What in your opinion are the qualities that an NUS graduate should have, and how do you develop those qualities in your students?

I would like NUS graduates to be compassionate and caring. I would like them to have a clear purpose in life. I would like them to be dedicated and passionate about what they do. I would like them to work hard and be persistent in the achievement of their objectives. On top of all this, I would like them to become lifelong learners.

The best way to instil these values in the students is to show them by example. I do not claim to have all these wonderful qualities, but I do hold them as my ideals and make concerted efforts to achieve them as much as possible. These efforts are reflected in my behaviour when I interact with the students.

I am generous with them when they approach me for guidance or help. I listen to their problems carefully to show them that I care. I set clear goals for my modules and work hard to achieve them. I am a passionate teacher and take a lot of pride in what I do. I tell them that despite a PhD and many years of experience, I am just like them: A student of economics. If learning is hard for them, it is equally hard for me. This kind of down-to-earth attitude goes a long way to motivate the students.

What Students Say...

"Professor Hashmi makes it very easy to follow complex models and ideas. Furthermore, he encourages one to look at the bigger picture a model is trying to convey and not get caught up in the technical details. He also adds humor to the class, making his classes more interesting despite the subject lacking evident humor."

"He is a dedicated professor who takes his students and classes seriously (the fact that he dresses up and puts on a tie each time he attends a class). Provides valuable feedback to students after their project presentation. His e-learning materials were very comprehensive and meticulously typed out."