Design goes beyond aesthetics – it transforms the way we live. The power of design is deeply rooted in understanding the human experience and needs, and then creating innovative products, services and systems to meet and improve them. That’s why forward-thinking companies and nations are investing heavily in design to drive innovation and growth.

Engineering Systems and Design (ESD) is a gateway to exciting careers in a broad range of industries: transportation, manufacturing, process industries, telecommunications, healthcare, retail, banking and finance, and many more.

Many of these organisations face open-ended challenges that are invariably systems decisions, such as:
- How do you decide what company to invest in?
- How do you make a factory both ‘green’ and efficient?
- When should you launch that next-generation product?

ESD students are analysts and system engineers who tackle open-ended challenges for organisations with a focus on design, analysis and optimisation. Whatever the challenge, their expertise in systems thinking and economics will find a way forward.

**DESIGN**
Design is the process where you understand a complex need and develop solutions to meet that need. The solution should be elegant: as simple as possible. But any solution you develop must connect and integrate with other systems. That’s why you also seek harmony: solutions that meet needs but seamlessly merge with the systems around them.

**ANALYSIS**
Analysis is the engineer’s mindset. First, articulate the problem, separate it into its components and establish the relationships among these components. You then take data and see how well you can fit it to a model of the problem. You may need to change the model. You end with a computer representation of the problem.

**OPTIMISATION**
Optimisation is where you propose to change the world for the better. With a computer representation of the systems problem, you can search the design space for a combination of parameters that achieves or balances your objectives: quality, reliability, efficiency, cost and aesthetics.
A Client-Facing Curriculum

From day one of entering the ESD programme, you are presented with real clients who bring you questions on how to improve their operations.

On top of your ESD subjects, you will take courses in Humanities, Arts and the Social Sciences (HASS). This will prepare you to be a new type of engineer, one who embraces the cultural and social context of technology in the modern world.

ESD Core Subjects

- Data & Business Analytics
- Probability & Statistics
- Optimisation
- Manufacturing & Service Operations
- Engineering Systems
- Architecture
- Simulation Modelling & Analysis
- The Analytics Edge

Learning Outcomes of ESD Core

Transform Data into Decisions
Be equipped with tools in data manipulation, visualisation and analysis. Gain a competitive edge using advanced optimisation models.

Examples: Recommend locations to open new stores. Shortlist companies for mergers & acquisitions.

Learn Computational Tools & Modelling Skills
Master the four fundamental methods for modelling dynamical systems: system dynamics, agent-based modelling, discrete-event simulation and Markov chain Monte Carlo.

Examples: Predict the evolution of financial option prices. Devise scheduling rules to relieve airport ground transportation congestion.

Understand & Manage Complex Engineering Systems
Probability and optimisation open the door to powerful techniques to tackle the complexity of engineering systems.

Develop Consultancy Skills
Build skills in project management, professional communication and be introduced to accounting and finance, the language of business.

ESD Curriculum

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<td>Physical World</td>
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<td>Computation Thinking for Design</td>
<td>Science for a Sustainable World</td>
<td>HASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Humanities: Literature, Philosophy &amp; Ethics (HASS)</td>
<td>Design Thinking &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>Any Two Electives*</td>
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Minor Programmes

Minors offer you more choices and flexibility in pursuing your broader interests, equipping you with additional knowledge.

- Minor in Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Minor in Design Innovation, Ventures and Entrepreneurship (DIVE)
- Minor in Healthcare Informatics (HI)
- Minor in Engineering Product (EP)
- Minor in Computer Science (CS)
- Minor in Digital Humanities (DH)
- Minor in Design, Technology and Society (DTS)

Information is subject to change. Visit esd.sutd.edu.sg for latest updates.
WHY ESD?

FUTURE-READY CAREER SKILLS

Be highly sought after with the skills of an industrial engineer combined with expertise in data and business analytics, and design approaches.

HOLISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Take on a holistic view of any problem with a comprehensive understanding of the social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of the world you’re creating for, so as to apply design techniques that lead to more complete and optimal solutions.

MASTER COMPLEX DATA

As an experienced data analyst, you have the power of machine learning complemented by simulation and optimisation tools to discover, analyse, and optimise the systems you study.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

CAREERS

ESD graduates are prepared for a wide range of engineering and management careers. Your skills in analytics, management and design prepare you for both the private and public sectors, including healthcare, banking, manufacturing, supply chain, energy, transportation, and entertainment and hospitality.

Examples of ESD graduates’ job titles:
- Systems engineer
- Data analyst
- Operations manager
- Industrial engineer
- Financial engineer
- Consultant
- Supply chain analyst
- Logistics specialist
- Project leader
- Entrepreneur

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

With a strong design background, an ESD graduate is more likely to initiate start-up ventures.

