorial practices, she can broaden her understanding of museum management and policies, so as to glean greater insight into the workings of the museum, and what drives its exhibitions and other public offerings. This will help her realise her aspiration to strengthen connections between visitors and the museum, and to hopefully kick-start a meaningful heritage journey that goes beyond the visit.</p>
3	<p>Samuel Lee Wan Heng</p> <p>Master of Arts in Humanities (Art History)</p> <p>University of Chicago</p>	<p>Samuel has a strong interest in the arts and heritage scene in Singapore. He has written book reviews for titles related to art history and art exhibitions that have engaged with the intangible and tangible heritage of Singapore and the region, such as Zai Kuning's <i>Dapunta Hyang – Transmission of Knowledge</i>. He has also published a collection of poems related to the urban landscape and social fabric of Singapore. He is currently working on a research article for the journal <i>Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia</i>. The article will focus on how institutions and museums display and write about 19th century colonial representations of Singapore and the Straits Settlements.</p> <p>Samuel will be pursuing a Master of Arts in Art History from the University of Chicago to develop and deepen his understanding of the history of art, primarily in the contexts of Asian and colonial art.</p>
4	<p>Sahana Balasubramaniam</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts, Yale-NUS College</p>	<p>Having trained in the South Indian classical dance <i>Bharatanatyam</i> for the past seven years, and having grown up in a household that places a strong emphasis on culture, Sahana has a strong interest in intangible cultural heritage such as languages and performance art. She will be pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in liberal arts offered by Yale-NUS College. She believes that our heritage encompasses art and language, and she aspires to promote the awareness and usage of native tongues to reflect the multi-culturalism in our society.</p>