

13 new interdisciplinary offerings for NTU undergrads

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Students enrolling in Nanyang Technological University (NTU) this year can apply for a new Bachelor of Science degree in economics and data science.

This degree was one of 13 new offerings announced by the university yesterday, a move it said will expand students' options for inter-

disciplinary study.

Other new options for undergraduate students include a double degree in accountancy and data science and artificial intelligence.

There will also be 10 new double major combinations in the arts and humanities, and a second major in entrepreneurship for students in certain disciplines.

NTU deputy president and provost Ling San said the new options are in line with the university's re-

cently announced five-year strategic plan to transform learning.

"Through the new interdisciplinary combinations and degree programmes, students will enrich their disciplinary training, gain an appreciation of taking different perspectives and maintain intellectual and learning flexibility," he said.

"This is so that they will be better prepared to respond to the changes and challenges brought about by rapid technological

change and uncertainties in the post-Covid-19 world."

Those in the new economics and data science degree programme will study three subjects – economics, mathematics and data science.

Also incorporating data science is the new double degree in accountancy and data science and artificial intelligence – a 4½-year course which will see students graduate with two degrees.

Meanwhile, students at NTU's

School of Humanities can now apply to study any two subjects taught at the school as a double major, a move that has created 10 new double major combinations.

NTU said that unlike a second major, which supplements a single major, the double majors are two full majors taken in a single course of study. This requires students to take 10 per cent more academic credits than for a single major, while giving them the freedom to still read elective modules that pique their interest.

Finally, a new second major in entrepreneurship will be offered to students reading accountancy, business and engineering, as well

as those taking a double degree in accountancy and business.

NTU's announcement comes amid moves by other local universities to increase their interdisciplinary offerings.

In December, the National University of Singapore (NUS) launched its College of Humanities and Sciences, which will admit its first cohort this August.

Explaining the move then, NUS president Tan Eng Chye cited the current uncertain, complex and volatile environment, and said future graduates must be prepared to solve problems on multiple fronts.

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