



DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES IN GERONTOLOGY (T53)

Course Overview

Do you have a soft spot for the elderly? Here's where you can make a difference and build a better place for them to live in.

With a rapidly ageing population, our seniors need to stay healthy, engaged and active. This also signals an accelerated demand for qualified practitioners especially in the health and social service sectors.

This course will develop your skills to communicate effectively with older adults and caregivers and collaborate with community stakeholders to mobilise resources, as well as design and implement programmes for healthy ageing.

Join us and play your part in building an age-inclusive society for Singapore.



UNIQUE DIPLOMA

Singapore's only diploma specialising in healthy ageing to support the evolving needs and aspirations of the silver generation. A future-proof diploma that prepares graduates for growing job opportunities in the Care Economy.



MULTIDISCIPLINARY

The Diploma in Social Sciences in Gerontology (GEM) offers a multidisciplinary curriculum facilitated by a diverse teaching team from Gerontology, Nursing, Psychology, Research, Social Work, and Marketing.



INDUSTRY-FOCUSED

Benefit from practical and future-ready training that is informed and supported by strong industry linkages in the Health and Social Service sectors.

Entry Requirements

To be eligible for consideration for admission, applicants must obtain 26 points or better for the net ELR2B2 aggregate score (i.e. English Language, 2 relevant subjects and best 2 other subjects, including CCA Bonus Points) and meet the minimum entry requirements of this course. CCA cannot be used to meet the minimum entry requirements.

Subject	Grade
English Language (EL1)*	1-6
Mathematics (E or A)	1-7
Mathematics (E or A)	1-7
Any three other subjects, excluding CCA	1-6
2022 Planned Intake	50
Net ELR2B2 aggregate range (2021 JAE)	10 - 14

To be eligible for selection, applicants must have sat for at least one of the following subjects: Art/ Art & Design, Business Studies, Combined Humanities, Commerce, Commercial Studies, Economics, Geography, Higher Art, Higher Music, History, Introduction to Enterprise Development, Literature in English, Literature in Chinese, Literature in Malay, Literature in Tamil, Media Studies (English)/ Media Studies (Chinese), Music.

Applicants must have also sat for one of these subjects: Additional Mathematics, Art/ Art & Design, Business Studies, Chinese, Combined Humanities, Commerce, Commercial Studies, Creative 3D Animation, Design & Technology, Economics, Elementary Mathematics, Food & Nutrition, Geography, Higher Art, Higher Chinese, Higher Malay, Higher Music, Higher Tamil, History, Introduction to Enterprise Development, Literature in English, Literature in Chinese, Literature in Malay, Literature in Tamil, Malay, Media Studies (English), Media Studies (Chinese), Music, Principles of Accounts, Tamil.

* Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM)/ Unified Examination Chinese (UEC) holders must have a minimum of grade 6 for the relevant English Language subject (e.g. Bahasa Inggeris).

What You'll Learn

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

TPFUN

You will start by building your foundational knowledge in Gerontology, Psychology and Sociology. You will then go on to pick up useful skills in Communication, Applied Social Research and Geragogy. You also begin to build a profile of an Older Adult.

Diploma Subjects - Core Subjects

Subject Code	Subject	Credit Units	
GEM1008	Introduction to Gerontology This subject introduces students to the theoretical perspectives and approaches to the study of ageing from various disciplines. It will examine the causes and consequences of ageing at the micro (individual) and macro (population) levels. This involves investigating the social, physical and mental changes humans undergo as they age, as well as the impact of the elderly population on social, economic and political institutions.	4	^
GEM1009	Introduction to Sociology The subject introduces students to the key theoretical perspectives in Sociology. Through these theories, students will examine current and emerging social phenomena. From the systematic study of different social structure e.g. family, work, social control, gender and ethnicity, students will be able to apply sociological concepts to help them explain social life in societies.	4	^
GEM1011	Applied Social Research	4	^

	This subject provides a general understanding of the theory and practice of social science research and presents science as a powerful method of human thinking. The focus is to provide students with the necessary information to understand the importance of research in the field of social science and its applications to various settings. Students will learn a systematic way of thinking and knowledge discovery known as scientific inquiry.		
GEM1190	Geragogy This subject covers the theories, concepts, influences and methods for facilitating teaching and learning for older adults. It also considers the perspectives of older adults on the learning experience. The subject has a focus on person-centred approaches and considers readiness, motivation, orientation, context and setting. Lifelong learning and its relationship to quality of life and life satisfaction is also considered.	3	^
GEM1191	Stakeholder and Community Relations This subject covers the importance of and key strategies for engaging with stakeholders and the public, in particular for the health, social service, and community sectors, along with social purpose entities. The various trends, drivers and technologies in understanding, informing and influencing key constituencies to maximize social impact are explored.	3	^
GEM1192	Managing Adult Life Transitions This subject covers issues relating to major life transitions that typically occur during mid to later adult life, such as changes to employment and health status. Transition psychology and related theories are examined to recognise how and why individuals respond to such changes. Social constructs, individual choice, 'preparedness' and motivation are considered in view of managing anticipated and unanticipated life events.	3	^
GEM2017	Marketing to Older Adults This subject considers the changing age composition of a 'mature' market and the related marketing approaches and techniques in response to the ageing population. The content examines the older consumer (with emphasis on the baby boomer), general trends and issues, and features of the main segments within the market.	4	^
GPS1190	General Psychology This subject explores core areas of psychology and aims to provide students with a fundamental understanding of psychology as the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes. Basic concepts and theories in psychology will be explored to enhance students' understanding of major psychological issues and the impact on everyday life.	3	^

