

10 IB and IP students admitted to NUS nursing in last 3 years

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Over the past three years, 10 students from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme and Integrated Programme (IP) were admitted to the National University of Singapore's (NUS) nursing degree programme.

Another five students from both courses were admitted to the nursing diploma programmes at Nanyang and Ngee Ann polytechnics.

Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Health Rahayu Mahzam said in Parliament on Wednesday that most students had entered the two polytechnics after completing Year 4 of their studies.

"Our institutes of higher learning will assess all applicants for nursing courses holistically, taking into account both academic performance and course fit," she added.

This comes as Singapore is looking to grow its nursing workforce as it grapples with an ageing population. It is hoping to find enough foreign nurses to supplement local ones to care for the elderly.

Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said in October 2022 that nurses, allied health professionals and support care staff were needed to operate hospitals, clinics and eldercare centres. This will require the number of healthcare staff to increase from 58,000 currently to 82,000 by 2030.

IB and IP students who are keen on a nursing career are encouraged to apply for a polytechnic nursing diploma course on the basis of their Year 4 grades, or the NUS nursing degree programme on the basis of their Year 6 grades, said Ms Rahayu.

She was responding to a question posed by Mr Yip Hon Weng (Yio Chu Kang) on the number of students from both the IB and IP tracks who were admitted to nursing programmes at the local institutes of higher learning.

A Ministry of Health spokesman said nursing continues to be a popular career choice among young people, and intake at institutes of higher learning (IHLs) has grown over time.

"Currently, about 2,100 students enrol in nursing courses in our IHLs each year, equivalent to about one in 25 IHL students opting for nursing courses," he added.

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