
Media Release

DesignSingapore Council Unveils First Batch of Scholarship Holders from New Scholarship Framework

The Dsg Scholarship aims to nurture future design leaders with a heart to serve Singapore in the classical and emerging disciplines.

Singapore, 7 August 2018 – The DesignSingapore Council (Dsg) is pleased to recognise five outstanding design talent who will be awarded the DesignSingapore Scholarship. They are Mr Shannon Teoh Yi Wen, Mr Chiam Yong Sheng Kevin, Ms Loy Kai Yi Tiffany, Mr Meyers Jacob Elias Jing-Long and Jonathan Ng Ming-En.

The scholarship holders will receive their awards from Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information, at the National Design Centre. Since 2005, the DesignSingapore Scholarship has been awarded to 54 scholarship holders in design disciplines such as Architecture, Fashion Design, Interaction Design, Product Design, Service Design and Visual Communications.

Said Mr Mark Wee, Executive Director, Dsg, "The Council is committed to grooming design talent who have a heart for Singapore, and are able to respond to the challenges of disruptive technologies through design thinking and innovation that cuts across classical and new design disciplines. We look forward to our scholarship holders' contributions to our nation."

Mr Shannon Teoh was one of the top graduates of his cohort for the Visual Communications and Media course at the Singapore Polytechnic. His fascination for design, particularly in East Asian regions, was sparked by a visit to the Shanghai World Expo in 2010. "I was floored by the sights, smell and incredible architecture that pushed boundaries. The Japan Pavilion especially left one of the deepest imprints," said Mr Teoh. Crediting strong national identity and stimulating ecosystem as the core of Japan's design

DNA, his passion for Japanese design grew through exposure to books by Japanese designers and novelists such as Kenya Hara (*Designing Design*) and Junichiro Tanizaki (*In Praise of Shadows*). This affirmed his decision to further his education in Japan. His conviction was so strong that he embarked on Japanese language lessons five years ago to prepare himself for this journey.

Mr Kevin Chiam ignited his desire for design after stumbling upon the internal structure of a sofa which his father had dismantled to repair. His passion for industrial design motivated him to become the winner of multiple design awards in 2017. They included the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal Award and the Gold Award in the Taiwan International Student Design Competition (TISDC) for Product Design. He was also the NUS Valedictorian, Class of 2017 of the Division of Industrial Design. In between his accomplishments, he enjoys involving himself in projects with social elements such as designing kitchenware for the blind and walking aids to enhance senior's mobility.

Ms Tiffany Loy is inspired by textile-making because it reflects human perceptions and attitudes. Her passion lies especially in weave because it is one of the oldest forms of textile-making which has remained resilient, relevant and essential throughout the passage of time. She was the Singaporean designer behind the Supertextures project, an international collaboration between a Singaporean company, The Rug Maker and Finnish producer, VM-Carpet. Launched in Maison & Objet Paris in 2017, the collection of woven rugs is now distributed internationally.

Mr Jacob Meyers views architecture as something larger than aesthetics. To him, it serves as a means to achieve social, cultural and economic change. Among his many academic achievements, he was also part of a group that worked on a project under the Ministry of Social and Family Development creating home interior design concepts for people with autism. Through this stint, he was exposed to designing delightful spaces through sensorial considerations such as colours and textures.

Mr Jonathan Ng was part of a team that put together Phosphene, an interactive light installation, one of the key highlights of the Singapore Night Festival 2017 presented at the National Design Centre. Phosphene was a 13m long faceted tunnel with over 1500 lights and a complex system of sensors that could track visitors' movements within the

tunnel. He believes in harnessing the potential of technology to improve people's daily lives and to enhance the interactions between people and the built environment. He gets ideas from the daily conversations he has, and the amazing stories he hears. He is also no stranger to top accolades. His awards included the Singapore Board of Architects prize, the Keppel Award of Excellence in 2018, and the MIT Club of Singapore excellence award, also in 2018.

Mr Teoh will study a Bachelor's Degree in Integrated Design at Tama Art University in Japan; Mr Chiam will begin his journey on the Master of Arts, Innovation Design Engineering and Ms Loy will read the Master of Arts in Textiles, both at the Royal College of Art in the United Kingdom (UK). Mr Meyers will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Architecture at The Bartlett School of Architecture in the UK, while Mr Ng will embark on the Master in Architecture I programme at Harvard University Graduate School of Design in the United States.

Earlier this year, the DesignSingapore Council announced a new scholarship framework that will provide designers a stronger and more holistic programme to support their careers. The framework offers career planning, mentorship, internship, and networking opportunities. The Dsg will facilitate job placements for returning scholars in companies with design and innovation capabilities, not necessarily limited to the design sector. Financial support has also been increased to cover living, travel and pre-studies allowances.

The new batch of scholarship holders will become part of the DesignSingapore Associates' Network, where they will contribute actively to Singapore's design scene.

Through the network, they will also benefit from mentorship by past alumni of scholarship holders who have all done well upon completion of their studies. Many of them have even gone on to win local and international accolades, started their own design practices or forged successful careers in both classical and emerging design disciplines.

