

From ITE to NUS medicine

Mr Nicholas Chan, 23, is the first Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduate to make it to the National University of Singapore's Yong



Loo Lin School of Medicine, which had about 280 places for some 2,000

applicants this year.

Far from being a straight-A student, he had quit secondary school, taken the O levels as a private candidate, then trained as a nursing student in ITE, and then Nanyang Polytechnic.

Mr Chan had submitted his A-level results to NUS through its Exceptional Individual Scheme to support his nursing diploma, along with lecturers' testimonials, and hoped for the best.

The scheme lets the university use its discretion and look beyond just academic results in admitting a small number of students.