Why study the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS) in a technology and design focused school, you may ask. Well, the answer is simple: Because everything we do is human-centric.

By offering unique learning experiences that integrate the disciplines of HASS with engineering and architecture, our students are set to acquire the capacity for self-reflection and critical thinking in order to nurture leaders deeply aware of the social role and impact of innovations in the field of technology and design.

With a strong foundation in HASS, our students will be equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the world that they are creating, designing and building for.

Whether developing a gadget, an app, a supply chain or a city, understanding the social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of our world is critical so that their innovations are suited to society's needs.

For enquiries: sutd.edu.sg/prospectivestudent

Curriculum

In HASS courses, students acquire robust, demonstrable critical thinking and communication skills that make them attractive to future employers, leaving them well-placed to take on leadership roles in their careers. For instance, in "Leadership and Organisation Management", students develop the capacity to analyse, manage, and lead organisations and tackle management problems.

HASS also gives students the global, social and cultural literacies they need to succeed in a complex, multicultural society and region. By introducing students to theoretical tools and conceptual frameworks from the social sciences, HASS enhances the problem-solving skills of our graduates, enabling them to handle real-world problems better. For instance, in "Urban Theory," students learn how to contextualise empirical problems in urban environments and see those challenges holistically as architects, engineers, planners, and policymakers.

Throughout their time in SUTD, all undergraduates take up to seven HASS subjects, with two as core subjects in Terms 1 and 3.

Design, Technology and Society

How will design outcomes impact us as individuals, our societies and the environment? Students learn to identify and respond critically, creatively and constructively to the social, cultural, economic, political and psychological forces that drive design practice and technology development.

Digital Humanities

Our digital humanities electives take our computer scientists outside their textbooks and allow them to use their skills to solve real-world, fuzzy problems, such as analysing non-standardised language in social media posts or reconstructing damaged cultural artefacts using the latest 3D modelling techniques.

hass Minors

Using DALL imaging technology to reimagine and bring classical Chinese poetry to life.

hass Core subjects

Social Sciences Core

Understanding Behaviour, Culture and Society

Humanities Core

Global Humanities: Literature, Philosophy and Ethics
UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD BEFORE DESIGNING IT

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WITH A STRONG FOUNDATION IN HASS, OUR STUDENTS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD THAT THEY ARE CREATING, DESIGNING AND BUILDING FOR. WHETHER DEVELOPING A GADGET, AN APP, A SUPPLY CHAIN OR A CITY, UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF OUR WORLD IS CRITICAL SO THAT THEIR INNOVATIONS ARE SUITED TO SOCIETY’S NEEDS.

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TRAILBLAZING A BETTER WORLD BY DESIGN

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SOCIAL SCIENCES CORE

Understanding Behaviour, Culture and Society

HUMANITIES CORE

Global Humanities: Literature, Philosophy and Ethics

HAZZ MINORS

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Using DALL imaging technology to reimagine and bring classical Chinese poetry to life.
**SELECTED HASS ELECTIVES**

**HUMANITIES**

**LITERATURE AND ARTS**
- Global Shakespeares
- Lyric Poetry
- The Chinese Lyrical Tradition: Arts, Literature and Landscape Design
- Performance: Design, Dramaturgy and Interpretation
- Moral Questions and the Contemporary Novel

**DIGITAL HUMANITIES**
- Introduction to Digital Humanities
- Equitable Tech: Reimagining Our Digital Infrastructures
- Digital Worlds, Space and Spatialities: Geographical Perspectives on Digitalisation

**PHILOSOPHY**
- Artificial Intelligence and Ethics
- Being in the World: From Homer and Heidegger to A.I.
- Leaders and Followers
- The Question of Technology
- Early Indian and Chinese Religion and Philosophy

**URBAN STUDIES**
- Financing Cities of the Future: Theory and Practice
- Transportation Policy and Technology in Urban Progress
- Urban Theory
- Urban Southeast Asia

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SOCIOLOGY**
- Gender, Sexuality and Society
- Shaping Futures: Innovation, Work and Society
- Digital Sociology
- Who Gets Ahead? Sociology of Social Networks and Social Capital

**PSYCHOLOGY**
- Introduction to Psychology
- Human Behaviour, Technology and Design
- Psychological Approaches to Bilingualism

**ANTHROPOLOGY**
- Rice Cultures: Technology, Society, and Environment in Asia
- Unnatural Disasters
- Design Anthropology
- Design in the Anthropocene
- Interventions in Design, Technology and Society

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**
- Surveys and Experiments in the Social Sciences

**HISTORY**
- A History of Nuclear Strategy, Design, Technology, and Society
- Kings, Monks, and Merchants: A History of Asia before 1750
- Modern China: Pluralism, and Beyond Territoriality
- History of Surveillance in Modern Asia
- The Game of Histories
- The World Since 1400

**BUSINESS, COMMUNICATION AND FINANCE**
- Health Communication and Behaviour Change
- Critical Management Studies
- Geographies of Money and Finance
- Leadership and Organisation Management
- International Trade: Free Trade, Governance and Technology
Chen Fusheng
Architecture and Sustainable Design alumnus,
Class of 2018

“...The knowledge from HASS broadened our horizons and guided us in becoming better creative individuals. My interest in the arts and social sciences, particularly Chinese Literature and Psychology, blossomed, which became a source of inspiration for my animation work. The Chinese Literature HASS elective enriched my understanding of history, literature and culture, thus providing substantial inspiration for my creative process. Apart from this, the Psychology class equipped me to create more creative, complex, relatable characters with depth. It was also helpful in understanding my target audience, creating more emotionally engaging and meaningful content that will resonate with them.”

