



“An A*STAR Scholarship is the perfect scholarship for pursuing a research career...”

Dang Thuy Tram
MOE ASEAN scholar (1999), NSS (BS)scholar (2003)

Dang Thuy Tram was a student at the Nguyen Khuyen Gifted Secondary School in Vietnam. Awarded the MOE ASEAN Secondary Scholarship in 1999, Thuy Tram commenced her Secondary 3 studies in Singapore at the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus, Toa Payoh. With her determination to excel, Thuy Tram won her school's Overall Top Student Prize in 1999 and 2000, and was awarded the MOE ASEAN Pre-University Scholarship in 2001.

Thuy Tram continued to do well at the Victoria Junior College, winning 1st prize in the prestigious Columbia University Book Prize Award - an award presented to some of the brightest students from the various Singapore Junior Colleges. She was also awarded a Gold Medal by the Institute of Physics (Singapore) for being amongst the top 10 scorers in Physics for her GCE 'A'-level examinations.

Coming to Singapore has been an enriching experience for Thuy Tram. “My communication skills in English have greatly improved and there were plenty of opportunities to develop leadership ability, sporting potential (I was in the VJC wushu and teakwondo teams), as well as academic excellence.”

In 2003, Thuy Tram was awarded the A*STAR National Science Scholarships (NSS). The NSS (BS) scholarship allows her to pursue her undergraduate and graduate studies at top overseas universities, under A*STAR's financial support.

Thuy Tram has completed her freshman year and is in the midst of her 2nd year at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Chemical Engineering. Thuy Tram obtained a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.00 out of 4.00 for her freshman year was placed on the 2004 A*STAR Chairman's Honours List – an honour awarded to only the most outstanding NSS scholars. She was also a director of TEAM (Together Encouraging the Appreciation of Multiculturalism) - a student organisation that promotes the appreciation of cultural diversity on campus, an event awareness Director of the UIUC Singapore Student Association, as well as the President of the UIUC Vietnamese Student Association. For her achievements in UIUC, Thuy Tram was awarded the Alumni Achievement award (for excellent academic performance, leadership achievements and contribution to campus activities) by the UIUC Chemical Engineering department.

Thuy Tram is grateful for the research exposure gained at UIUC. “I value the opportunity given to me by A*STAR to experience UIUC's vibrant and competitive research culture. Being in UIUC has allowed me to gain exposure to cutting edge technologies while still in my freshman year!”

We wish Thuy Tram the best as she strives towards her goal of becoming a great researcher one day!