

Preparing designers for strategic leadership roles

Our Master of Design programme provides you a strategic, interdisciplinary platform to explore design's changing role across businesses, organisations, and society. It equips you with essential skills to address complex challenges and foster innovation through a blend of theory and practical experience.

Master of Design in Integrated Design

Dynamic, Diverse, Collaborative





What is Integrated Design?

Design is no longer a standalone practice but an integrative process. Design dissolves silos, connects disciplines and bridges gaps between people, organisations and sectors. Integrated Design is crucial for addressing the increasingly complex challenges we face in industries, public sector, and communities.

In today's volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world, where technology, society, and the environment are rapidly evolving, design must stay flexible and adaptive. By combining diverse disciplines, Integrated Design delivers innovative, sustainable, and effective solutions to this ever-changing landscape.

When you view design as a verb, it becomes integral to every stage of a project—whether it's a service, product (tangible or virtual), communication strategy, or a complex systemic challenge. Design is essential in discovery, definition, evaluation, creation, and implementation.

By integrating areas like Service, Experience, Interaction, and Transformative Design, our program prepares design professionals to lead meaningful change across industries, social sectors, and governments.

If this resonates with you, apply to the Master of Design (MDes) in Integrated Design at the Division of Industrial Design (DID).



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A unique and applied course structure

We believe that educating designers and creative leaders requires a multifaceted approach. Our programme combines hands-on design studios with seminar-based learning, allowing you to collaborate with and be inspired by peers from diverse disciplines, industry experts and world-class faculty.

Semester 1

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 1

4 Units
Design Research Methods

4 Units
Emerging Topics in Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Semester 2

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 2

4 Units
Design Strategies & Leadership

4 Units
Collaborative Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)



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Integrated Studio Experience

Our studio-based activities provide an immersive, project-driven learning experience that simulates a professional environment. Guided by faculty and industry partners, you will work in small teams to tackle real-world challenges. This format connects industry partners with emerging design talent, offering students hands-on experience and potential career opportunities.

Theory & Method Requirement

You will gain a solid theoretical foundation in design strategy, leadership, research methods, and collaboration approaches, while exploring emerging topics in design.

Elective Course Requirement

Your academic experience is enriched by a diverse selection of elective courses from DID, including Sustainable Innovation, Design for Healthy Living, and the Design Research Immersion Programme, as well as offerings from the broader NUS catalogue.

Additionally, you can engage in studio-based activities within our Advanced Design Platforms, exploring topics such as product innovation, social and service transformation, design futures, design thinking, co-design, user interaction, artificial intelligence, data visualisation, and communication.

Tailor your studies by choosing electives that align with your interests and career goals.



Our context is our advantage

A distinct advantage of our MDes in Integrated Design is that we are situated within the National University of Singapore, ranked among the top 10 universities globally. This provides access to engagements, collaborations, and research across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

Located in Singapore, a top tech and design hub, you will thrive in a diverse, supportive environment. Our strong ties with leading design firms, multinational companies, and industry professionals offer hands-on experience and career opportunities.

Students gain valuable industry insights, expand their networks, and understand design's impact on business. Our growing partnerships cover sectors like tech, healthcare, robotics, finance, retail, and transportation.

Boundless career opportunities

Whether you're an experienced designer looking to elevate your practice, an entry-level talent eager to gain exposure, or a professional from a related creative field seeking to transition into design, our programme equips you to pursue diverse career paths and make a lasting impact in the industry.

With a transdisciplinary perspective and insights into emerging fields, our MDes programme lays the groundwork for a successful and fulfilling professional journey.

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Graduate Certificate in Design Leadership

In today's competitive landscape, organisations increasingly recognise the importance of Design Strategy and Design Leadership as key differentiators. In combination, these two methods empower organisations to create effective products, services, and communication that prioritise user needs and business objectives.

This Graduate Certificate provides a strong platform to apply these two approaches across various business contexts, delivered through the lens of Design Thinking and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Admission Requirements Bachelor's Degree holders in relevant disciplines or with relevant professional experiences.

Compulsory Application Materials Bachelor's Degree Scroll and Transcripts
Curriculum Vitae (CV)
Statement of Purpose

Please refer to the website (<https://cde.nus.edu.sg/did/mdes/design-leadership>) for more details.

The Graduate Certificate in Design Leadership is an 8-unit course programme offered exclusively in the January Semester.

Semester 1

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 1

4 Units
Design Research Methods

4 Units
Emerging Topics in Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Semester 2

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 2

4 Units
Design Strategies & Leadership

4 Units
Collaborative Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Objectives of the Graduate Certificate

1. Address Complex Business Challenges

Equipping learners with design cognition and methodologies to navigate and strategise design projects within real-world contexts.