FUSHENG’S FIRST ANIMATION, “A TADPOLE’S MUSIC JOURNEY” NOT ONLY WON MULTIPLE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FROM 10 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SINGAPORE, BUT WAS ALSO SHOWCASED AT THE HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART IN HAWAII.

HASS FIELD TRIPS
Venture out of the classroom and learn through visiting museums, historical sites, key institutions and more.

PREPARE TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

TRAILBLAZING A BETTER WORLD BY DESIGN

RESEARCH
HASS leverages the world-class expertise of our multi-disciplinary faculty to offer a holistic approach to complex global challenges. Our research champions a human-centric, interdisciplinary approach to design, offering insights into social, historical and cultural contexts, global perspectives and critical analysis of the societal impact of scientific and technological advancements. Our goal is to promote responsible innovation by deepening our understanding of human beings, societies and cultures, ensuring that the benefits of new technologies are fully realised for those whose lives are shaped by them.

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

THE WORLD’S FIRST BILINGUAL GAME APP AIMED AT STAYING OFF DEMENTIA
Developed based on Professor Yow Wei Quin and her team’s hypothesis of the cognitive advantages of dual language use on older adults, the “Armi” (Advancing Mental Invigoration) 1.0 app currently supports multiple languages, including Mandarin, English, Malay, Tamil, Hokkien and Cantonese. It’s so user-friendly, even those who can’t read can play. The app has since drawn substantial societal interest from the healthcare sector with the launch of its prototype on Lions Befrienders’ Active Ageing Centre 1000 IM-OK Android devices.

VIRULENT ANIMALS OR UNSAFE MEAT?
Associate Professor Lyle Fearnley examines what drives consumer preference for live poultry and explores how wet markets in China can be redesigned to achieve food safety and quality.

PRESERVING TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE
Studying early Southeast Asian Buddhist writings about the natural world, Associate Professor Alastair Gosnell uncovers and records the region’s fast-disappearing traditional ecological knowledge.

AN ADAPTIVE COMPENSATORY FRAMEWORK – HOW SOCIAL COGNITION CHANGES WITH AGING
Professor Yow Wei Quin examines how the level of social cognitive functioning changes along with the structural and functional changes of the ageing brain and an individual’s life experiences.
HUMANITIES

Selected HASS electives

▪ Introduction to Psychology
▪ Digital Sociology
▪ Shaping Futures: Innovation, Gender, Sexuality and Society

SOCIOLOGY

▪ Digital Worlds, Space and Equitable Tech: Reimagining
▪ Sociology of Social Networks
▪ Perspectives on Digitalisation
▪ Spatialities: Geographical

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

▪ Performance: Design, Lyric Poetry
▪ Global Shakespeares
▪ to Bilingualism
▪ Dramaturgy and Interpretation
▪ Surveys and Experiments
▪ Interventions in Design,
▪ Design Anthropology
▪ Urban Southeast Asia

URBAN STUDIES

▪ Early Indian and Chinese
▪ The Question of Technology
▪ Leaders and Followers
▪ Artificial Intelligence in Asia
▪ Society, and Environment
▪ Progress and Technology in Urban
▪ Future: Theory and Practice
▪ Homer and Heidegger to A.I.
▪ Leadership and Organisation
▪ Geographies of Critical Management Studies
▪ Business, The World Since 1400
▪ The Game of Histories
▪ History of Surveillance
▪ Modern China: Pluralism, Strategy, Design,
▪ The World Before 1750
▪ Technology, and Society
▪ Freighting Change
▪ 1400–1800
▪ The British Empire
▪ The Rise of Capitalism
▪ The Rise of Capitalism
▪ "Financial Infrastructures"

PREPARE TO HOPE: HASS field trips

Venture out of the classroom and learn through visiting museums, including Singapore, but was also showcased in "Music Journey." Not only did it win multiple awards, it also brought Fusheng's first animation, "A Tadpole's Journey," to the spotlight.

Numerous HASS alumni have gone on to pursue promising careers, with positive outcomes in their chosen fields. The Chinese Literature HASS elective enriched our understanding of history, literature, and culture, thus providing insights into better creative individuals. My interest in developing a more emotionally engaging narrative helped me to create more authentic and compelling stories. The knowledge from HASS broadened our perspective, and Finance.

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TRAILBLAZING A BETTER WORLD BY DESIGN.

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HASS leverages the world-class expertise of our multi-disciplinary faculty has been supported by various national and international grant-awarding bodies, including the Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund, National Institute of Education Office of Education Research Fund, Ministry of Health National Innovation Challenge Grant, Social Mobility Foundation, the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation, and the Fulbright Commission of the United States of America.
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