NTU launches premier scholars programme in science
- “C N Yang Scholars Programme” to groom top scientists and engineers for the future

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is launching a new programme called the C N Yang Scholars Programme to provide top students with a sound and deep foundation in science with specialized studies in various branches of science and engineering. The curriculum is modelled after those of top science and technology universities like California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Named in honour of one of the first Asian Nobel Laureates, Professor Chen-Ning Yang (C N Yang) who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1957, The C N Yang Scholars Programme aims to prepare top undergraduates who exhibit a deep passion for science and technology for the high technology world of the 21st century.

In designing the programme, the experiences of Caltech and MIT were tapped in creating a core curriculum that delves deeply into mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology. CN Yang Scholars are also required to take humanities courses for a well-rounded education.

Out of an annual intake of about 5,000 students, no more than 50 will be selected for this prestigious and challenging programme. All successful candidates of the programme will be awarded scholarships, covering tuition fee and living expenses.

As the programme allow the students to graduate in one of the many science and engineering degrees offered by NTU, a faculty mentor will be assigned to each student, to guide them through their undergraduate studies. In particular, the mentor, together with the student, will tailor a programme most suited to the student’s needs and interests. Upon completion of the highly demanding programme, students will be awarded a special certificate.
Besides taking core courses in science and mathematics, CN Yang Scholars are encouraged to engage in research in the many laboratories in NTU. Scholars will have the opportunity to interact with the top brains in science and will be given priority to interact with visiting Nobel Laureates in events under the aegis of the Institute of Advanced Studies which was established last year.

Professor Alex Law, Director, C N Yang Scholars Programme, says, "The setup of this programme is an important step in grooming our students to become top-notch scientists and researchers. The students will receive world-class guidance and supervision from NTU faculty."

Dr Su Guaning, President, NTU, adds, "Science and technology is an important economic multiplier in any country, especially in Singapore, and gives us a competitive edge. NTU, with its established strengths in science and technology, is certainly well-positioned to nurture such a group of students, who will be able to contribute significantly in pushing the frontiers of science and technology. Coupled with the top brains at the Institute of Advanced Studies, we aim to make NTU a place where scientific innovation and discoveries continue to grow."

Professor Yang Chen Ning, Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics, says, "This is a good opportunity for top students who are keenly interested in science to pursue their passion. I am very happy to see NTU set up this programme to provide outstanding students with a strong foundation in science and to cultivate their interest in research. Who knows? One day we might see a Nobel Laureate from Singapore."

The C N Yang Scholars Programme will be launched this coming academic year and Professor Yang Chen Ning will be in NTU to officially launch the programme in July 2006.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university has a beautiful garden campus and a distinguished lineage with roots that go back to 1955.

NTU's 12 schools span diverse disciplines – from engineering and the sciences to art, design and media. The university has a strong engineering college focused on innovation, a business school with one of the top 100 MBA programmes in the world, an internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, one of the best communication and information schools in Asia, and a biological sciences school at the forefront of Singapore's life sciences initiative. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies is a world authority on terrorism issues.

Ranked among the top 50 universities in the world, NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives, many established through its strategic alliances with top
institutions and universities world-wide, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Cambridge University, and Beijing University.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg