


**More than an education.
It's a transformation.**

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



Elgin Seah
*Bachelor of
Social Science,
Major in
Political Science,
2013 Intake*

DEAN'S ADDRESS

2017 is a special year for us. 10 years ago, the SMU School of Social Sciences (SOSS) was established and offered the first multidisciplinary undergraduate social science programme in Singapore. The school has since grown from strength to strength. We have accepted and graduated over one thousand students and our faculty numbers have grown from two to its present size of forty. Our flagship Bachelor of Social Science programme has also undergone several curriculum changes, which enhanced the flexibility of our course offerings and reinforced its relevance to the contemporary global workplace.

Currently, SOSS offers two distinct specialised paths in our undergraduate programme – The first path is a programme in Psychology, Political Science and Sociology that gives a broad survey of all three disciplines before providing the option to pursue an in-depth specialisation in one of them. The second, and newer, path is an initiative in partnership with our Schools of Economics and Law that brings together the study of Politics, Law and Economics. Both paths provide students with the ability to understand critical contemporary issues through multidisciplinary lenses.

At the postgraduate level, we also offer a Master of Tri-Sector Collaboration and a PhD in Psychology programme. Our tri-sector collaboration initiatives, which bring together government, business, and non-profit sectors to address contemporary challenges such as sustainability, is one of the many ways in which SOSS continues to be at the forefront in promoting innovative approaches to education and research.

Despite all of the changes that have taken place over the last decade, one thing remains the same. SOSS is still committed to providing a multidisciplinary and holistic education to all of our students, present and future. We have a team of dedicated faculty members who are outstanding researchers and educators in their respective fields, and they bring their wealth of knowledge and expertise into the classroom. Coupled with the analytical and practical skills acquired through internships, community service projects, and career preparation workshops, we produce social science graduates who are both knowledgeable and career-savvy and ready to tackle the complex social problems of our time.

I invite you to join the SOSS family and embark on a learning journey that will transform you into a social science graduate of the future.

Professor James T H Tang

Dean
School of Social Sciences

CORE VALUES

Interdisciplinary Approach

The Bachelor of Social Science programme delivers two paths focusing on either the disciplines of Psychology, Sociology and Political Science or the composite discipline of Politics, Law and Economics. The combination of these disciplines grants you a holistic and integrated framework to study phenomena in the social sciences. You will acquire a multidisciplinary mindset that is able to analyse challenging social issues such as workforce motivation, climate change, culture and the arts, and transnational crime.

Multiple Career Pathways

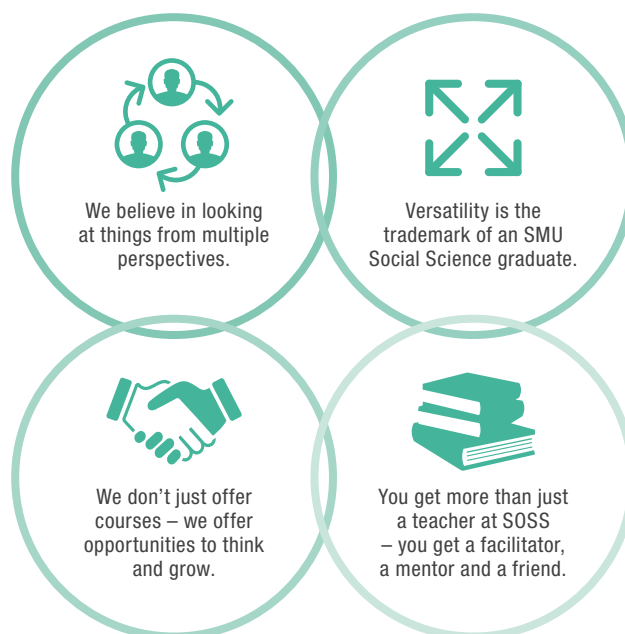
With a broad repertoire of skills and a critical understanding of social issues, you will enjoy access to a wide range of career opportunities across many fields including organisational consulting, human resource management, entrepreneurship and start-ups, marketing and public relations, and public administration. Whichever major you choose to specialise in at SOSS, you will have abundant opportunities waiting for you after graduation.

