NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Total: 3 pg(s) including this pg

Media contact
Sophia Lim, Assistant Director, Corporate Communications Office
Tel: 6790 6684; Mobile: 9683 4733; Email: sophia_lim@pmail.ntu.edu.sg

Singapore, 3 May 2006

NTU launches new Science degree in mathematics and economics

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has launched a new Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in mathematics and economics for the coming academic year 2006/07. The four-year direct honours programme, which integrates the curriculum of two leading disciplines – mathematics and economics, is modeled after similar programmes offered by prestigious universities in the UK and US¹.

The degree aims to attract students who are strong in mathematics and who are keen to apply their mathematical skills to real-world economic and financial problems. The pioneer intake is targeted at about 25.

The programme leverages the synergies between mathematics and economics. Graduates will be able to apply their economic knowledge and mathematical skills to model economic and financial phenomena for forecasting and decision making. Increasingly, business and policy decisions are based on mathematical models. The close link between economics and mathematics gives graduates of this programme an important edge in careers that demand an understanding of the functioning of an economy, as well as ability to quantify economic relationships.

Associate Professor Euston Quah (柯仲佑), Head, Division of Economics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, shares: “Students hone their logical thinking and quantitative skills through learning mathematical and computational tools useful in diverse real-life applications, while economics, a social science with links to politics, business and finance, offers them the opportunity to learn about banking, finance, globalization, as well as the application to contemporary economic issues.”

¹ Universities that offer similar programmes include London School of Economics, Warrick University, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of British Columbia.
Professor Ling San (林杉), Head, Division of Mathematical Sciences, School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, says: “The impact of mathematics has been evident in fields as diverse as engineering, life sciences, computer science, finance and economics. In particular, economics has become increasingly dependent on sophisticated mathematical methods and quantitative tools. Students who excel in mathematics and are keen in careers in economics, finance or management will find this new programme an excellent fit to their aptitude and passion. By equipping graduates with sound knowledge of economics and solid fundamentals of modern mathematics and statistics - a unique combination of qualities increasingly sought after by many employers as well as graduate programmes – this course promises to be a stimulating one that will help groom talents for both the local and global economies.

He adds: “When we were planning this programme, the feedback we received indicated an overwhelming interest amongst the students; hence we decided to avail it to them from this August”.

Gary Ng Yong Jie (黄勇杰) from Raffles Junior College who has gained admission into the mathematical sciences at NTU also responded positively to the new degree – “Career preparation is an important factor for my choice of major. I’ll definitely be interested in this new programme!”

Says Goh Keng Phang (吴敬彭) from Victoria Junior College who has also been offered a place in Economics – “It is a well-integrated programme between two synergistic disciplines. I think it is a very useful and practical programme.”

Daphne Wee Miaoyu (黄妙语) from Hwa Chong Institution who has been offered a place in NTU’s mathematical sciences – “I am so glad to hear that NTU has decided to offer this major this year instead of waiting another year. Now I have yet another choice of major that appeals to me.”

Tan Hui Lin (陈慧琳) from Hwa Chong Institution who has been offered a place in Economics at NTU has this to say about the new degree – “I think this is a niche area that NTU can develop to give its economics programme a distinctive feature.”

Applications are open only to students who applied to NTU for admission in 2006. Returning NS men who have been offered a place in NTU are also eligible. Applications will open until 21 May 2006. There will be a special admissions talk on Saturday, 13 May 06, 10.30am at NTU. For more information about the degree and how to apply, visit NTU’s website at www.ntu.edu.sg/admissions.

*** END***
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 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 300 institutions in more than 45 countries, including 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.