**Jeanne Liew**

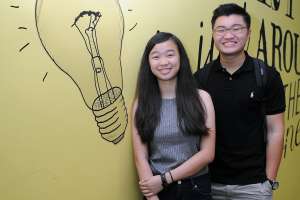
**A key consideration would be your preferred learning style: Do you prefer a more academic mode of learning or a more applied, hands-on type of learning?**

**When you were in secondary school, did you enjoy hands-on learning activities like laboratory sessions and project work?**

One key difference is the mode of learning. In JCs, there is more emphasis on understanding **theoretical concepts** while in polys, the emphasis is on building **industry-relevant skills** through **applied learning**.

As such, poly courses are oriented towards specific careers while JC ones tend to be more broad-based and academic.

JC students take a **few core subjects and go deep into the subjects over two years**; poly students **take more "bite-sized" modules** that build on one another over three years.



Related Story

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On average, a poly student takes about **five to seven modules** per semester, and there are two semesters in an academic year.

The assessment approach is also different. I think most of you are aware that JC students take the A-level exams at one sitting at the end of two years. In the polys, students' results for every module that they take over the three years count towards the cumulative grade point average.

1. Learning style (hands on and applied learning VS Theoretical concept learning)
2. whether you currently have a clear passion and inclination for specific careers

he **education sector** offers a unique opportunity to influence students and develop new professional skills. ... Because of the wide range of jobs and responsibilities within the **education sector**, there are a variety of opportunities for career development.

Working in the education sector is not just about standing chalk in hand in front of a class of children, bestowing your knowledge onto the future generation of this country á la John Keating in Dead Poet’s Society who said that “the idea of education was to learn to think for yourself”. This is only part of the picture. A career within the education sector can mean teaching students from all ages and backgrounds.

For instance, primary school teachers teach children from the age of five and prepare them for secondary school at eleven, where they will remain until they reach 16 or 18 upon completion of their GCSEs and ‘A’ Levels. Thereafter, further and higher education teaching is provided by college or university lecturers.

Teachers who love teaching, they say, teach children to love learning. Teaching may have been sidelined but the slowing down of Singapore’s economy in recent years has led to a focus on education, specifically skill development. The government’s newly constituted SkillsFuture programme aims to equip citizens with skills necessary to survive an economic transition.

The emphasis on skill development has put the focus back on the education sector. In 2016, the [government allotted S$12.8 billion for education](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-03-24/singapore-budget-2016-winners-and-losers)—double the amount allocated 10 years ago. Hiring too is steady—a fact corroborated by the Monster Employment Index in April 2016, which registered a 6% year-on-year growth for education.

**Requirement and Skills to be teacher**

**Good academic record**If you intend to teach others, you should have been a good student yourself. A good academic record is a prerequisite for most careers in the education sector. [Teacher jobs](https://jobsearch.monster.com.sg/jobresults/teacher-jobs.html) normally have a minimum cut-off that is higher than in other sectors.

**Great communication skills**Teaching is all about effective communication, which makes this skill a key attribute for a successful career. The ability to communicate complex ideas simply and precisely is the foundation of any teaching exercise.

**Patience**Teaching requires plenty of patience. A good teacher is prepared to explain things over and over again until the last person in the room understands the concept.

**Kindness**Like patience, kindness is a defining trait of a good teacher. A teacher must be sensitive to the needs of students and be ready to guide them with empathy and wisdom.

**Enthusiasm**Good educators never lose their enthusiasm despite teaching the same thing over and over again. In fact, quality teachers are creative and find new and interesting ways to teach students.

**Positivity**The best teachers are full of positive energy and always encourage students. They realize that different pupils have different talents and are accommodative of quirks and follies.

**Discipline**A teacher must know when to enforce discipline. It is important for teachers to inculcate a sense of discipline in students by enforcing strict order and exercising control.

A good teacher can ignite the imagination and give students wings. If you are one of those who take legitimate pride in the achievements of others, a life in the education sector could be for you. A teacher’s success, after all, is measured by the achievements of students!