SIT exceeds intake goals for its degree programmes

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SINGAPORE – With less than a month to go before applications close on March 16, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) has attracted nearly 500 applicants for its own new degree programmes — exceeding intake targets.

By April, the nation’s fifth autonomous university will be admitting students in sustainable infrastructure engineering, information and communications technology and accounting — courses offered for the first time under the SIT degree scroll.

Next year, SIT — which started in 2008 offering undergraduate degrees in collaboration with overseas universities — will launch new programmes in hospitality, food science and technology as well as pharmaceutical engineering.

An SIT spokesperson said the university had received about 280 applications for its accountancy course, 120 for information and communications technology (ICT) and 75 for sustainable infrastructure engineering.

Most of the applicants are polytechnic graduates and all shortlisted students will be interviewed.

Except for the engineering course, which has 75 vacancies, applications for the other two programmes far exceeded the number of places offered — accountancy has only 75 slots, while information and communications technology has 50.

SIT and SIM University (UniSIM) were, in 2012, named Singapore’s fifth and sixth universities as part of the Government’s efforts to offer 40 per cent of each school cohort — up from the current 27 per cent — a chance of receiving a university education by 2020.

Both institutions will introduce applied learning to the tertiary-education landscape, where students will integrate work and studies during their undergraduate course.

This week, Parliament passed a Bill designating SIT as an autonomous university, allowing it to confer its own degrees. SIT currently has 10 overseas universities as partners.

Students applying to SIT told TODAY they are attracted by the courses’ strong work component, which will allow them to gain practical experience before entering the workforce. Getting a professional certificate along with their university degree is also a plus, they said.

Nanyang Polytechnic student Lim Hui Ying, who is doing a course in manufacturing engineering, is applying for SIT’s sustainable infrastructure engineering programme, as it matches her interest in mechanical and civil engineering.

After an attachment at Rolls-Royce in Singapore, the 20-year-old was convinced a work-study arrangement would help her better understand theoretical concepts.

“My first priority is for a course with an integrated work experience as it will put me at an advantage after graduation,” said Ms Lim.

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