

**Yale-National  
University of  
Singapore College**

**Opens:** 2013  
**Where:** Next to NUS University Town, north of the NUS Kent Ridge campus  
**Enrolment:** 150 in the first year, eventually rising to 250 per year  
**Full capacity:** 1,000  
**Fees:** To be announced early next year  
**How it sets itself apart:**  
■ Curriculum that draws on the traditions of Yale University and other liberal arts colleges, with an Asian context added.  
■ Besides majors in humanities, social science and science disciplines, Yale-NUS will offer interdisciplinary majors currently not offered in Singapore, such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics, modelled after the popular Oxford University programme of the same name; and Urban Studies.  
■ Students will live in one of three residential colleges for the duration of studies, unless they are on overseas internships or study programmes.  
■ Classes will be small, with up to 20 students each.  
■ Students must complete an internship and take part in at least one overseas programme, such as a summer exchange or community service project, during the four years.

**Lee Kong Chian  
School of  
Medicine**

**Opens:** 2013  
**Where:** Nanyang Technological University's Yunnan Garden campus and upcoming Novena campus  
**Enrolment:** 50 in the first year, then 150 per year  
**Full capacity:** To be confirmed  
**Fees:** To be confirmed  
**How it sets itself apart:**  
■ It is a collaboration with the renowned Imperial College London.  
■ This is the first time Imperial is developing and delivering a course overseas.  
■ The new medical school will award a joint degree from NTU and Imperial.  
■ The curriculum aims to put service back into medicine, producing doctors patients want to be treated by.  
■ Students will be chosen from diverse backgrounds, including polytechnic graduates.  
■ The school is looking for students who not only have excellent academic qualifications, but also demonstrate qualities essential in a good doctor, such as excellent communication and teamwork skills.  
■ The curriculum of the five-year undergraduate medical degree programme will be adapted from Imperial's undergraduate medical curriculum.  
**LEOW SI WAN**



Ms Liza Ng gave up an offer at Brown University in the US to study at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. She said she was drawn by the school's broad-based and MIT-styled education. ST PHOTO: ASHLEIGH SIM

# Spoilt FOR choice

Students can take their pick of universities with the opening of several schools offering different curriculums and teaching methods

**BY AMELIA TAN  
& LIN ZHAOWEI**

STUDENT Liza Ng, 20, had a hard time earlier this year deciding which university to choose. The Hwa Chong Institution student had been accepted at Brown University in the US, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) to study engineering. After weighing tuition fees and education quality at the schools, she chose SUTD, which opens next year and focuses specifically

on engineering and design. Like Ms Ng, junior college and polytechnic students will have a wealth of choices for university education in Singapore because of the opening of several higher education institutions. Last year, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), which provides industry-focused degree programmes primarily for poly graduates, started operations. In 2013, the Yale-NUS College and the Nanyang Technological University's (NTU's) Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine will start classes. These new offerings will create

2,000 more university places for citizens by 2015. Students will also be able to choose what they want out of a university education. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in 2006 that Singapore needed to build a "mountain range of excellence" so students can specialise and explore their interests and strengths. Since then, efforts have been made in that direction, like the setting up of the School of the Arts. The new schools said they will deliver exciting new educational experiences with cutting-edge curriculum as well as teaching and learning methods not found in the current three public universities - namely NUS, NTU and the Singapore Management University. They promise to produce creative graduates, able to think independently and with the spirit of entrepreneurship. They believe these qualities are essential for the progress of a knowledge-based economy like Singapore's. SUTD's goal is to produce "technically grounded leaders" who can excel in engineering and architecture but are also equally well-prepared for jobs in business, financial institutions and consultancies because of their broad-based education. They will be exposed to humanities subjects and interactive learning, in which they work in small groups and take part in class discussions. For the first 1 1/2 years, students will take the same classes in subjects like physics and design before choosing a major. The Yale-NUS liberal arts col-

**Singapore University of  
Technology and Design**

**Opens:** Next April  
**Where:** Classes will be held at an interim campus in Dover but a permanent home in Changi will be ready in 2014.  
**Enrolment:** The first batch will have up to 500 students. But after the permanent campus opens, the university will have about 4,000 undergraduate and 2,000 postgraduate students.  
**Fees:** Singaporeans pay \$44,000 for an eight-semester bachelor of engineering course over 3 1/2 years and will have four majors to choose from; \$55,000 for a 10-semester master's of architecture course, with a major in architecture and sustainable design, over 4 1/2 years.  
**How it sets itself apart:**  
■ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is helping SUTD build its curriculum from scratch. This is MIT's largest collaboration in the world.  
■ The top 5 per cent of the students in each cohort will spend a semester taking classes at MIT. Others will get to go to MIT through competitions and research projects. Another 20 per cent of the students will go to Zhejiang University for lessons and internships.  
■ A broad-based education where a quarter of the course work will be in humanities subjects such as history and economics.  
■ A first-of-its-kind design course which teaches students how to create, build and evaluate architectural and engineering designs. Exposure to design is currently limited in university engineering courses.  
■ To foster camaraderie, students will be split into classes of 50 and will attend all lessons for the first 1 1/2 years with that same class.  
■ Lessons will be held in large classrooms - each the size of two five-room HDB flats - where students can work in small groups. There will be a 1:11 lecturer to student ratio for classes.

lege will also provide a broad-based education modelled after Yale University in the US. Students will be exposed to courses in humanities and the sciences in their first two years, before they specialise in a chosen area in the final two years. Executive vice-president of academic affairs Lily Kong said about 60 per cent of the courses taken by Yale-NUS undergraduates would be outside their chosen major, compared with about 20 per cent for NUS undergraduates. As for the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, it hopes to help students understand the importance of patient-centric approaches. To further set itself apart, it will also make "extensive use of simulation and e-learning" so students can gain confidence and competence, said senior vice-dean Martyn Partridge. SIT, which started by taking in 500 students last year, prides itself on its strong partnership with overseas partners like the Culinary Institute of America. For its second academic year, student intake has doubled to 1,000 and seven programmes have been added. The institutions' new brand of education has gained traction with students. Ms Ng, who scored straight As in the A levels and hopes to work as a Web developer or software engineer, said she was drawn by SUTD's broad-based and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)-styled education. "We always think of high-tech solutions to solve problems. But by using simple materials and some human ingenuity, we can create solutions that can make a difference in people's lives. I think SUTD can prepare me to do this," said the daughter of two doctors. For JC 1 student Sarah Toh, 17, at Hwa Chong Institution, the Yale-NUS College is an attractive proposition because it will allow her to explore different academic fields in the first two years. Experts welcomed the opening of the institutions.

JC 1 student Sarah Toh is interested in applying to the Yale-NUS College, which opens in 2013. ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

