

FACTSHEET

Polytechnic–Foreign Specialised Institution (poly-FSI) Initiative

1. Since 2005, the Ministry of Education has encouraged the polytechnics to collaborate with foreign universities to offer degree programmes in niche areas which directly support Singapore's industry and economic development plans and where our polytechnics have developed strengths in.
2. Such tie-ups with foreign universities have uplifted the polytechnics' capabilities to provide an applied and practice-oriented route of learning at higher levels, translating into a more enriching learning experience for our polytechnic students.
3. The poly-FSI initiative has also provided polytechnic graduates with more opportunities to upgrade their qualifications in their area of ability and interest in Singapore. To date, six existing poly-FSI programmes offer about 300 places.
4. The existing poly-FSI programmes are:

Poly-FSI Programme	Niche Area
Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) with Wheelock College	Early Childhood Education
NP with University of Newcastle, UK and Singapore Polytechnic (SP)	Naval Architecture
Nanyang Polytechnic with Stirling University	Retail Marketing
SP with Massey University, New Zealand	Food Technology
NP with Chapman University, US	Film and TV
SP with the University of Manchester, UK	Optometry

5. The Committee on Expansion of the University Sector (CEUS) had recommended the expansion of the Poly-FSI initiative as a means to achieve the 30% Cohort Participation Rate (CPR) by 2015. MOE subsequently formed a taskforce led by its Deputy Secretary (Policy) Loh Ngai Seng, with polytechnic principals, representatives from the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and Economic Development Board (EDB) to study how this could be done more effectively via a new model that is both scalable and sustainable. The taskforce visited selected universities and specialised institutions in USA, UK and Australia in studying the feasibility of SIAT. These universities have expressed strong interest in working with SIAT to offer degree programmes in Singapore. The taskforce also held focus group discussions with polytechnic students, graduates and their parents, economic agencies and industry which agreed that SIAT was a viable upgrading option. The taskforce then recommended the establishment of SIAT to expand the Poly–FSI tie-up initiative.