NTU broadens admissions criteria

40 undergrad programmes will consider portfolios, conduct interviews, aptitude tests

Condor Chooe
Senior Education Correspondent

School leavers eyeing a place in a highly competitive course at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) can soon improve their chances through interviews, aptitude tests and portfolios.

NTU announced yesterday that for 40 of its 111 undergraduate programmes, shortlisted applicants will undergo a “qualitative assessment” that will include interviews, aptitude tests and portfolios.

For the remaining 71 programmes, interviews will also be conducted for high potential candidates who may fall slightly short of the entry score for a degree course, or for those considered based on their performance in sports and arts, under the discretionary admissions scheme.

With the broader criteria, a prospective student who score pass for a chosen programme and the potential to succeed may have an edge over a more academically qualified applicant vying for the same course.

NTU said the initiative follows its successful pilot last year involving 17 programmes, including highly competitive, premier programmes such as medicine and the Renaissance Engineering Programmes.

The 40 programmes adopting the new approach this year include those in humanities and social sciences, engineering and science.

NTU President Ling San said: “NTU’s new holistic approach means that our professors are in-