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NTU TO NURTURE TALENTS IN JUNIOR COLLEGES

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) looks set to nurture young talent from four junior colleges – Temasek Junior College (TJC), Victoria Junior College (VJC), Raffles Junior College (RJC) and National Junior College (NJC). These junior colleges offer the Integrated Programme.

Up to 50 third-year students (or the fifth year in the case of RJC) of the integrated programme from each of the four junior colleges may register to take up to two NTU subjects even while they are still pursuing their ‘A’ level or other high school qualifications. The credits earned will give them a headstart, allowing them to earn a degree in a shorter period of time when they enroll at NTU.

On a case-by-case basis, participating students may be offered direct admission to NTU if they have outstanding school grades and good grades for NTU examinations and research projects, even if they had not yet obtained their ‘A’ level certificate or other high school qualifications.

Those who have gained direct admission may also receive an accompanying scholarship.

NTU will not levy tuition and laboratory fees on students from the four junior colleges for taking up subjects or undertaking research projects before enrolling at NTU.
The two subjects can be chosen from different Schools in NTU. The subjects include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Materials Science
- Physics

Once enrolled, the junior college students will be expected to participate actively in class, to submit continuous assessments and sit for examinations over one semester or a six-month period just like other NTU undergraduates. Upon successful completion, the junior college students will obtain credits for the subjects that they had sat for and official transcripts will be sent to their respective junior colleges.

Besides taking up NTU subjects in advance, students will also have opportunities to conduct research under the guidance of academic staff. Up to 20 projects will be offered to each junior college. The projects can be undertaken individually or as a team.

Says Prof Victor Choa, Dean of NTU’s Office of Admissions, “By entering into these tie-ups with the junior colleges, NTU hopes to play an active role in the promotion of academic and research excellence in Singapore youths by encouraging talented junior college students to challenge themselves by taking on first-year undergraduate studies and pursuing tertiary-level research with the professors at NTU.”

Sharing NTU expertise
Junior college teachers are not left out. They may also undertake research projects and are encouraged to pursue graduate programmes and participate in the forums, workshops, symposiums, seminars organized by NTU to enhance and update their knowledge.

In addition, NTU will assign faculty members to each of the four junior colleges to serve as academic and research advisors. NTU will also mobilize its students to serve as mentors to the junior college students.

NTU’s Chinese Division, School of Humanities and Social Sciences will work with TJC on research in Chinese Language and Culture, an area of mutual interest and strengths. This research is expected to benefit those students studying Chinese and Higher Chinese and those in the TJC Language Elective Programme.
NTU’s School of Biological Sciences and School of Computer Engineering will work with VJC in the areas of life sciences and computing. NTU will lend its expertise from the School of Biological Sciences, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and School of Material Engineering to RJC to help RJC design and equip four of its research laboratories (circuits & communications laboratory, energy laboratory, photonics laboratory and life sciences laboratory). NTU will also work with RJC in conducting research in these areas.

NTU’s School of Biological Sciences and School of Materials Engineering will work with NJC in life sciences research.

The tie-ups are expected to increase the interactions between the four junior colleges and NTU. Each year, some 300 junior college students already participate in NTU’s annual NTU-JC Challenge and the on-going Technology and Engineering Research Programme.

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