



NUR LEILA BTE LAQMAN HAKEM

The Ngee Ann Kongsii Gold Medal 2021

GREEN THUMBS UP

As a preschooler, Nur Leila Bte Laqman Hakem was not obsessed with toys and games but plants. Her playground was her grandmother's home garden where she would volunteer to water the orchids and cacti. As Leila grew to love plants, she also took an interest in design. After her 'O' Levels, she chose to enrol in ITE as she felt that the Higher Nitec in Landscape Management & Design course combined both her interests well. Leila relished the opportunity to widen her knowledge in horticulture, landscape operations and design, and immerse herself in new technology related to facilities management within parks.

She excelled academically while participating actively in events related to her field of study. As the President of Horticultural Club Co-curricular Activity, she led in gardening projects with industry partners and re-designed the layout of her College's Eco Garden. During her internship with NParks, she learnt about plants that are native to Singapore and even contributed to conservation when she re-homed turtle eggs found at East Coast Park. Leila aspires to be a Landscape Architect who can design functional nature playgrounds that cater to children with disabilities, especially those who are wheelchair-bound.

Planting with Purpose

"Since we deal with plants, we have to work outdoors and adapt to unpredictable weather conditions. Even though it may be hot and tiring, it is important to keep your goal in mind. At the end of the day, I believe landscaping work benefits someone and most definitely, the environment. I see it as a way of giving back to the community."

After ITE

Leila is pursuing a Diploma in Landscape Architecture at Singapore Polytechnic. After obtaining a diploma, she plans to either work for NParks or further her studies at a university.

Top Achievements

- Leila led a team to develop the Butterfly and Herb Garden at Bedok Town Park in collaboration with NParks. Her design idea of a vertical Log Border Flowerbed was implemented and it led to an increase in the number and species of butterflies.
- A video created by Leila and her classmates made it to the Top 20 spots of 'N.E.Mation 2020', an animation competition to commemorate Total Defence Day. Their entry stood out as they used plants creatively in their storyline, depicting venus flytraps and cacti as villains of terrorism, and flowering plants like roses as heroes.
- Leila received the Peter Lim Horticulture and Animal Science Scholarship (PLHASS) in 2020. She was on Director's List in 2019 and 2020, and graduated with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0. For her service contributions in Horticultural Club and Student Ambassadors, Leila was presented with a Service Star Award (Gold) in 2020 by her College.