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

TPFUN

This is a year of exciting practicums and maybe even an overseas trip! You will level up with subjects like Silver Leisure and Lifestyle, Public Health and Programme Planning. Also, enjoy meaningful activities with the GEM Student Interest Group.

Diploma Subjects - Core Subjects

Subject Code	Subject	Credit Units	
GEM1012	Programme Planning This subject provides students with a foundation in programme conceptualisation, organisation, execution and management. Transcending the various principles of project, event and activity development and management, students will examine current and emerging practices. This will include the examination of selected institutions e.g. nursing homes, community centres, tourism agencies, and existing programmes as case studies. Students will plan the design, budgeting, management strategies and evaluation of a programme.	4	^
GEM2000	Sociology of Ageing This subject provides a sociological perspective on the process and experience of human ageing in modern society, while adopting a context-based approach that employs case studies. Topics include the demographic and political impact of ageing societies, historical and cultural perspectives on ageing, and the major theoretical approaches to the study of ageing. Various social policies and institutions that affect ageing will also be examined. These include social policies on health care, housing, retirement, death, living environments and social support for the aged.	4	^

GEM2004	Ageing & Illness This subject focuses on the biopsychological aspects of ageing and illness. Content will also include selected theoretical perspectives on health, illness and ageing, some of the main disorders and related treatment modalities. Optimal ageing as a concept and emerging technologies for longevity will also be addressed. Related ethical issues will be discussed.	4	
GEM2013	Psychology of Ageing This subject provides insights into geropsychological concepts and theories relating to the adult's adaption to the third and fourth age. Issues relating to the ageing population, improved longevity, and the changing psychological needs and capabilities of older people are examined.	4	
GEM2019	Physical Activities and Wellness for Older Adults The subject will examine the structural, physiological, psychological, and functional changes occurring during adulthood and the implications of these for the planning and implementation and evaluation of exercise programmes for older adults.	4	
GEM2022	Gender Issues in Later Life This subject provides an overview of various perspectives on issues and trends relating to gender and ageing. Special attention will be directed to the gender gap in longevity, health and illness, work and retirement, and quality of life. The influence of social policies in these areas will also be examined.	4	
GEM2190	Silver Leisure and Lifestyle This subject examines the varying lifestyles of and leisure activities undertaken by the silver population. It focuses on how their evolving profile, characteristics and demographic interacts with current and emerging trends and drives demand for various leisure activities and impacts on supporting industries. Content also includes associations between participation patterns in leisure activities, key types of activities undertaken, social relationships, psychological wellbeing and activities that best contribute to the determinants of active ageing.	4	
GEM2191	Coaching and Case Management This subject introduces the principles of coaching and case management to assess needs and evaluate options, services and programmes required to meet individual specific needs. Multidisciplinary approaches are introduced and the subject examines social, cultural and psychological perspectives and appropriate strategies to achieve goals and empower the older adult.	4	
GEM2192	Public Health and Ageing The subject will introduce the key areas of study under public health, with a focus on current and emerging global health challenges impacting older populations across developed and developing countries. Topics will examine patterns, causes and effects of health and diseases in older populations, analyse the efficiency of healthcare services and delivery, and understand the interconnectedness of health of the developed and developing world.	4	

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

TPFUN

You will hone your culminated knowledge and skills in a Research Project and develop professional skills during your Student Internship. These experiences will prepare you to take on many exciting education and career opportunities upon graduation!

Diploma Subjects - Core Subjects

Subject Code	Subject	Credit Units	
GEM2018	Community Development with Older Adults The subject will provide an understanding of the principles and approaches to community development and how these can be applied to work with older adults to address some of their major challenges. Students will be introduced to the methodologies of community development that will enable them to design intervention programs that also harnesses the potential of older adults.	4	
GEM3011	Contemporary Issues in Ageing Societies	4	

This subject will examine current issues that are evident in ageing societies around the world. Students will gain an understanding of the transformations and challenges faced by ageing individuals and the state. The subject will also examine the ongoing debates on individual and societal responses to ageing issues. Students will also learn about the ageing trends in both developed and developing countries.

