White Coat siblings

Youth turns down Scotland university to study medicine with sister at NTU

Reports by DARISHINI THIYAGARAJAN
darshi@sph.com.sg

They studied at the same primary school and will now be studying at the same university.

After rejecting an offer to study medicine at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's top medical school, Mr Chua Kee Leng will be studying medicine with his sister, Miss Chua Min Kuan, at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

The siblings were formerly from Henry Park Primary School.

Mr Chua had accepted the offer to study in Scotland, but he changed his mind after NTU sent him an acceptance letter.

Explaining his decision not to study abroad, the 23-year-old said: “There was the problem of cost as well, but I want to practise here in Singapore. The lecturers would be more specific to the healthcare here and I would like to work in a public hospital here.”

When he was in St Andrew's Junior College, he had volunteered at various local hospitals and clinics, doing internships at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) and the National University Hospital (NUH), among others.

INTERESTING

“I was thinking about what I wanted to do in university, and after doing all these attachments, I thought medicine would be interesting,” he said.

Yesterday, at NTU’s White Coat Ceremony, a ceremony for new medical students, Mr Chua and his sister received their white coats along with 76 other students in the cohort. This is an increase from the inaugural batch of 54 students.

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pledge to practise medicine with integrity, humility, honesty and compassion, and without any discriminations.

The Chua siblings’ father is an engineer, so Miss Chua, 19, had initially wanted to follow in his footsteps. But after an internship with an engineering firm, she realised it was not her cup of tea.

Said the former Raffles Junior College student: “I spoke to my brother and he told me about his experiences in the hospitals and clinics. That got me interested in medicine.”

While Mr Chua has an idea of what he would like to do – oncology, the study of cancer – his sister feels that she needs more time before making a decision.

“This is a new journey, and for now, I just want to be a good doctor, like the school wants us to be. I will make a decision later when I know more about this course,” Miss Chua said.