Novocall is the result of a capstone project created by three SUTD graduates. The founders started the company to help businesses increase their sales conversion rate through an efficient callback software platform. Today, more than 2,000 businesses across 42 countries use Novocall.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

The rigorous technical training from ESD will also prepare you for various post-graduate programmes such as industrial and systems engineering, operations research, business, economics and public policy. Our ESD graduates are enrolled at top universities including:
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Harvard University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- The London School of Economics and Political Science
- Yale University
This is the third year that we are hiring fresh graduates from SUTD for our highly selective management trainee program. The ESD graduates have impressed us with their excellent data analytical skills, cross-functional knowledge, and great adaptability into our fast-paced business environment during the one-year intensive rotation and training program. They have emerged as the young, future leaders of Lazada and we are confident that they will continue to contribute to the success of the company in the future. We hope to keep on attracting the top talents from ESD in the years to come.

Lazada

Michelle Loke has been a valuable asset to the Strategic Planning division. She has shown great passion and drive for her work. With her strong analytical sense, Michelle has ensured quality analysis work. In addition to being a fast learner, she does not shy away from challenges. She is also resourceful and meticulous, and offers alternative perspective to the various issues in her work.

Land Transport Authority

Ms Noon Teo thrived under the YCH Scholarship Programme, seizing the many opportunities to immerse herself in various roles of operation and regional business solutions for the company. SUTD has prepared her well to excel in the multiple projects she manages. A well rounded team player, Noon’s conscientious attitude sees her constantly looking at ways to do things more efficiently. Her agile and ready-to-learn mindset also enables her to adopt new technologies.

YCH Group

The thing that I really enjoyed about ESD is how it had a profound impact on the way that I think and the way that I deal with problems. And what I mean by this is that prior to taking this major, I had a lot of issues dealing with ambiguous problems. Somebody would say “hey can you do this?”, and I would think “how do I even start?”, and I’ll be paralysed. But now it’s quite simple – I know exactly what to do and I know how to decompose it into subsystems; see what goals I want, how to set those objectives, and how to chart a path effectively from here to achieving those goals.

Yustynn Panicker
Software Engineer, Bifrost
Class of 2019, ESD Alumnus

This is what I really appreciate because it’s also beyond what we learn in coursework; we get to interact with corporates, we get to interact with executives in big companies, which also helps us to improve on our communication and negotiation skills, the soft skills that are very much required in the 21st century.

Pek Yun Ning
CEO, SGP Foods
Class of 2019, ESD Alumna

I am thankful for how ESD structures our education with an emphasis on industrial relevancy. The foundation of mathematical modelling and analytical skills equipped me with the right skill set to convert systems problems into solvable mathematical models. Furthermore, the multitude of industrial partnerships fostered an appreciation of academic knowledge through real world application. Hence, I am confident that the rigorous training in ESD has laid the groundwork for me to build a better working world with Prudential.

Tan Kwan Fu
Financial Services Consultant, Prudential Singapore
Class of 2018, ESD Alumnus
SPECIALISATIONS

Aviation and Urban Systems

Discover how to design and manage critical urban infrastructure systems, like energy, water, land transport and airport systems, to contribute to sustainable development in cities.

Use systems engineering tools and operations research to understand how technology, policy and management shape the urban environment.

The ESD curriculum offers you the flexibility to customise it to suit your interests and aspirations. Your specialisation will be shown on your transcript so that future employers can recognise this expertise. Choosing a specialisation is optional and you are expected to discuss your elective choices with faculty members.

Find out more at esd.sutd.edu.sg/specialisations

*Specialisations offered in a year are subject to changes.
Supply Chain and Logistics

Covers the design and management of products, information and financial flow associated with supply chains in a wide range of industries.

You will learn quantitative methods (built upon statistics, optimisation, and microeconomics) relevant to a variety of supply chain decisions; read and critique industry cases; and also participate in supply chain simulation games that simulate real world decision-making scenarios.

Financial Services

Designed for students interested in careers in the securities, banking, financial management and consulting industries; or as quantitative analysts in corporate treasury and finance departments.

Learn about portfolio theory, derivatives valuation and financial risk analysis, complementing the core subjects in stochastic processes, optimisation, simulation and statistics.

Business Analytics and Operations Research

Prepares you for careers in the emerging field of data-driven decision-making. You will gain experience in modelling, analysing and solving complex decision-making situations. You will also learn the tools and techniques in both the descriptive domain (statistics and predictive analytics) and the prescriptive domain (optimisation and reinforcement learning).

Supply Chain and Logistics

Covers the design and management of products, information and financial flow associated with supply chains in a wide range of industries.

You will learn quantitative methods (built upon statistics, optimisation, and microeconomics) relevant to a variety of supply chain decisions; read and critique industry cases; and also participate in supply chain simulation games that simulate real world decision-making scenarios.