GEM3190

Health Promotion and Active Ageing

3



This subject examines current health promotion practices which enable individuals, carers and the community to manage their health. Theoretical underpinnings of the approaches to health promotion are explored along with the development of programmes incorporating practical examples. Special attention is given to how such practices and approaches support active ageing.

GEM3191

Administration for Purpose Driven Organisations

4



This subject teaches the fundamental skills required in junior executive roles in purpose driven entities, especially those in the ageing sector. This also involves examining demonstrated strategies to achieve sustainability in various organisational types such as non-profits, social enterprises and profit-with-a-purpose companies. Topics cover volunteer management and retention, cross sector collaboration, measuring social impact, client-centric values, fundraising, resource mobilisation, risk management, and social innovation.

GEM3192

Research Project

4



This subject allows students to explore an area of interest and to integrate learning acquired from a range of subjects across the diploma. The project will focus on an identified problem and/or issue and the proposed solutions. Students complete the project from the proposal development phase, to the literature review and synthesis of the literature to the final presentation

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

TPFUN

You will also undergo TP Fundamentals (TPFun) – a set of subjects that equips you with the crucial life skills you need to navigate the modern world as an agile and forward-thinking individual, and team player.

TP Fundamentals (TPFun) Subjects

Subject Code

Subject

Credit Units

GTP1301

Current Issues & Critical Thinking

3



This subject covers current issues, including diverse local and global concerns, that will impact lives and may have critical implications for Singapore. There will be opportunities to build competence through self-directed learning, communicate and collaborate in active discussions and objectively analyse issues using digital and information literacy skills and critical thinking scaffolds.

This subject aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills to:

- apply critical thinking tools to examine current issues.
- effectively search for relevant information from a variety of sources.
- evaluate research information.
- cite sources to support their views.
- articulate an informed opinion about current issues.

GTX1001

Effective Communication




3











This subject introduces the fundamentals of effective communication. It also covers how to communicate with and convince an audience through writing and speaking tasks. The skills in this subject will include the application of strategies for communication, appropriate vocabulary, language features, visual aids, tone and style. The **Message, Audience, Purpose and Strategy (MAPS)** framework will also be applied when planning and engaging in written and verbal communication. There will be opportunities to communicate and collaborate through active learning activities, apply digital and information literacy skills and build competence through self-directed learning.

This subject aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to:

- apply the factors that influence effective communication.
- structure a compelling point of view through a writing task.
- express their ideas convincingly to an audience in an oral presentation.

GTX1002	<p>Professional Communication</p> <p>This subject covers professional communication skills for the workplace and employability skills in the areas of career preparation. It covers communication and interpersonal skills, including effective virtual communication etiquette, and conducting oneself professionally in the workplace. In addition, essential career preparation skills such as resume writing and interview skills, needed to seek and secure work would be included. The Message, Audience, Purpose and Strategy (MAPS) framework would also be applied when engaging in written and verbal communication. There will be opportunities to communicate and collaborate through active learning activities, apply digital and information literacy skills and build competence through self-directed learning.</p> <p>The subject aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate effectively in the workplace using principles of effective written communication and interpersonal skills. • apply effective job search and interview skills in their career preparation. 	3 
GTP1101	<p>Leadership Fundamentals</p> <p>This subject focuses on self-leadership based on the values of integrity, respect, and responsibility. Increasing awareness of self and others will lay the foundations for personal and relationship effectiveness. Consequential thinking, clear articulation of personal values and visions, emphatic listening, and collaboration in serving others are some of the essential skills covered in this leadership journey. There will be opportunities to build and to apply the concepts of being a values-centred leader.</p> <p>The aim of this subject is to guide students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design a personal growth plan based on strengths, values and purpose. • apply the attributes of logical and emotional intelligence to improve team effectiveness. • identify the key messages of respect in relationships. • apply the principles of effective personal financial management. 	2 
GTP1102	<p>Leadership in Action</p> <p>This subject focuses on Service Learning as an experiential platform to apply the tenets of Self and Team Leadership. Service Learning will be the capstone project for this subject, which will require an analysis of the diverse needs of the community, collaboration with community partners and demonstration of learning, including key elements of empathy. There will be opportunities to build and to apply the concepts of being a values-centred leader.</p> <p>This subject aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan and carry out a project to demonstrate empathy towards people in a diverse community. • apply diploma core knowledge and skills through the Service Learning platform to address community needs. • reflect on the Service Learning experience when working in teams and with community partners. 	1 
GTP1201	<p>Career Readiness CARE1</p> <p>This subject focuses on personal management skills. It develops an understanding of one's career interests, values, personality and skills for career success. It covers the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to succeed in the workplace and achieve professional goals. There will be exposure to apply digital and information literacy skills, build competence through self-directed learning methods and acquire the skills of being a lifelong learner.</p> <p>This subject aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyse personal characteristics that can contribute positively to achieving personal, educational and career goals. • make career decisions that are aligned with their interests, skills and values. 	1 
GTP1202	<p>Career Readiness CARE2</p> <p>This subject focuses on career management skills. It covers the importance of workplace readiness skills to adapt and respond to the changing job market environment. Career ownership and continuous learning for lifelong employability will be emphasised. There will be exposure to apply digital and information literacy skills, build competence through self-directed learning, and acquire the skills of being a lifelong learner.</p> <p>This subject aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify their work profiles to help them in their career choices in a changing job market environment. • take career ownership for continuous learning and lifelong employability. 	1 

