

# NTU revamping part-time engineering degree programme

By SAMANTHA GOH

NANYANG Technological University (NTU) is revamping its part-time engineering degree programme so that students can graduate in four years instead of five, in the same amount of time as full-time students.

To be able to shave off a year, undergraduates can take more study modules per semester, and do courses during the holidays.

The part-time degree is for people who are already working, unlike the majority of undergradu-

ates who are fresh from school and can study full-time.

Part-time degree programmes are also offered by other universities in Singapore, and it generally takes five to eight years for a student to earn a degree.

NTU, which took in 200 such students last year, hopes to increase its next intake by 50 students. It said it will do away with traditional lectures for part-time students, as all lectures and course materials will be placed online. The idea is for students to look at the material on their own,

and have discussions in the classroom, facilitated by tutors.

NTU Senior Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Professor Kam Chan Hin, said: "This not only allows students to participate in active learning remotely, but is (also) more accommodating of their busy career schedule by reducing commuting time to and from the campus."

In addition to the revamped part-time programmes in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, the university will also be introducing

a new part-time degree programme in Computer Science. This is to cater to the rising demand for computer scientists, due to the flourishing cloud computing industry and an increasing reliance on computers and technology, it said.

The part-time programmes will be managed by the new Office of Professional Education, led by Associate Professor Stephen Lee Siang Guan.

Mr Anthony Wang, 31, who works in engineering at ST Electronics, is in his final year in the

part-time degree programme.

"The revamped programme is likely to be attractive, since it prevents loss of momentum by making use of the breaks in between semesters," he said.

"Furthermore, the online materials will let you review the content at your own pace so you can clear up doubts you may have about the topics."

NTU's revamped part-time engineering degrees start in August this year. Applications open till the end of this month.

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