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SINGAPORE

NTU's admission offer letters go digital

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In what is believed to be a first for a Singapore university, students who are offered a place at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) this year will receive their university admission offer letters electronically, instead of in paper form.

PHOTOS



Nanyang Technological University

CAPTION

SINGAPORE: In what is believed to be a first for a Singapore university, students who are offered a place at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) this year will receive their university admission offer letters electronically, instead of in paper form.

NTU said unlike previous admissions exercises, where the university sent out about 15,000 offer letters in paper form, it will be entirely paperless this year.

Under a pilot phase, over 400 digitally-certified electronic offer letters have already been successfully sent to polytechnic students and thousands more will be sent to prospective students in the coming months.

The digital certification system was customised entirely in-house.

Professor Kam Chan Hin, NTU's Associate Provost (Undergraduate Education), said, "This new process is not only eco-friendly, but more importantly, allows our applicants to be informed of their admission outcome in a timely way. It also gives them the flexibility to respond almost immediately to our offer of admission.

"For example, many male applicants are serving their full time National Service, while other applicants may be travelling after their examinations. By sending out our offer letters electronically, this makes it convenient for them to find out about their admission outcome anytime, anywhere, and on any mobile device."

To view the admission offer letter, recipients will need to log onto the NTU admissions web portal and simply click to view the document.

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This year, applicants will need to indicate their acceptance -- also online -- by June 2.

Professor Tan Ooi Kiang, NTU's director of Admissions and Financial Aid, said, "The digitally-certified electronic letter is generated only once, so it does not affect the system when users view it through the Internet. Unlike paper mail, there's no risk of any misdirected letters in the post, or if the applicant changes his postal address.

"NTU is also able to closely track the retrieval and send reminders to students who have yet to view their offer letters. More importantly, the system enables NTU to maintain the information integrity of our electronic documents."

Alexis Ku Shi Ying, 19, who was offered a place in Mechanical Engineering, said, "I did not expect it, as it is something new to the Singaporean university offer formats."

Jiuliana Chia Yanting, 20, who will be pursuing Communication Studies at NTU's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, was also pleasantly surprised by NTU's move.

She said, "I check my email regularly while on the go too, so it is very convenient and easy for me. This way I can get wind of information way faster, than if it was sent via mail."

NTU first introduced paperless applications for admissions in 2003.

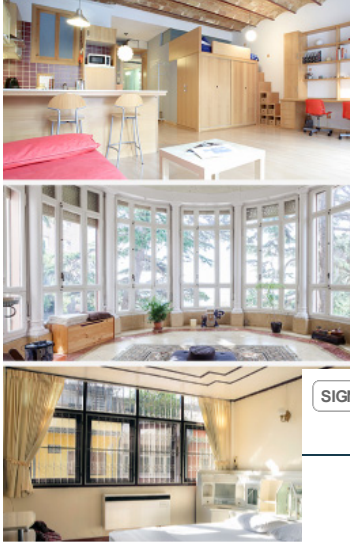
The university said the online paperless system brought great benefits to applicants and increased the efficiency of its Admissions Office.

Long queues to collect and submit application forms became a thing of the past.

Applicants can also apply anywhere, anytime and submit the application without being restricted to office hours.

With the new system at NTU, the entire process -- from application to acceptance of the university's offer of admission -- becomes completely paperless.

- CNA/nd



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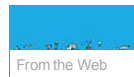
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