Experiential Learning

Our emphasis on experiential learning comes alive through active collaborations with civil society, government, industry partners and international organisations. You will learn to work together with other students to address complex real-world issues that are affecting business, culture, and society. Your course projects will not simply be academic thought exercises. They will represent efforts in making a real and tangible impact on the community around you.

Close Student-Faculty Interaction

As an SOSS student, you benefit from learning from the great minds of our highly qualified faculty. Our small class sizes provide plenty of opportunities for meaningful interactions with faculty members, facilitating your personal, professional, and intellectual growth. Whether you are having a lively discussion with our faculty members during class or sharing a coffee with them afterwards, they are always happy to engage with you.



Featured Student Testimonial



SMU has provided me with many opportunities to venture abroad and gain international exposure. From a community service project in Thailand, to a study mission in Belgium, doing an internship with an NGO in Moscow, a student exchange programme in Iceland, and even representing SMU at the 2015 ASEAN Student Leaders Forum in Bangkok.

These overseas opportunities opened my eyes to the world, made me more appreciative of what we have, and helped me better understand Singapore's role in the world.

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CURRICULUM

The Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc) programme delivers an integrative and broad-based undergraduate education with two distinct specialisation paths. You may choose a path that enables you to major in one of three disciplines – Psychology, Political Science and Sociology. Alternatively, you may choose a path that enables you to major in Politics, Law and Economics (PLE).

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. Behaviour encompasses everything that people do that can be observed, while mental processes refer to thoughts, feelings, motives, and other unobservable phenomena. Psychological theories and research have a number of applications in the business industry, educational settings, public policy, and more.

Political Science courses provide the analytical tools to understand and interpret contemporary and historical events, while simultaneously sharing important insights on how power is structured, contested and exercised. The courses draw from all major subfields in political science – comparative politics, international relations, political theory and political economy.

Sociology is a diverse discipline, which aims to explain societal trends and institutions to make sense of culture, politics, and the economy. The sociology courses are oriented toward developing students' critical thinking pertaining to causes and conditions of changes in societies around the globe, with a particular focus on Asia.

The **Politics, Law and Economics** major is designed to prepare future leaders and thinkers with a deep understanding of global political and economic transformations and the legal frameworks and contexts within which such changes take place. Comprising integrative courses in the fields of politics, law and economics that will hone your strategic and analytical thinking skills, you will be empowered to seek innovative solutions to real world problems.

University Requirements 16 Courses

Foundation
3 courses

University Core
4 courses

Modes of Thinking
1 course

General Education
4 courses

Technology Studies
1 course

Entrepreneurship
1 course

Globalisation
1 course

Asian Studies
1 course

Requirements for Major in Psychology/Political Science/Sociology 19 Courses

Requirements for Major in Politics, Law and Economics 19 Courses

Social Science Core
4 courses

Social Science Major
7 courses

Social Science Major-Related
8 courses

Politics, Law and Economics Core
10 courses

Politics, Law and Economics Major
4 courses

Politics, Law and Economics Major-Related
5 courses

Common Requirement 1 Course

Social Science Capstone Seminar 1 Course

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Foundation (3 Courses)

- Calculus
- Introductory Economics
- Programme in Writing and Reasoning

University Core (4 Courses)

- Business, Government and Society
- Ethics and Social Responsibility
- Leadership and Team Building
- Management Communication

Modes of Thinking (1 Course)

- Critical Thinking in the Real World
- Managing Volatility, Uncertainty, Change and Ambiguity
- Analytical Skills (0.5 course unit)
- Creative Thinking (0.5 course unit)

