

## 本地首个博雅学院

# 耶鲁—国大学院 将在2013年设立

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几经波折，新加坡国立大学和美国耶鲁大学探讨联合开办的博雅学院终于有了定案，两所大学联合宣布将在2013年设立耶鲁—新加坡国大学院（Yale-NUS College），并将在近期内在我国正式签署合作协议。

这是本地首个博雅学

院，也是亚洲首个综合了学习与寄宿的博雅学院，更是耶鲁首次在美国以外设立它的学院。在2013年开课，第一批收生150人，到了稳定阶段，将每年收生250人，学生总数1000人，教员人数约100人。

获录取的学生将进行四年的本科教育，前两年上综合人文、社会科学、自然科学和数学等跨学科

的通识教育，最后两年主修经济、历史、心理学、生物、物理等文学和科学科目。学生毕业后将获得国大颁发的文学士或理学士学位荣誉学位文凭。

两校联合文告指出，博雅学院的教学将注重批判性思考和学生交流，大部分的课将是小班制，每班不超过18人。学生将有机会参加交换计划、研究实习、工业实习和特别

领袖计划等。

国大校长陈祝全教授说，国大过去十年一直努力扩展它所提供的教育，给学生制造更多机会，如参加海外交流计划和国大博学计划等，因为国大相信，未来的毕业生需要更宽广的基础才能在国际上有竞争力。

他指出：“这项跟耶鲁的历史性合作，将提供学生另一种优质教育的选

择，特别是那些希望有宽广基础、严谨学术要求，又有深入思考课题能力，还有综合寄宿体验的教育的学生。”

耶鲁大学校长莱文（Richard Levin）前天接受越洋电话访问时说，博雅学院将进行亚洲非传统的教学，鼓励学生独立思考、创新，并通过小组学习鼓励他们发言，而不是死记硬背。他相信，这



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对亚洲是有价值的，耶鲁也能从该学院的创新课程中学习，并把部分知识带回耶鲁。

### 不是全盘移植 而是融入亚洲特色

陈祝全教授受访时也说，令国大兴奋的是，莱文提出的不是把耶鲁的博雅教育模式全盘移植到亚洲，而是跟国大合作，设计一个融入亚洲特色的新教育模式。

新学院将毗邻国大大学城，有住宿和教学设

这也是亚洲首个综合了学习与寄宿的博雅学院，更是耶鲁首次在美国以外设立它的学院。在2013年开课，第一批收生150人，到了稳定阶段，将每年收生250人，学生总数1000人，教员人数约100人。

施，包括三座可各容纳330人的寄宿学院，学生的四年学习将在这里寄宿。新校舍将在2014年竣工，在这之前，学生将利用现有国大设施上课。

2008年，我国“扩充大学教育研究委员会”建议设立一所博雅学院，国大也提交有关设立博雅学院的报告。它从2009年起接触耶鲁讨论博雅教育。去年9月，教育部长黄永宏访问耶鲁时，见证两校校长签署谅解备忘录，进一步探讨合作的可能性。国大原本表示今年初可以公布合作详情，不过当时媒体报道，两所大学因为某些课题无法达成共识。

至于这项计划的投资总额，陈教授只愿意说，投资额将足以跟美国其他类似学院竞争，而所有投

资金额将来自新加坡方。已有报道指出，博雅学院的学费将比一般大学本科课程高。对此，陈教授说，校方将给予优秀和有经济困难的学生奖学金，经济有困难的学生也将获得更多援助。

对于有学生和家长担心博雅教育的范围过于广泛，陈教授说，越来越多学生、家长和雇主已经意识到，专修某个科目不是职业晋升的唯一途径，有较宽广的教育基础，在工作上处理复杂的问题、还有日后转换工作都有帮助。他指出，该学院学生将有工业实习机会，同时也会进一步向家长及学生宣传博雅学院的教学理念。

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### **First local liberal college by Yale and NUS to start in 2013**

*This will be the first liberal arts college in Singapore and also the first in Asia where living and learning will be integrated. It will also be the first such college Yale has established outside the United States. Scheduled to be opened in 2013, the college will accept its inaugural batch of 150 students and grow to reach a steady state of 250 new students each year. The school will eventually have a student population of 1,000 and around 100 faculty.*

The plan by the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Yale University to jointly establish a liberal arts college is finally a done deal. Both universities announced the establishment of the Yale-NUS College in 2013 and an agreement will be signed in Singapore in the near future.

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The students will undergo four years of undergraduate study. Students will undergo a cross-disciplinary liberal arts program that integrates the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics in the first two years. They will then go on to concentrate on a major in arts or science subjects such as economics, history, psychology, biology and physics in the remaining two years. Students will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) awarded by NUS.

In a joint statement, the two universities said that the pedagogy of the liberal arts college will focus on critical thinking and classroom interaction. Most of the courses will be conducted in small-classroom settings with no more than 18 students. Students will have the opportunity to participate in exchange programs, research attachments, internship programs and special leadership programs.

NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan said that NUS has been making efforts over the past ten years to expand the University's scope of education to create more opportunities for students. This includes overseas exchange programmes and the University Scholars Programme. This is because NUS believes that future graduates

need to have a foundation that spans a breadth of disciplines in order to compete on a global scale.

Professor Tan said, "This historic cooperation with Yale University will provide students with another alternative for a high quality education, especially for students who hope to acquire a broader knowledge base, have stringent academic demands, possess the ability for critical inquiry and hope to combine this with a residential college experience."

Yale University Professor President Richard Levin said in a telephone interview that the liberal arts college will adopt a teaching approach that is different from traditional Asian models. It will encourage students to think independently, be creative and articulate their views in small classroom settings, rather than focusing on rote learning. He believes that this can create value for Asia. Yale University can also learn from the innovative programmes at the school and bring back part of that experience to its campus in the United States.

### **Model not an "import" from the United States; to integrate Asian characteristics**

Prof Tan said that NUS is excited that the concept proposed by Prof Levin is not a complete "import" of the U.S. model for establishing a liberal arts college, but a collaboration with NUS to design a new education model that integrates Asian characteristics.

The new school will be sited next to the NUS University Town (UTown) and will comprise residential and teaching facilities. It includes three residential colleges that can each accommodate 330 students. The students will stay on campus throughout their entire candidature of four years. The construction of the new residences will be completed in 2014. Before the completion of the campus, students will attend classes at the existing NUS facilities.

The Committee on the Expansion of the University Sector recommended the establishment of a liberal arts college in 2008 and NUS submitted a report on the setting up of a liberal arts college. NUS contacted Yale to discuss a liberal arts education in 2009. In September last year, Education Minister Ng Eng Hen witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NUS and Yale University to work towards a collaboration to establish a liberal arts college during a visit to the United States. NUS had initially said that details on the cooperation would be announced early this year. However, subsequent media reports stated that both universities were unable to come to an agreement on certain issues.

On the amount of investment involved, Prof Tan said that it would be sufficient to allow the college to be competitive against similar colleges in the United States. The college will be funded by the Singapore government.

Some reports have pointed out that the fees charged by the liberal arts college will be higher than undergraduate programs offered by regular universities. Prof Tan said that NUS will provide scholarships to outstanding students with financial difficulties. Students with financial problems will be able to receive more assistance.

As for concerns that a liberal arts education is too broad-based, Prof Tan said that more students, parents and employers have already realised that focusing on a particular specialisation is not the only way to advance one's career. Having a foundation that spans a breadth of disciplines can help one handle complex issues at work and move easily to a different industry. He pointed out that the students of the new college will have internship opportunities. The College will also continue to raise awareness of the concept of a liberal arts education among parents and students.