



Left: Ngee Ann Polytechnic nursing diploma graduate Muhammad Afiq Nabil Atiman, with his mother Sarena Shahari and father Atiman Tukejan. He is the first nursing graduate in his poly to get into the NUS medical school. The 21-year-old said he was admitted on his second try.
ST PHOTO: KELVIN CHNG

Below: Singapore Polytechnic's nutrition, health and wellness graduate Joanne Wong also won a place in the NUS medical school.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOANNE WONG

18 poly grads admitted to NUS medical school in new high

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A record number of polytechnic graduates – 18 – were admitted to the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine this year.

The school, which takes in about 300 students annually, admitted between six and seven poly graduates a year for the last three years.

It confirmed that this is the highest number of poly graduates it has taken in since it admitted the first two from Ngee Ann Polytechnic in 2007.

The school said the number has been increasing as more poly graduates with related diplomas, including in biomedical sciences and nursing, choose to study medicine.

Its dean, Professor Chong Yap Seng, said more poly students performed well in this year's admissions assessment, adding that they generally display a good grasp of practical skills and applied knowledge.

He added: "While academic grades are an important consideration... the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine's admissions process considers students' achievements beyond their academic grades, in areas such as community service, leadership, research and national service, as well as the right set of values, which will ultimately see them become competent and compassionate doctors in the future."

Shortlisted candidates undergo

an admissions assessment comprising a focused skills assessment and a situational judgment test.

For focused skills, they are assessed through a series of interviews. Applicants sit the situational judgment test online, where they are posed questions with scenarios and have to choose an appropriate course of action.

Asked about the greater diversity of students, including students from the School of the Arts (Sota) and Singapore Sports School, Prof Chong said the school welcomes students from all backgrounds.

He said: "The diversity of experiences, skills and insights... helps to enrich the learning process."

Recently, *The Straits Times* reported on Sota graduate Sonia Sheri, who followed in the footsteps of her brother Krish in landing a place in the NUS medical school this year.

Nanyang Technological University, which has a smaller intake of about 160 medical students a year, said it too has been tapping a more diverse pool of candidates who have shown the potential and passion for medicine.

This year, it took in two poly graduates and admitted a graduate from the Singapore Sports School.

Last year, it enrolled one graduate from the sports school and another from Sota. In 2014, 2016 and 2017, it enrolled one poly graduate each year.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic nursing diploma graduate Muhammad Afiq Nabil Atiman, who is the first nursing graduate in his poly to get into the NUS medical school, said



he was admitted on his second try this year.

Last year, NUS offered him a place in nursing.

The 21-year-old was inspired by the dedication and care that nurses and doctors showed to his family members when they were hospitalised.

He has a sister, Nur Aleeya, 10, and a brother, Muhammad Akid Anugerah, 17, who has cerebral palsy. Mr Afiq, who is currently in national service, has been helping to care for his brother.

During his poly studies, Mr Afiq had attachment stints at three hos-

pitals and his final-year research project was on the mental resilience of students and staff at the poly during the pandemic.

These left him wanting to delve further into the study of medicine.

"There's still so much more to learn, so I am so glad to be given the chance," said Mr Afiq, whose father is a senior technician and mother, a housewife.

"When I saw the offer (from NUS) online at 3am, I was in camp. I couldn't sleep... I waited to tell my parents."

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