



Mr Lim is fascinated by the range and scope of the modules he has encountered. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG

Support for bright students

Yale-NUS College students can apply for the college's various scholarship schemes in a wide range of majors

APRIL CHONG

EVERY applicant to the Yale-NUS College is automatically considered for its various scholarship schemes.

And that was certainly a plus point for 21-year-old Shaun Lim.

Currently in his second year at Yale-NUS, Mr Lim's tuition fees are fully supported under the Sharon-Ann Eravelly Scholarship, which does not come with any bond commitments.

As with all students who go through Yale-NUS' programmes, he takes a common curriculum for the first two years which encompasses modules on the natural world, human psyche and social life, literature, arts and history, philosophy and mathematics.

He will start on his major only in his third year, from a selection of 14 majors that spans the natural and

Cast a wide net when you apply for scholarships and don't ever be too fearful of applying.

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MR SHAUN LIM
undergraduate, Yale-NUS College

social sciences, humanities and the arts.

For now, the International Baccalaureate Diploma holder has set his sights on specialising in life sciences, physical sciences or anthropology.

The curriculum was initially what attracted him to the college.

He says: "As a person with a passion for biology and music, I needed an avenue to explore these interests, and Yale-NUS certainly provided it."

"More importantly, the curriculum also encourages one to think and write critically in a variety of subject areas — salient skills required in today's world."

The scholarship helped him reduce the cost of his degree education considerably compared to the other offers he received.

"This enables me to focus on my studies and other interests without having to worry about education being a monetary burden."

As part of the inaugural cohort, he will be playing a part in building the four-year-old college's legacy.

"As a young and rising college, everything from its curriculum to its campus space is new. Yale-NUS is indeed the embodiment of tabula rasa (blank slate)."

"Everything that we create will eventually define Yale-NUS for years to come, and I am thrilled to be a part of it," he says.

He adds that on top of the curriculum content, the college's Student Associate Programme provides for a range of on-campus job opportunities.

He has been conducting scientific research — on ageing mechanisms in nematode worms — under the guidance of a professor for the past eight months. Through this, he has gained valuable laboratory skill sets and piqued his interests in biological research.

Well-rounded curriculum

Yale-NUS also offers opportunities for overseas study stints and internships.

Mr Lim is fascinated by the range and scope of the modules that he has encountered, having sampled "Kafka, Aristotle and Durkheim", all of which do not seem directly related to his fields of interest.

"I initially matriculated believing that I would focus on the life sciences, my planned and intended major."

"The curriculum has put those plans on hold as I began to develop new interests in Buddhist philosophy and literature."

The diverse student background also kindled a culture of learning outside the classroom.

Staying at one of the three Yale-NUS Residential Colleges, Mr Lim is constantly surrounded by highly motivated peers who are always brimming with ideas and willing to share their thoughts with each other.

He is confident that the curriculum at Yale-NUS will prepare him well for the future.

"A liberal arts education at Yale-NUS strengthens the skills required in numerous careers, such as writing, critical thinking and analytical reading."

"As I am currently considering academia, scientific journalism or research in the pharmaceutical industry as possible career options, these qualities are particularly indispensable."

For potential students looking for a course of study and scholarships, he advises: "Cast a wide net when you apply for scholarships and don't ever be too fearful of applying."