2. Integrate Design Practice

Providing an advanced understanding of design practices in business through a service-learning approach, focusing on practical, real-world applications to drive innovation and growth.

3. Leverage Strategy and Leadership

Exploring how design-driven strategy and leadership can be effectively applied across various domains to maximise impact.

Graduate Certificate in Design Discovery & Emerging Topics

The role of design is evolving, requiring fresh mindsets and strategies to address urgent, multifaceted issues from the climate crisis, to aging populations, social inequities, or technological advances.

This Graduate Certificate offers a deep dive into critical, emerging topics, coupled with practical design research and sensemaking skills. The programme enables graduates to navigate complex systems, meet evolving human and business needs, and address environmental challenges.

Admission Requirements Bachelor's Degree holders in relevant disciplines or with relevant professional experiences.

Compulsory Application Materials Bachelor's Degree Scroll and Transcripts
Curriculum Vitae (CV)
Statement of Purpose

Please refer to the website (<https://cde.nus.edu.sg/did/mdes/design-discovery-emerging-topics>) for more details.

The Graduate Certificate in Design Discovery & Emerging Topics is an 8-unit course programme offered exclusively in the August Semester.

Semester 1

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 1

4 Units
Design Research Methods

4 Units
Emerging Topics in Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Semester 2

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 2

4 Units
Design Strategies & Leadership

4 Units
Collaborative Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Objectives of the Graduate Certificate

1. Explore Contemporary Design Topics

Explore key topics and trends in contemporary design practice and research through critical reading and discourse of a wide range of resources and case studies.

2. Analyse Emerging Design Trends

Critically review design challenges through the lens of emerging methods and perspectives particularly in relation to future design and business practices.

3. Apply Interdisciplinary Research Methods

Apply discovery methodologies, including interdisciplinary collaboration and discourse, to critically review design challenges and explore different epistemologies.

Graduate Certificate in Integrated Design

Design today is an integrative, boundary-crossing practice that connects disciplines and bridges gaps between people, organisations, and sectors. As a dynamic field, Integrated Design is essential for addressing the increasingly complex challenges facing industries, the public sector, and communities.

This Graduate Certificate offers an immersive, project-based Integrated Design Studio, simulating professional practice. Working in small teams, students collaborate with industry partners to tackle real-world challenges, guided by faculty and industry experts. This hands-on approach builds essential skills, and provides direct insight into future career opportunities.

Admission Requirements Bachelor's Degree holders in relevant disciplines or with relevant professional experiences.

Compulsory Application Materials Bachelor's Degree Scroll and Transcripts
Curriculum Vitae (CV)
Statement of Purpose

Please refer to the website (<https://cde.nus.edu.sg/did/mdes/integrated-design>) for more details.

The Graduate Certificate in Integrated Design is an 16-unit course programme offered exclusively in the August and January Semester.

Semester 1

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 1

4 Units
Design Research Methods

4 Units
Emerging Topics in Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Semester 2

8 Units
Integrated Design Studio 2

4 Units
Design Strategies & Leadership

4 Units
Collaborative Design

4 Units
Unrestricted Elective (UE)

Objectives of the Graduate Certificate

1. Apply Systemic Thinking

Critically evaluate challenge spaces and develop impactful design solutions using a holistic approach.

2. Design with Empathy and Insight

Use design research to understand human, business, and societal needs while considering impact across economic, social, technological, and environmental factors.

3. Collaborate Across Disciplines

Effectively collaborate across disciplines and integrate diverse expertise and perspectives to address real-world challenges.

Application Process

Interested candidates can apply for Semester I (August) each academic year. We welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds who are dynamic and collaborative.

Application Fee

All applicants must pay a S\$150 non-refundable application fee (not inclusive prevailing GST) online.

Academic Background Requirements

Bachelor's Degree with merit or second-class honours, in a relevant design discipline, or in an area related to the intended program of study from an institution of recognised standing.

Candidates with other qualifications and achievements deemed suitably prepared for the programme of study may also be considered.

Language Requirements

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate their English proficiency by means of Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test scores:

- » TOEFL: 85
- » IELTS (Academic): 6.5

The official TOEFL/IELTS score sheets must be provided during the online application periods, otherwise your application will not be considered. Other tests are not accepted.

Compulsory Application Materials

- » Statement of Purpose
- » Design Portfolio
- » Velfie (Video Selfie)
- » Detailed CV



Please refer to the website (<https://cde.nus.edu.sg/did/mdes/admissions-requirements>) for more details.




Talk to Us!

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Visit our MDes website at <https://cde.nus.edu.sg/did/mdes>