NTU’s School of Biological Sciences offers exciting curriculum to meet real world needs

Research leading to the discovery of new drugs to combat diseases such as Sars, HIV, malaria, cancer - this is what students can aspire towards if they choose to study at the School of Biological Sciences (SBS) in NTU.

The curriculum at SBS focuses on the improvement of human healthcare as well as the understanding of biological processes of life and human diseases. The four-year course provides a strong foundation on modern biology while injecting relevant elements of chemistry, genetics, computational and structural biology and bioinformatics. It also offers specialized electives to cater to the different interests and career goals of the students.

Prof James Tam, the Dean of SBS, said, “Our curriculum was carefully benchmarked against those offered by top schools of biology and biological sciences in the world, especially those within a technological university setting such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

“At the same time, we constantly review our courses to ensure that we stay relevant and our students are kept abreast of the latest happenings in the life sciences arena. For example, in line with increasing worldwide recognition, we have introduced electives in the medicinal aspects of Traditional Chinese Medicine into our final year curriculum for students who are keen to pursue this
subject. Also in the fourth year, we encourage students to put their knowledge into practice by taking up research projects at local or international laboratories"

SBS students are able to minor in subjects offered by other schools in NTU, such as engineering and communication studies, to experience a more broad-based and enriching education. They can also tap on NTU’s extensive network of international academic collaboration to study or do research projects at any overseas university for a period of time while pursuing their degrees. Such offerings are aimed at providing NTU students with greater global exposure and experience.

The comprehensive curriculum offered by SBS is complemented with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. The school recently purchased an X-ray crystallograph to study the structure of viruses. This enables researchers to better understand viruses and help them develop vaccines to control diseases. The SBS also has a new building, complete with research laboratories well as computer and resource rooms, which will be operational in July for the new academic year.

Some 400 prospective students, all of whom have been offered a place at the school, had the opportunity to interact with the SBS teaching staff and find out more about the course at the school's Open Day today. They also toured the various facilities within the school’s new building.

**NTU School of Biological Sciences**

NTU established the School of Biological Sciences (SBS) in July 2001 to provide Singapore with a ready pool of talent that has received high quality tertiary education and training in the life sciences.

Graduates from the B.Sc. (Honours) course as well as from the graduate research programmes are expected to fill the rapidly increasing demand for a talent pool of high-quality workforce and researchers for the life sciences industry, which has been earmarked by the Singapore government to be the 4th pillar of our national economy.

For its next intake this July, the SBS will be accepting some 200 students for its undergraduate programme. The SBS has a teaching staff of about 25 members from as many as 12 countries.

*** END ***