LSW1002	<p>Sports & Wellness</p> <p>The subject enables students to build a good foundation for healthy living. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on practical sessions where they will experience and develop both physical and technical skills in their chosen sports or fitness activities. Through a structured curriculum that facilitates group participation, practice sessions and mini competitions, students will be able to build lifelong skills such as resilience, leadership, communication and teamwork. Physical activity sessions will also be supplemented by health-related topics that span the dimensions of health, such as diet, nutrition, stress and weight management, to provide students with a holistic approach to healthy living. This subject also prepares students to be self-directed and accountable for lifelong learning for good health.</p>	2	
GIN1001	<p>Innovation & Entrepreneurship</p> <p>The subject is designed for learners from all disciplines to embrace innovation in either their specialised field or beyond. Learners will be taught to apply the Design Thinking framework to develop problem statements, ideate and identify feasible solutions. Learners will be exposed to several tools for prototyping. In addition, commercial awareness will be imbued in learners through various innovation and entrepreneurship concepts or tools. This subject also prepares students to be self-directed lifelong learners who are digital and information literate. It nurtures communicative and collaborative citizens who can use objective analysis in problem-solving.</p>	2	
GG51002	<p>Global Studies</p> <p>This subject provides essential skills and knowledge to prepare students for an overseas experience. They will examine the elements of culture and learn the key principles of cross-cultural communication. In addition, they will gain an appreciation and awareness of the political, economic, technological and social landscape to function effectively in a global environment. The subject prepares students to be responsible citizens and leaders who can contribute to the global community through effective communication and collaboration.</p>	3	
GG51003	<p>Managing Diversity at Work*</p> <p>This subject explores the concepts of identity, diversity and inclusion at the workplace. It examines the relationship between identity and diversity, the benefits and challenges of diversity and the strategies that promote inclusion and inspire collaboration in a diverse workplace. Examples of the elements of diversity covered in this subject include nationality, generation, ethnicity and gender. The subject prepares students to be responsible citizens and leaders who can contribute to the global community through effective communication and collaboration.</p>	3	
GG51004	<p>Global Citizenship & Community Development*</p> <p>Students will examine the meaning and responsibilities of being a Global Citizen, in order to contribute towards a more equitable and sustainable world. In addition, students will learn how sustainable solutions can support community development, and, execute and critique a community action plan that addresses the needs of a specific community/cause. The subject prepares students to be responsible citizens and leaders who can contribute to the global community through effective communication and collaboration.</p>	3	
GG51005	<p>Expressions of Culture*</p> <p>This subject provides a platform for an understanding of culture and heritage through modes of expression. Students will be introduced to global and local cultures via everyday objects, places and human behaviour seen through time and space. Students will explore issues and challenges in culture and heritage sustainability in community, national and global contexts. The subject prepares students to be responsible citizens and leaders who can contribute to the global community through effective communication and collaboration.</p>	3	
GTP1302	<p>Guided Learning</p> <p>The subject introduces students to the concepts and process of self-directed learning in a chosen area of inquiry. The process focusses on four stages: planning, performing, monitoring and reflecting. Students get to plan their individual learning project, refine and execute the learning plan, as well as monitor and reflect on their learning progress and project. The learning will be captured and showcased through a curated portfolio. The self-directed learning project will broaden and/or deepen a student's knowledge and skills. Students will enhance their problem solving and digital literacy skills through this subject.</p>	3	
GIP3006	<p>Student Internship Programme</p> <p>This structured programme is designed to link your learning with the real work environment. You</p>	12	

will be placed in organisation(s) with opportunities to apply the concepts and skills acquired in the course of your study. Besides reinforcing technical concepts and mastering of skills in areas that you have been trained, the practical training will enable you to build important skills such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and to cultivate good attitude and a strong work ethic.

*Students must choose one of these three electives under the 'Global Studies 2' subject, or take 'Guided Learning'

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

TPFun Subjects	36 credit units
Diploma Subjects - Core Subjects	84 credit units
Total Credit Units Completed	min 120 credit units