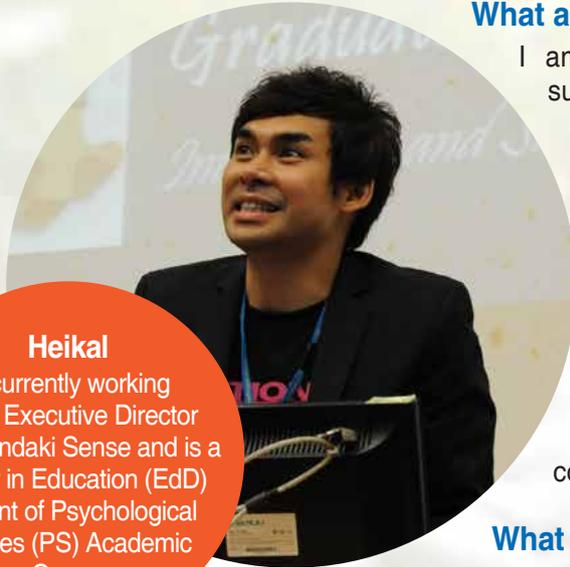


# Getting To Know Our Students

Md Heikal Yusope, EdD student



## Heikal

is currently working as an Executive Director with Mendaki Sense and is a Doctor in Education (EdD) student of Psychological Studies (PS) Academic Group.

## What are you currently working as?

I am currently the Executive Director of Mendaki Sense, a subsidiary company of Yayasan Mendaki, that looks into key areas such as Education, Lifelong Learning or Continuing Education and Training; and Social Programmes and Services serving the community at large.

It was about four years ago, when I was with ITE College Central working as a Course Manager, that I decided to take that 'bold' step in enrolling into NIE's EdD programme. I knew back then that if I were to remain in the education service, I would need to continually upgrade myself and acquire the necessary knowledge that would allow me to contribute effectively in the realm of education.

## What attracted you to a higher degree programme at NIE?

The awesome lecturers, the high quality of teaching, superb facilities and of course, to be enrolled in one of the top education institutions.

## How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members?

They are always there to assist you and are supportive of your ideas. The professors in NIE are warm, truly down to earth, real people who you could always have a chat with when you are in doubt.

## What is your research on and what impact do you wish to make with your research?

My research centres on the factors that influence teachers' self-determination and how key factors such as work pressures, students' motivation and teachers' self-determination can have an impact on teachers' job satisfaction and job stress. It was interesting to observe that students' motivation, particularly extrinsic motivation, may still have a positive impact on teachers' self-determination; and that some work pressures can be closely monitored and kept at bay to further enhance teachers' self-determination, which may then lead to greater job satisfaction. I feel that my research will be able to shed some light on how educational institutions may enhance teachers' level of self-determination, ultimately contributing to greater job satisfaction which may then lead to higher quality of teaching and learning in the classroom.

## What is the best part of being a student at NIE?

The ability to interact with a diverse group of people, students as well as professors, from various backgrounds and industries who have made my doctoral journey an enriching and indelible one.

## Has the programme been beneficial to you in bringing forth changes in your organisation so far?

Definitely! I am able to apply some of the knowledge, concepts and strategies gained through my research work in enhancing some of the educational, social and training programmes of Mendaki Sense. In fact, the research skills that I have gained have helped me to become a better leader; becoming more thorough, methodological and systematic in planning and execution alike.