General Education (4 Courses)*

- Computer as an Analysis Tool (Compulsory under either General Education or Technology Studies)
- Biological Models for Business Applications
- Creative Writing
- Culture Identities and Arts
- Dance: East and West
- Drama and Scriptwriting
- Foreign Language (e.g. Bahasa Melayu, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Thai)
- Intercultural Communication
- Music: East and West
- Philosophy of Religion
- Post Modern Theatre Studies
- Principles of Coaching in Sports
- Singapore: Imagining the Next Fifty Years

Technology Studies (1 Course)*

- Computer as an Analysis Tool (Compulsory under either General Education or Technology Studies)
- Computational Thinking
- Intellectual Property Law
- Managing Strategic Change
- Social Media Strategies
- Technology and World Change

Entrepreneurship (1 Course)*

- Accounting for Entrepreneurs
- Design Thinking and Innovation
- Entrepreneurship and Business Creation
- Family Business
- Leading New Ventures to Growth

Globalisation (1 Course)*

- Economics of Globalisation
- Global Mega-Trends
- International Business
- Law of International Trade
- Sustainability Design and Management

Asian Studies (1 Course)*

- Asia Pacific Business
- Contemporary South Asian Societies
- Economic Development in Asia
- Politics of South East Asia
- Popular Culture in Asia

* Course listings are not exhaustive and are subject to change from term to term.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGY/ POLITICAL SCIENCE/ SOCIOLOGY

Social Science Core (4 Courses)

- Introduction to Political and Policy Studies
- Introduction to Psychology
- Understanding Societies
- Introductory Statistics

Social Science Major (7 Courses)

BSocSc students under this path specialise in one of the following three disciplines: Political Science, Psychology or Sociology. You are required to declare a major by the end of your second year of study and take seven courses in your chosen major.

Political Science*

- Comparing Political Systems
- Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty
- Elections and Media
- European Union Politics
- Gender Politics: Exclusion and Empowerment
- Global Political Economy
- Mass Media and Public Opinion Research
- Policy Design and Analysis
- Political Theory
- Politics and Society of India
- Politics of Food Security
- The Politics of Water in Asia

Psychology*

- Psychology Research Methods I and II (Compulsory)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Cultural Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Evolutionary Psychology
- Industrial and Organisational Psychology
- Psychology of Motivation
- Psychology of Reasoning and Thinking
- Psychometrics and Psychological Testing
- Social Psychology
- Subjective Well-Being

Sociology*

- Research Methods in Sociology and Political Science (Compulsory)
- Gender and Family
- Media and Society
- Nation-Building in Asia
- Social Networks
- Social Stratification and Inequality
- Sociological Theories of Crime and Deviance
- Sociology of Economic Life
- Sociology of Fads and Fashion
- Sociology of Food
- Sociology of Terrorism and Political Violence
- Understanding China's Economic Miracle: Social Origins and Social Impact

Senior Thesis in Psychology/ Political Science/Sociology (2 Course Units)

Eligible students may choose to do a senior thesis in place of two major elective courses.

Social Science Major-Related Options (8 Courses)

The Social Science Major-Related Options in the BSocSc curriculum provide you with the flexibility to choose eight elective courses from the course offerings in the majors in Social Sciences, Accounting, Business, Economics, Information Systems and Law. Of the eight courses in this category, at least two must be selected from the majors in Social Sciences.

Social Science Capstone (1 Course)

This is a required integrative seminar for graduating BSocSc students. This seminar provides an opportunity for the student to integrate the knowledge, skills and learning experiences acquired in the social science programme through relating academic knowledge to important practical applications.

* Course listings are not exhaustive and are subject to change from term to term.



