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Yale-NUS

New college to have fewer international students

It plans to cut proportion in each cohort by half, to 20 per cent

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The new college formed from the merger of Yale-NUS and the NUS University Scholars Programme (USP) plans to cut the proportion of international students in each cohort by half to 20 per cent.

In a report seen by *The Straits Times*, a planning committee for the new institution – called NUS College – recommends admitting a total of 400 students for the first intake in August, of whom 80 will be international students.

That number will go up to 500 students a year, with one in five expected to be international students.

The report is dated this month and issued by a committee chaired by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) senior deputy president and provost, Professor Ho Teck Hua.

It recommends that NUS College admit international students from at least 30 countries this year, with an emphasis on students from the Asean region.

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The college – a ground-breaking tie-up between the Ivy League Yale University in the United States and NUS in 2011 – admits about 250 students a year, who

pursue a four-year residential liberal arts programme.

The recommendations in the report are the first set of concrete plans to emerge for NUS College after its creation was announced in August last year.

The 240 freshmen who enrolled in Yale-NUS' ninth intake last year are its final cohort of students and will graduate in 2025.

The report also maps out plans for all students to live on campus for at least the first two years of their studies, with financial aid provided to students who need it.

This is a change from the four-year residential programme that Yale-NUS now has in place.

It is unclear if the NUS College residential programme will extend beyond the first two years.

The *Straits Times* has contacted NUS and Yale-NUS for comment.

The report also details plans for faculty from both Yale-NUS and USP to transition to the NUS College. It said: "No affected member of the faculty will be worse off, and all existing contracts will be honoured."

It added that one-to-one meetings were held with faculty members to address their concerns.

There are four main routes for transition outlined in the report.

First, new Yale-NUS tenure-track assistant professors will be transferred to an NUS department on July 1.

Faculty members have been given courtesy appointments at NUS departments from Jan 1, and will hold joint appointments in NUS and Yale-NUS.

Faculty members will be offered a choice of two pay packages – one with their existing Yale-NUS benefits and start-up grants, and another with NUS benefits and an "enhanced" start-up grant.

Other Yale-NUS tenure-track and tenured faculty will transition to NUS progressively starting from the 2023 academic year.

Faculty on the Yale-NUS educator track with existing contracts are encouraged to apply for positions within NUS, and their applications will be coordinated by the Yale-NUS management.

Meanwhile, faculty members on the USP educator track will move to NUS College on July 1.

The planning committee was formed in September last year, and includes senior administration from NUS, Yale-NUS and USP, such as Yale-NUS president Tan Tai Yong.

Four students – comprising current and former presidents of the student government bodies from both Yale-NUS and USP – are also on the main committee.

Yesterday, NUS College dean Simon Chesterman, in a post on Facebook, gave details on who will make up the NUS College leadership team.

They are NUS associate provost (undergraduate education) Daniel Goh, NUS associate professor of philosophy Loy Hui Chieh, vice-dean for student life and global relations at NUS Law Eleanor Wong, and NUS associate professor of physics Quek Su Ying.

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