3.2 Curriculum Structure and General Academic Matters

Unlike full-time degree programmes which cater primarily to students admitted with GCE ‘A’ Level qualifications, BTech part-time degree programmes are specially tailored to suit the needs and background of polytechnic graduates holding relevant full-time jobs in industry. The BTech curriculum gives recognition to the fact that Polytechnic upgraders have all attained a certain level of training in addition to acquiring some actual work experience. As such, although almost all the upper-year modules are identical to those of the equivalent full-time degree programmes, the modules in the earlier years are somewhat different and are specially designed to cater to the unique needs of BTech students.

Periods of Study in each AY: In addition to the two normal semesters of study in each Academic Year (Semesters 1 and 2), the BTech Programme also runs a 10-week Special Term during the period from May to July.

Minimum and Maximum Candidature: SCALE recognises the need to equip potential adult learners with the necessary skills within a reasonable amount of time so that they stay relevant in the industry upon graduation. As such, the minimum and maximum candidature periods are two-and-a-half and six years respectively, inclusive of approved periods of leave of absence. Nonetheless, records show that if work, family and other commitments permit, students typically attend classes three evenings a week and should typically be able to complete their degree requirements in four years. The curriculum structure is completely modular and flexible and students should study at their own comfortable pace. Students are strongly advised not to rush through their programmes; instead, they should attempt to arrange their other commitments allow them sufficient time and peace of mind to focus on, and gain the most out of, their studies. If taking an extra semester to complete their degree requirements results in greater benefit from their studies and perhaps a better class of honours for the degree, it might be worthwhile to do so as the benefits are lifelong.

Workload: In general, unless otherwise approved by the Dean of SCALE, a student may register for up to 14 MCs of modules during a normal semester and 2 modules in a Special Term, excluding Industrial Practice module.
General: Students are advised to read carefully other relevant information presented in this document as well as published by the Registrar’s Office (www.nus.edu.sg/registrar). Of particular importance are information relating to: the Modular System, Undergraduate Education Continuation and Graduation Requirements, Academic Calendar, Responsibility for Notices/Circulars, Update of Personal Particulars, Acceptance Record, Leave of Absence, Grading Policy and Exam Process, Graduation, Discipline, Module Enrolment, S/U Option Declaration, and Commencement amongst others. Academic and administrative rules and regulations set out by the University will apply to every NUS student.