REQUIREMENTS FOR POLITICS, LAW AND ECONOMICS

Politics, Law and Economics Core (10 Courses)

- Business Law
- Company Law
- Intermediate Macroeconomics
- Intermediate Microeconomics
- Introduction to Political and Policy Studies
- Legal Theory and Philosophy
- Mathematics for Economics
- Political Theory
- Research Methods in Sociology and Political Science
- Strategic Thinking

Politics, Law and Economics Major (4 Courses)

You must choose one of the following themes and read four courses from the chosen theme:

(A) Choice and Behaviour

- Advanced Microeconomics
- Economic Analysis of Law
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Law and Regulation
- Parties and Social Movements
- Policy Design and Analysis
- Probability Theory and Applications
- Psychology of Group Processes and Decision Making
- Psychology of Reasoning and Thinking
- The Economics of Politics

(B) Global Studies

- Development Economics
- Economic Growth
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Foundations of ASEAN Law and Policy
- Global Issues in Trade, Law and Development
- Global Migration and Human Security
- Human Rights in International Relations
- International Economics B
- Introduction to Chinese History, Culture, Economics, Politics and Law
- The Economics of Politics
- The Politics of Water in Asia
- World Politics
- World Trade Organisation: Law and Policy

(C) Public Policy and Governance

- Constitutional and Administrative Law (1.5 course units)
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- International and Comparative Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Public Policy
- Law and Policy of Ethnic Relations in Singapore
- Monetary Economics
- Policy Design and Analysis
- Public International Law
- Public Policy Taskforce
- Public Sector Economics
- Public Sector Management
- Sustainable Cities
- The Economics of Politics
- Urban Economics and Policy

(D) Distribution and Justice

- Development, Underdevelopment and Poverty
- Economic Growth
- Evolution of Public Institutions: An Economic and Historical Analysis
- Gender Politics: Exclusion and Empowerment
- International and Comparative Criminal Justice
- Jurisprudence: Modern and Critical Theories of Law
- Macroeconomics of Income Distribution
- Politics of Food Security
- Public Sector Economics
- Social Stratification and Inequality

Senior Thesis in Politics, Law and Economics (2 Course Units)

Eligible students may choose to do a senior thesis in place of two major elective courses.

Overseas Study Mission

Students may choose to do either a Law Study Mission or a Political Science Study Mission in place of one major elective course.

Politics, Law and Economics Major-Related Options (5 Courses)

The Politics, Law and Economics Major-Related Options provide you with the flexibility to choose five elective courses from the course offerings in the majors in Social Sciences, Accounting, Business, Economics, Information Systems and Law.

Course Exemption for SMU Juris Doctor Programme

Students majoring in Politics, Law and Economics (PLE) will only need to read another four more Law courses from the LL.B. curriculum (in addition to the PLE core courses) to get the following exemption if they are admitted to the Juris Doctor (JD) programme at SMU within 3 years after graduation.

- Up to 3 course units (mapped to Law courses taken previously) would be exempted from the 25 course units of the JD programme. This means that the PLE student would only need to complete up to 22 course units to graduate with the JD degree. The grades of the exempted courses would be computed into the JD GPA.
- Of the remaining 22 course units for the JD degree, the PLE student may substitute Law core courses done previously (with a grade of B and above) with Law electives.

Social Science Capstone (1 Course)

This is a required integrative seminar for graduating BSocSc students. This seminar provides an opportunity for the student to integrate the knowledge, skills and learning experiences acquired in the social science programme through relating academic knowledge to important practical applications.

SOSS SECOND MAJORS

You may choose to declare a second major in another social science discipline (Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology) or in one of the three multidisciplinary second majors offered by the School of Social Sciences:

Arts and Culture Management (ACM)

The Arts and Culture Management second major provides you with the critical perspectives in arts and culture, and arts management specific knowledge to be coupled with the students' respective majors, for entry into the arts and culture industry. ACM grooms the cosmopolitan manager to be at ease with cultural diversity, and able to capitalise on the new ideas and energy through engagement in the arts. ACM uniquely brings together theory, practice, and management. The faculty will join with practice leaders to provide learning that will move beyond classrooms into the field.