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Please refer to [Annex A](#) for the profiles of 2018 DesignSingapore scholarship holders.

Please refer to [Annex B](#) for the DesignSingapore Scholarship Factsheet.

ISSUED BY

**DESIGNSINGAPORE COUNCIL,
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION**

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About DesignSingapore Council

The vision of the DesignSingapore Council is for design to differentiate Singapore from global competition. As the national agency for design, the Council's mission is to develop the design sector, and to help Singapore use design for innovation and growth, as well as to make life better. The DesignSingapore Council is part of the Ministry of Communications and Information.



The National Design Centre supports the DesignSingapore Council's efforts to enhance the vibrancy of the design ecosystem as well as catalyse industry collaborations and business opportunities for innovation and growth.



Singapore was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Design in December 2015. This designation will support the development of a creative culture and eco-system in Singapore that fully integrates design and creativity into everyday life. It also enables Singapore to collaborate internationally with the cities of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The City of Design Office will be sited within the DesignSingapore Council to coordinate and implement programmes that contribute towards the UCCN mission.


Further information about the DesignSingapore Council, the National Design Centre and Singapore's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Design is available at www.designsingapore.org

Annex A

2018 DesignSingapore Scholarship Holders

S/N	Name	Photograph	Course & School	Education Background	School Awards	Projects involved in
1	Shannon Teoh Yi Wen		Bachelor's Degree in Integrated Design at Tama Art University.	Singapore Polytechnic: Visual Communications & Media Design Dip with Merit.	2014-2015 Director's Honours List Singapore Polytechnic.	<p>Passionate about and inspired by Japanese design philosophies.</p> <p>Finalist for Singapore-Japan Diplomatic Relations 50th Anniversary Logo Design competition 2016.</p> <p>Involved in work for a brand identity project for jewellery retailer Gordon Max. Explored a large range of touchpoints such as publications, video, web and storefront which fuelled his determination to explore even wider varieties of design mediums.</p>
2	Chiam Yong Sheng Kevin		Master of Arts, Innovation Design Engineering at Royal College of Art.	NUS BA Industrial Design (Highest Distinction); Temasek Polytechnic Dip in Product and Industrial Design w Merit Certificate in Fundamental Psychology.	NUS Division of Industrial Design is exceptionally proud of Kevin's many professional achievements; namely in winning the Gold Award in the Taiwan International Student Design Competition (TISDC) Product Design in 2017.	<p>Involved in diverse range of projects, such as a Bio-Statistics project, with collaboration with NUS Faculty of Dentistry.</p> <p>Presented final year thesis (Folks kitchenware for the blind – to help the visually impaired prepare meals safely with dignity) at the global graduation show (Dubai design week 2017) and being awarded an honourable mention.</p>

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					2017: Valedictorian Class of 2017. 2017: Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal Award. 2017: Milton Tan Medal & Prize. 2015-16: Dean's list Semester 2. 2016: Wee Kheng Chiang Memorial Scholarship. 2016-17: Dean's list Semester 1.	
3	Loy Kai Yi Tiffany		Master of Arts in Textiles at Royal College of Art.	NUS: BA Industrial Design 2nd Upper Hons. Anglo Chinese Junior College.	2012: Designer-in-residence at Division of Industrial Design NUS. 2009: Winner, Bombay Sapphire Designer Glass Competition 2009. 2008: Dean's List Award NUS.	Sept 2017 "Supertextures" rug collection was launched at Maison et Objet Paris. It was a commercial project with a local brand and in collaboration with a Finnish factory. The collection of rugs is now distributed internationally. Aspires to take more original Sg textile projects to international level.
4	Meyers Jacob Elias Jing-Long		Bachelor of Science in Architecture at The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London.	SOTA International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) ; major in Visual Arts.	2016: Dr Lee Boon Yang Student of the Year Award (SOTA). 2014-2016: David Marshall Young Artists Scholarship.	MSF Home for Persons with autism interior design project. Visual Arts Graduating Showcase, curatorial and design team. Developed proposals for high-density, revisionist Peranakan

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					<p>2015-2016: EAGLES Award for Achievement Good Leadership and Service.</p> <p>2013: Excellence in Media Arts Award, SOTA.</p>	<p>architecture, which involved research that exposed him to facets of Peranakan architecture beyond aesthetics. The work also exposed him to the intricate links between design (particularly architecture) and local culture.</p>
5	Jonathan Ng Ming-En		Master in Architecture I at Harvard University Graduate School of Design.	SUTD: BSc Architecture and Sustainable Design.	<p>2018: Keppel Awards for Excellence (Top student for architecture and Sustainable Design, Junior Year).</p> <p>2018: MIT Club of Singapore Excellence Award.</p> <p>2018: SUTD Student Achievement Awards 2018 (Laurel Award Individual & Praxis+).</p> <p>2017: Singapore Board of Architects Prize (Top Architecture Student for SUTD ASD).</p>	<p>Was part of the design of the 'Future Playgrounds' space in the National Museum of Singapore's exhibition "The More We Get together: Singapore's Playgrounds 1930-2030".</p> <p>Involved in putting together an interactive light installation, Phosphene, which was selected from an open call for Singapore Night Festival 2017. Phosphene was a 13m long faceted tunnel with over 1500 lights that sensed and reacted to visitors. The project received positive responses from the festival visitors when they experienced the tunnel.</p>

