New medical school picks 54 from over 800 applicants

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SINGAPORE’s newest medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, has picked its inaugural batch of 54 students out of more than 800 A-list applicants.

The school, being set up by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Imperial College London, holds that holders of stellar academic qualifications, those chosen have shown the potential to be outstanding patient-centred doctors.

The school shortlisted 440 to attend eight interviews with healthcare professionals such as doctors as well as members of the public, who assessed the candidates’ dates from the patient’s perspective.

Those who made the inaugural batch – all Singaporeans – had almost perfect scores in the interview and also aced their British Biomedical Admissions Test. Two out of three students are A-level holders and 90 per cent of them are among the top 10 per cent of their cohort.

NTU provost Freddy Boey believes the school is set for “a resounding start”.

As a new school, we have designed and invested in a whole new curriculum and track record in training some of the world’s best doctors,” he said.

Several of its incoming students had turned down places at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and overseas universities.

This, despite the fees – $30,000 a year being $7,000 more than NTU’s Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Part of the draw was the Imperial College brand name, which ranks highly among medical and scientists. Students will be able to take their newly minted degrees any time on their iPads.

Furthermore, students said, is the new school’s innovative teaching methods.

NTU recently highlighted it will use some of the latest medical teaching tools such as plastinated bodies, long-lasting cadavers preserved using plastic, and the Anatomage Table, which lets students perceive from 3-D dissections virtually.

Also, the material developed by Imperial College for the new school includes over 200 e-lectures, which have been professionally recorded by professors, clinicians and scientists. Students will be able to access them any time on their iPads.

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