

# THE ROAD AHEAD

By Karen Sum



## Bryan Cheung, 26

**Nitec in Aerospace Avionics,  
ITE College Central**  
Graduated in 2014

**Currently pursuing:**  
*Master of Science in Civil Engineering  
(Transport), Imperial College London*

Bryan's learning journey was fraught with challenges. Acknowledging that he is a slow learner, Bryan has never let that deter him from pursuing his goal of graduating from university and making his parents proud.

Despite facing several setbacks, he put in hard work, persevered, and is now doing his postgraduate studies at one of the top 10 universities in the world – the prestigious Imperial College London.

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I have faced a lot of failures and encountered numerous obstacles during my studies, and even now, it can be challenging and I feel like giving up sometimes. However, I firmly believe that by persevering and giving our best efforts, we can eventually achieve our goals, even if it takes a longer time.

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## What was it like for you when you realised it was not going to be smooth sailing for you, studies-wise?

It definitely did not feel good, especially because I was compared with my sibling and cousin who are the 'smart kids'! I suffered from the stigma and I admit that I was even ashamed of myself.

That all changed when I entered ITE – I discovered that ITE provides a conducive learning environment for students who need more time to build a solid foundation. It was a safe and supportive place that allowed me to mature and develop crucial interpersonal skills.

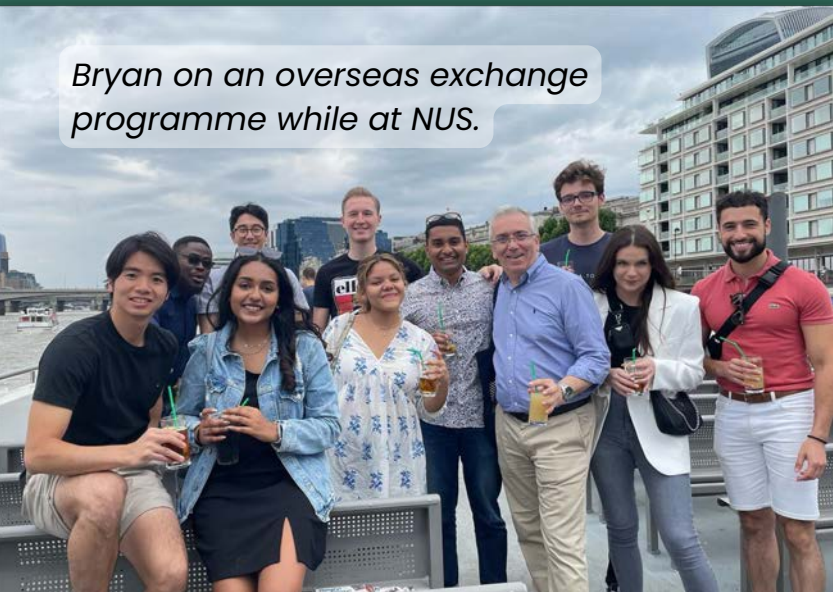
As I progressed through my learning journey, I also recognised that personal growth involves stepping out of one's comfort zone to become a better person.

## What happened after ITE?

My goal was to enter a polytechnic, but my grades were not good enough. Undeterred, I applied via the Direct Admissions Exercise, which considered non-academic factors like leadership and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) involvement. I received numerous rejection letters, but thankfully, TP accepted me!

After completing my diploma studies, I applied for and got into NUS. I am very thankful that my parents are very supportive. Now, I am pursuing a postgraduate degree at Imperial College London and am aiming to earn a doctorate in the future!

*Bryan on an overseas exchange programme while at NUS.*



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“It was a remarkable learning journey for me at ITE. I truly enjoyed my time – it was a period of growth and development in areas such as leadership, presentation and sports, on top of acquiring knowledge in engineering fundamentals and technical skills.”

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## What does a 'sustainable future' mean to you and how will it change things in your industry?

A sustainable future is one where we make efforts to combat climate change and take significant steps towards sustainable development. Artificial Intelligence and automation will be an integral part of the transport industry.

There is already a shift towards cleaner energy sources, one of the most significant being the transition towards Electric Vehicles (EVs).

Organisations like Singapore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT) Cooperation, which I aspire to work for, are actively converting its vehicle fleet to EVs, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly future.