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Annex B

DesignSingapore Scholarship Fact Sheet

Background

1. The DesignSingapore (**Dsg**) Scholarship was established in 2005. It aims to groom design talent who have the creativity, drive and passion to be leaders in their fields of design training, so as to develop Singapore into Asia's leading hub for design excellence. The Scholarship is for students and industry professionals who wish to pursue full-time design courses at reputable design institutions. It is targeted at undergraduate and post-graduate courses. As at 7 August 2018, there are 54 scholarship holders.

2. The design landscape has evolved due to digital disruption and shifts in consumer tastes. Design which was previously outsourced as a form-giving, aesthetic function is increasingly in-sourced as a strategic competitive advantage of businesses to respond more nimbly to market opportunities. The role of a designer in the economy has also undergone significant changes as a result of the changing design landscape. Dsg sees a designer according to the following four archetypes, and the scholarship will be open to these four archetypes:
 - a. **Design Specialist** - designers who have deep specialised skillsets, such as spatial, visual, or product design in their respective domains;
 - b. **Designpreneur** – designers who are business owners or business developers of their design brand/ label. They balance design sensibilities with strong business acumen;
 - c. **Design Integrator** – designers working in in-house design and innovation teams. They have skills in change management, process and organisation. They are able to integrate innovation and develop holistic customer experience across business units in the company;

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- d. **Design Multiplier** – non-designers who are advocates of design, and are equipped with technical skills in their own domain e.g. engineering. They have a keen understanding of the value of design and are able to incorporate design in their value chain to improve processes.
3. The scholarship will groom designers to become designer leaders who will use strategy and innovation to make things better by design. They may come from different fields of design, but they share one uncommon trait – they are game changers and aspire to contribute to Singapore and the design sector. We are on the lookout for talented individuals with creative flair, the drive to push boundaries; and a heart to serve Singapore.

About the 2018 DesignSingapore Scholarship

Areas of Study

4. The programme should be a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate design-related degree at a reputable local or overseas institution.
5. Possible fields of study:
- a) Architecture
 - b) Business Innovation
 - c) Design Management
 - d) Digital Design (Interaction Design/User Experience Design)
 - e) Fashion Design
 - f) Industrial Design
 - g) Interior Design
 - h) Landscape Design
 - i) Service Design
 - j) Urban Design
 - k) Visual Communications
 - l) Other fields of design study may also be considered.

Who is eligible?

6. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident
- b) Have completed National Service (for male applicants)
- c) Have successfully gained admission to a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate design-related course in a reputable Singapore or overseas institution

What does the scholarship cover?

- 7. The DesignSingapore Scholarship covers full tuition and compulsory fees for the course of study. The scholarship also provides annual living allowance, pre-studies allowance, developmental course allowance and travel allowance.

How will the scholarship develop the scholarship holder?

- 8. The scholarship will develop scholarship holders holistically in their design journey. Apart from supporting them in their studies, where they would develop technical, creative and communications skills, they would be paired with a mentor from the DesignSingapore Associates Network for the duration of their studies to help them push boundaries in their work. Also, upon employment, DesignSingapore Council will link them up with an experienced industry mentor to provide guidance.
- 9. Upon award of the scholarship, scholarship holders will be designated a DesignSingapore Associate. They will be assigned to contribute to DesignSingapore Council projects and initiatives that are developmental in nature as part of the DesignSingapore Associates network.
- 10. They will be obliged to fulfil a compulsory 4-week internship in Singapore during the course of their studies. The internship could be self-sourced. DesignSingapore Council could also facilitate introductions to companies we are in touch with.

What is the bond upon graduation?

- 11. The scholarship recipient will need to be employed **in Singapore** on a **full-time basis** in a design-related role with a Singapore-registered company. The bond period will need to be served in Singapore upon graduation.

12. The bond period depends on the duration of sponsorship of their course, as well as whether their course is local or overseas.

	Duration of sponsorship	Bond period
Overseas Scholarship	Three to four years	Five years
	Less than three years	Three years
Local Scholarship	Three to Four years	Three years
	Less than three years	Two years

13. Close to graduation, DesignSingapore Council will help facilitate job introductions with companies we are in touch with. Scholarship holders can also self source for their own jobs in Singapore.

What is the selection process?

14. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend up to two rounds of selection interviews between April and May 2018. Successful applicants will be informed after all the interviews have been completed. All scholarship recipients must attend a Scholarship Award Ceremony in August.

Assessment Criteria

15. Applicants will be assessed on:

- a) Potential to contribute to Singapore’s design sector
- b) Potential for creativity and leadership
- c) Achievements, recognition and experience in design and design thinking
- d) Quality of portfolio/project case studies (originality of concepts, depth of development and exploration of ideas, competency in execution, technical ability, and range of work and skills)
- e) Academic results and track record of co-curricular activities

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