

Differences and Similarities between Private Schools and Local Polytechnics/Universities

Myth
1

My certificate from a private school will be recognised by the Singapore Government for future employment or studies.



Registration with CPE is not an endorsement or recognition of the private school's courses and/or qualifications. The decision to accept your qualifications lies with your prospective higher educational institutions or employers. There is no central authority in Singapore that accords recognition to certificates and/or qualifications.

FACT

Myth
2

I can use my parents' Central Provident Fund (CPF) savings to pay for my education in a private school, similar to local polytechnics/universities.



FACT

Except for SIM University (UniSIM) and selected courses in LASALLE College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), courses offered in private schools are not covered under the CPF Education Scheme, therefore you cannot use your parents' CPF to pay for the course.

Myth
3

There are Government subsidies for courses offered in private schools, just like courses at local polytechnics/universities.

There are generally no Government subsidies for courses offered in private schools, except for courses funded by Singapore Workforce Development Agency, and selected courses offered by LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and SIM University (UniSIM).

FACT

Myth
4

CLOSED

Similar to local polytechnics /universities, private schools registered with CPE will not close down.

As private schools are commercial businesses, there is no guarantee that they will not close down due to commercial problems or business decisions. We have had a few private schools closing because they were not making profit.

Myth
5

Private schools will accept any form of qualifications for entry into their courses.

Similar to local polytechnics/universities, private schools or their partner foreign university set their own entry requirements for the courses that they offer.

FACT

Myth
6

CPE accredits courses offered in private schools, and develops the syllabus, just like how MOE develops the syllabus in local polytechnics/universities.

The syllabus in private schools and local polytechnics/universities are developed by the respective institutions. CPE does not develop nor accredits them.

FACT

Myth
7

Studying in a private school is easier than studying in a local polytechnic/university. It is also faster to graduate.

Courses at private schools may not necessarily be easier to cope with or faster to complete. Extra time may be incurred in the event of re-moduling or re-examinations.

FACT

I will definitely be able to graduate and get a qualification if I study in a private school.

Myth
8

FACT

Similar to local polytechnics/universities, you can only complete your studies and get your certificate or qualification, after you have met the assessment and graduation requirements set by the private school or its foreign partner university.