

New NUS degree path for working adults

Job experience will count for more when they apply for full-time undergrad degree courses

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Work experience will soon count for more in admission to the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The university is starting a new entry path this year to allow working adults to enter full-time undergraduate degree programmes, using their job experience and work referrals instead of relying solely on past education qualifications.

Adults who do not have a university degree can apply for full-time degrees in business, engineering and arts and social sciences through this scheme, known as Advance@NUS.

NUS expects to admit up to 100

working adults in this first cycle, which is open for applications from today until the end of the month.

Previously, working adults typically take up part-time degrees and their academic grades would be the main consideration.

The new admission route follows a similar initiative last year by polytechnics to open up full-time diploma courses to adults and lend more weight to their work experience, even if they did not meet the academic cut-off.

Education Minister Ong Ye Kung said at the time that there is “no rush for those who are interested in further studies” and that academic grades attained years earlier “do not fully reflect the current eligibility of applicants”.



Adult learners at the National University of Singapore's School of Continuing and Lifelong Education last year. The university's new Advance@NUS scheme starts this year. PHOTO: NUS SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND LIFELONG EDUCATION

Similarly, an NUS spokesman said its new route aims to encourage adults to improve their career

prospects by pursuing further studies and deepening their knowledge. Students will take classes along-

side other undergraduates and will also receive the Ministry of Education's tuition grant subsidy.

Applicants should be at least 25 years old at the time of admission – July 1 – of the year of application, and have a minimum of four years of full-time work experience.

Professor Susanna Leong, NUS vice-provost (master's programmes and lifelong education) and dean of NUS' School of Continuing and Lifelong Education, said the initiative aims to encourage working adults to complement their practical work experience with academic rigour.

“We envisage a positive multiplier effect from Advance@NUS – adult learners can fulfil their personal aspirations of getting a degree, and the younger undergraduates will have much to gain from our adult learners' rich industry experience, maturity and motivation,” she said.

Under the new scheme, applicants will need to provide information about their current and past jobs, their work responsibilities and achievements.

They will also need to provide two referees, including at least one supervisor, who can give information that will help to determine how suitable applicants are for the courses they choose.

Applicants will also be asked to write a personal statement and include their educational qualifications. Some degree programmes may have specific academic requirements like proficiency in mathematics or good writing skills.

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• Those who are interested can visit <https://scale.nus.edu.sg/programmes/undergraduate-programmes/AdvanceNUS> for more information.