



**DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION
OF SINGAPORE**
HELPING DYSLEXIC PEOPLE ACHIEVE

Dyslexia Association of Singapore Limited
1 Jurong West Central 2, #05-01 Jurong Point
Singapore 648886 T: 6444 5700
UEN: 202114767K | www.das.org.sg
DAS PATRON: MRS GOH CHOK TONG

MEDIA ADVISORY

DAS ACADEMY ADVANCES ITS POSITION AS A LEADER IN SINGAPORE'S DISABILITY SECTOR'S LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

Making DAS Academy courses more accessible through the VCF Professional Capability Grant (PCG)

SINGAPORE, 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 – With the growing emphasis in Singapore on enhancing support for people with hidden learning disabilities such as dyslexia and other specific learning differences (SpLDs), the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) - a Social Service Agency (SSA) - will continue to enhance its support for training in the field of Special Educational Needs (SEN) through the DAS Academy. All 14 certificate courses provided by the DAS Academy are now supported by Professional Capability Grant (PCG) with a pre-approved status. This funding will increase the affordability and accessibility of these courses to staff from other SSAs, providing them with opportunities to upskill and contribute to this growing field.

Formerly known as the VWO-Charities Capability Fund (VCF), PCG was launched to strengthen the capabilities of SSAs. The funding focuses on growing stronger players in the sector, nurturing a more productive and innovative sector, developing quality manpower for the sector and improving social services in Singapore. Since April 2010, DAS Academy has 36 courses in competency-based training in SEN supported by the VCF PCG.

Graduation Ceremony 2022

This year's graduation ceremony will celebrate the completion of Specialist Diploma in Learning Support in SpLDs, Specialist Diploma in Educational Therapy and the Master of Arts in SEN for a total of 61 graduands. These courses are built on a strong heritage of authentic student assessment and intervention practices at the DAS to provide a grounded perspective of SpLDs.

Dr Fermin Diez, Deputy CEO of NCSS will be the guest-of-honour at the event.

The Master of Arts in Special Educational Needs/Additional Learning Needs programmes provided by DAS Academy stands out in the field of SEN training. It is one of the few courses that focuses on students with less severe needs and hidden learning difficulties such as dyslexia and other SpLDs. In addition, MA SEN has grown in reach, with 3.27 percent of its students in the 2022 cohort from overseas, made possible by the provision of online learning.

"This year's cohort is graduating at a time when we are seeing new breakthroughs in providing a vibrant support network for those with dyslexia and other SpLDs. DAS Academy is excited for our certificate courses to be pre-approved for PCG funding. Such subsidies and support pave the way for more individuals to join the SEN profession. It also affirms that our society has adopted a much bigger definition of disabilities – we are now caring for people with disabilities not evident to the naked eyes such as mental illnesses and hidden learning disabilities. It is symbolic of Singapore's progression on the journey to be an inclusive society," said Dr June Siew, Head of DAS Academy.

Media Invitation



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You are warmly invited to attend the DAS Academy Graduation Ceremony 2022. We will also be happy to arrange for you to interview any of the graduands or DAS representatives about the journey to help more students with hidden learning difficulties. The details of the event are:

Date	Wednesday, 21 September 2022
Time	9.30am to 11.30am
Location	Lifelong Learning Institute (Event Halls 1-1 & 1-2), 11 Eunos Rd 8, Singapore 408601

Please RSVP by **today, 20 September 2022** to The Right Spin PR: Sheryl Tang at sheryl@therightspin.com.sg / (65) 9821 2228 or Charmaine Leow at charmaine@therightspin.com.sg / (65) 8200 3160. We look forward to your favourable reply. Thank you.

ABOUT DAS ACADEMY

Mission: Enabling Excellence

Goal: To be a world-class academic institution providing education and research in the area of special education needs.

The DAS Academy is a Private Education Institution (PEI) registered with the Committee of Private Education (CPE). Led by a multi-disciplinary team of lecturers with extensive experiences in teaching learners with dyslexia and associated learning differences, the DAS Academy aims to enable excellence through its programmes from foundation to tertiary levels, namely, the Master of Arts in Special Educational Needs (MA SEN), validated by The University of South Wales, UK. The MA SEN enables practitioners working with people with special educational needs or those in education-related fields to develop professionally, and distinguish themselves in the growing field of special needs.

The DAS Academy certificate courses & workshops will provide a continuance of support that children with learning differences receive from its Learning Centres at their schools and homes. The courses and workshops enable parents, caregivers, educators and professionals to learn techniques and be equipped with various skills and tips to help a child with learning differences. Skills that will not only help the child read and write better, but also develop automaticity and fluency in these areas.

The Specialist Diploma in Specific Learning Differences offers a unique opportunity for continuing professional development and is designed to meet increasing demands for higher education in the field of specific learning differences.

Finally, the DAS Academy also conducts customised training for corporations, professionals and educational bodies. Lecturers have conducted training in other countries such as Hong Kong. Furthermore, training is being conducted for the Ministry of Education's SEN Officers. There is at least one SEN Officer in every primary school in Singapore and in selected secondary schools.

ABOUT DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE (DAS)

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Registered in 1991, the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) is today a vibrant Social Service Agency with almost 300 full-time and part-time staff who provide a wide range of programmes for persons with dyslexia and specific learning differences (SpLDs) in Singapore. DAS Educational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Psychologists provide services to over 3,500 preschool, primary and secondary school students in 13 centres all over Singapore.

DAS recognises that children with dyslexia and SpLDs require a comprehensive and holistic range of programmes and services. SpLD Assessment Services, the DAS assessment arm, conducts assessments in areas such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), school readiness and more. The Main Literacy Programme which is part-funded by the Ministry of Education supports over 3,000 primary and secondary students and provides critical intervention in areas such as reading fluency and comprehension, spelling and writing. Besides the Main Literacy Programme, DAS, through its Specialised Educational Services (SES) Division, also offers support in Mathematics, Chinese, English Exam Skills and Science. Through SES, DAS also offers programmes in non-academic pursuits such as Speech and Drama and ArtVenture.

Increasingly, DAS will provide support for dyslexics who are also impacted by other SpLDs such as ADHD, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and non-verbal learning differences. Additionally, young adults in Institutes of Higher Learning will be able to access assessment and specialist tutoring services. Presently, DAS needs to raise over \$2 million each year to provide bursaries for its lower-income students.

The DAS training arm, DAS Academy, provides certificate courses, diploma and masters level courses for the professional development of special needs and mainstream teachers and other educational professionals with the aim to build a pool of expertise in Singapore for support of students with learning differences. The DAS Academy also provides courses and workshops for parents and caregivers.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Charmaine Leow
PR Associate
The Right Spin Public Relations
Tel: 8200 3160
Email: charmaine@therightspin.com.sg

Sheryl Tang
PR Associate
The Right Spin Public Relations
Tel: 9821 2228
Email: sheryl@therightspin.com.sg

Deborah Hewes
Head of Publicity and Publications
Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS)
Tel: +65 6594 0350 / +65 9753 4144
Email: deborah.hewes@das.org.sg

Lim Jiaern
Senior Publicity and Publications
Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS)
Tel: +65 6594 0350 / +65 9091 4740
Email: lim.jiaern@das.org.sg