

Yale-NUS College to start accepting applications next year

By **TEH SHI NING**

SINGAPORE'S first liberal arts college, the Yale-NUS College, will start taking in applications next year for its first batch of 150 places in 2013.

Announcing details yesterday, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Yale University said that the college has also started its global search for a president, who shall be assisted by a team of vice-presidents and deans.

Students will graduate from the four-year liberal arts programme with a Bachelor of Arts or Science (Honours) from the Yale-NUS College, awarded by NUS alone.

The new college, to be located north of NUS' main Kent Ridge campus and next to the upcoming University Town, will take on Yale's residential college model. The plan is to grow each incoming class from the initial intake of 150 students to 250 students a year. The eventual total enrolment of 1,000 will be housed in three residential colleges on campus, to intentionally integrate living and learning, NUS and Yale said.

NUS president Tan Chorh Chuan said that the college brings together the two universities' strengths to "create an enriching liberal arts educational experience that is both global and Asian".

Its curriculum will "synthesise Western and Asian

perspectives" to devote two years of study to general education before students concentrate on a major.

Students will be able to choose from 12 to 15 majors, likely to include biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, economics, psychology, political science, history, literature and philosophy, and a number of "innovative cross-disciplinary majors".

Leading the recruitment drive for an entirely new faculty is Yale professor Charles Bailyn, the new college's first dean of faculty. But selected Yale and NUS lecturers will help develop the curriculum and take part in teaching programmes.

Seminar-style teaching, in classes of no more than 18 students, will emphasise "critical thinking and classroom interaction".

For Yale, the college is its first campus outside New Haven, Connecticut, in the US. Yale president Richard C Levin said he believes that the Yale-NUS College "can play a pivotal role in shaping the many liberal arts colleges likely to be built in Asia in the coming decades".

Looking at its impact on Singapore's education landscape, Education Minister Ng Eng Hen called the college a "strategic addition" that offers "another distinctive educational experience for top students with its model of liberal arts education that is contextualised to Singapore and Asia".