Aptitude test, 8 mini-interviews to join new medical school

SINGAPORE — Students vying for a place at the new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine will have to sit for an aptitude test and undergo a series of eight mini-interviews.

Announcing the admission requirements yesterday, the medical school said it is looking for students who have the skills to be an outstanding doctor as well as hold first-class qualifications.

The new school, a partnership between the Nanyang Technological University and Imperial College London, will enrol its first 50 students in August next year. They will graduate in 2018 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

Apart from possessing exceptional results in their pre-university qualifications, prospective students will have to sit for the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT).

The BMAT is a two-hour aptitude test taken by students who apply to top medical universities in the United Kingdom such as Imperial, Cambridge University, Oxford University and University College London.

Those intending to apply for a place at the school next year will have to sit for the BMAT on Nov 7 this year.

Shortlisted students will then take part in a series of eight mini-interviews, each lasting five minutes, in a single day.

Conducted by professionals from various healthcare disciplines, these interviews are designed to assess whether students have the skills required to successfully complete the degree programme.

Senior vice-dean Martyn Partridge said the interviews “identify the most capable students who have the best chance of becoming patient-centred doctors”.

Noting that there is “no shortage” of straight-A students enrolling in medical schools, Professor Stephen Smith, the founding dean of the school, said: “We are looking for students who are caring and compassionate and are committed to pursue medicine as a long-term career in the context of Singapore’s ageing population.”

All applications must be submitted online by April at http://admissions.ntu.edu.sg/UndergraduateAdmissions/Pages/ApplytoNTU.aspx. CHANNEL NEWSASIA