Global Asia (GA)

The Global Asia second major is an innovative programme that focuses on the forces, ideas and practices that are reshaping nations, businesses, institutions, individuals, and the ways of life in an Asian world that is being transformed by its global connections. It integrates knowledge from various fields including international relations, sociology, political science, economics, law, and cultural studies.

Asia is re-emerging as a major centre of economic dynamism, innovation, and world history. It also faces enormous problems related to inequality, poverty, environmental degradation, geopolitical tensions, and social and personal upheaval. The aim of the GA major is to generate a holistic understanding of how and why these changes are occurring, how states and people are responding, and what this means for countries and citizens in Asia and beyond.

Public Policy and Public Management (PPPM)

The Public Policy and Public Management second major is designed to provide you with a general foundation in the nature of public and non-profit workplaces and their political, psychological, and legal environments. In particular, the major is unique in its emphasis on the integration of academic study with real policy problems that is further enhanced through the Public Policy Task Force Programme.

The Task Force is an important part of the PPPM curriculum and is designed to give you the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real world problems. You will engage in collaborative, client-oriented, and problem-solving projects on critical public policy and management issues.



WHAT OUR ALUMNI HAVE TO SAY

The broad-based curriculum at SOSS created space for all of us to explore and develop our varied interests in the social sciences while refining our analytical skills. I appreciate how the spirit of curiosity was always encouraged both inside and outside of the classroom.



Gan Ann

Bachelor of Social Science,
Class of 2008,
Majored in Political Science
and Corporate Communication
Senior Assistant Director,
Ministry of Trade and Industry

I have benefited tremendously from the flexible, multidisciplinary and practical approach of the Bachelor of Social Science programme. It has exposed me to a diverse array of knowledge, skills and experience that I could quickly apply as I successfully navigate through challenges in my professional and personal life.



Isaac Chin Yi Sing

Bachelor of Social Science,
Class of 2010,
Majored in Psychology and
Organisational Behaviour
and Human Resources
Manager (HR Analytics and
Reporting), Marriott International

SOSS was very meaningful and enriching for me. The coffeeshop chats my batchmates and I would have after class invoked a sense of purpose and inspiration to go out there and make a difference. Six years on from graduating, it is exciting to see how much my peers have achieved personally and professionally in the private and public sector, the start-up scene and in the NGO world. I would really recommend SOSS to anyone, it was a brilliant four years.



Jasbir Singh

Bachelor of Social Science,
Class of 2010,
Majored in Psychology
and Political Science
Consultant,
Heidrick and Struggles

The world is increasingly interconnected, dynamic and complex. Thinking deeply, broadly and flexibly are highly valued skills in the modern economy. The SOSS pedagogy, through its multi-disciplinary approach, strikes an optimal balance to ensure that graduates are holistically developed in these areas.



Jonathan Tan Ser Ern

Bachelor of Social Science,
Class of 2015,
Majored in Psychology and Public Policy
and Public Management
Policy Officer (Financial Security),
Ministry of Social and Family Development

SOSS taught me how to analyse complex issues from different perspectives, and how to develop my own point of view on such issues. There is a good balance of individual and group assignments in all modules, which helped me become versatile and adapt to different working styles.



Wan Shi Yun

Bachelor of Social Science and
Bachelor of Business Management,
Class of 2015,
Majored in Sociology and
Operations Management
Assistant Manager (Strategy,
Planning and Member Support),
UnionPay International

My time in SOSS has allowed me to become deeply immersed in issues of development, given me valuable training in communicating complex ideas in clear writing, and enabled me to gain valuable field experience doing research in India and China respectively.



Subadevan Mahadevan

Bachelor of Social Science,
Class of 2015,
Majored in Sociology
and Political Science
Manager,
Ministry of National Development

CAREER PROSPECTS

A Myriad of Career Options

Our graduates who majored in Psychology/Political Science/Sociology are known to be articulate, confident, knowledgeable and versatile. They are highly employable across a diverse range of careers in the private and public sectors.

