Singapore's newest medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, gears up for the start of classes in August with the development of new teaching materials.

These include materials developed by Imperial College London, which comprise over 200 e-lectures professionally recorded by professors, clinicians and scientists. Students can access the e-lectures from their iPads.

The Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine is jointly set up by Nanyang Technological University and Imperial College London.

Its inaugural cohort comprises of 54 students selected from 817 applicants. Two-thirds of them have completed the GCE "A" Levels and of these, 90 per cent are among the top students in their cohort.

The remaining one-third of the cohort holds qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate and the NUS High School Diploma.

Apart from their GCE "A" Levels or equivalent qualifications, they also had to pass an Admissions Test and go through a series of
eight interviews.

For 19-year-old Huang Baoxian, she was attracted to the school's team-based leaning approach.

"I felt that it was very interactive and interesting. And I also felt that because we would be able to discuss the issues and medical concepts, we would be able to understand them better," said Huang.

Another student, Stewart Retnam, said the school's patient-centric approach to teaching medicine will help to expose them to patients from a much earlier stage than other medical schools.

"(The approach) will help us to become familiarised with clinical environments from a very early stage. And I really felt that that would enable us to become better physicians from the start, and that we would be prepared for actual working conditions and actual clinical situations."

- CNA/ac/fa