Consulting, Finance, Human Resources, Management	Government	Media, Marketing, Hospitality, Public Relations
Accenture	Government Investment Corporation	Discovery Networks
Barclays	Health Promotion Board	Edelman
Bloomberg	Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth	Facebook
CapitaLand	Ministry of Defence	Hilton Hotels & Resorts
Citibank	Ministry of Education	JCDecaux
Credit Suisse	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	MediaCorp
Deloitte	Ministry of Social and Family Development	Ogilvy & Mather
JPMorgan	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Publicis Worldwide
McKinsey & Company	National Arts Council	Resorts World Sentosa
Procter & Gamble	Prime Minister's Office	Singapore Airlines
Tableau Software	Singapore Tourism Board	Singapore Press Holdings
UBS AG	Workforce Singapore	SingTel
Unilever		TBWA Worldwide
Visa Worldwide		Young & Rubicam

Note: The information listed above is correct at the time of printing.

A Stepping Stone to a Top Postgraduate Degree

The rigorous and cross-disciplinary nature of the BSocSc programme has provided our graduates who majored in Psychology/Political Science/Sociology with a competitive edge in gaining admission into a wide range of top postgraduate programmes across the fields of business, education, humanities and the social sciences.

USA and Canada	Europe and United Kingdom	Asia and Australia
Cornell University	Bristol University	Korea University, Seoul
Emory University	Erasm University, Rotterdam	Monash University
Harvard University	Goldsmiths College, London	University of Queensland
McGill University	London School of Economics and Political Science	
University of California, Berkeley	University of Birmingham	
University of Pennsylvania	University of Oxford	
University of Virginia		
University of Wisconsin-Madison		

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ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Admission into SOSS is on a competitive and selective basis. SMU adopts a holistic approach in assessing and selecting our students. As an applicant, you are evaluated on your academic credentials and co-curricular activity records. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by SMU professors.

Entry Qualifications	General Academic Requirements	SAT/ACT/ IELTS/TOEFL
Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good passes in at least 3 H2 content-based subjects, 1 H1 content-based subject, Project Work (PW) and General Paper (GP)/Knowledge & Inquiry (KI) • Other acceptable subject combinations include: 4 H2 content-based subjects, PW and GP; or 3 H2 content-based subjects, PW and KI • Interview for shortlisted applicants 	Not required.
Polytechnic Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good 3-year full-time Diploma from Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic or Temasek Polytechnic • Interview for shortlisted applicants 	
International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 18 years of age by the commencement of the freshmen academic year • A good IB Diploma • Interview for shortlisted applicants 	
NUS High School Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good NUS High School Diploma • Interview for shortlisted applicants 	
International and other qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 18 years of age by the commencement of the freshman academic year • A minimum of 12 years of formal education with good passes in a national/international examination that is recognised for the purpose of admission. • International applicants are required to submit one of the following for consideration: SAT (Previously known as SAT I or SAT Reasoning), ACT (American College Test), including the Writing Test, IELTS, TOEFL <p>Minimum SAT/ACT/IELTS/TOEFL requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAT(5 year validity): A minimum total score of 1900 with at least 600 each for Critical Reading and Writing - ACT (5 year validity): A minimum composite score 29, with at least 27 each for both Reading and Writing - IELTS (2 year validity): A minimum overall score of 7.0 with Reading score of at least 7.0 and Writing score of at least 6.5 - TOEFL Internet-Based Test (2 year validity): A minimum score of 93, with at least 22 each for both Reading and Writing - TOEFL Paper-Based Test (2 year validity): A minimum score of 583, with at least 5.5 for Test of Written English and 50 for Reading • Interview for shortlisted applicants 	
Transfer Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants, regardless of nationality, who have studied for a term or more at a university, may apply as transfer students • Transfer applicants must meet the admission requirements set for pre-university or high school graduates 	

Please refer to admissions.smu.edu.sg for details.



School of Social Sciences

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