

# 1,800 apply in Yale-NUS second round

## Sixty-five offered places at liberal arts college and have until May to accept

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THE Yale-National University of Singapore liberal arts college has drawn 1,800 applications in its second admissions exercise, even as it has to fend off continuing concerns over academic and personal freedom.

The applications received in the exercise, which ended last

month, exceed the 800 in the first exercise, which closed in May.

Of the 1,800 applicants in the second exercise, 65 have been offered places and have until May next year to accept.

In the first exercise, 96 of the 800 applicants were offered places and 60 took them up.

Yale-NUS officials declined to say how many of the 65 successful applicants in the second round are

Singaporeans but noted that the majority in the inaugural batch of 150 students will be Singaporeans.

They will start classes in August next year.

The tie-up between NUS and Yale has drawn flak from some quarters in the United States.

In April, Yale faculty successfully pressed for a resolution for civil rights and political freedom to be protected at the college.

Earlier this month, an organisation representing dons in the US – the American Association of University Professors – issued an open letter expressing concern

about academic and personal freedom at the college.

In response, Yale-NUS president Pericles Lewis said “academic freedom will be a bedrock principle” of the college.

He also said it is drafting personnel practices that protect academic freedom and promote non-discrimination.

It is also finalising a set of principles to guide student activities.

But it has said that students can create or join groups on campus that represent different political ideologies, as long as these groups are not linked to current

political parties in Singapore.

Students can join any political parties or affiliated youth wings, as long as they are off-campus.

Commenting on the record number of applications in the second round, Mr Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of admissions at Yale-NUS, said many came from top students here and worldwide.

The college, which launched its third admissions exercise earlier this month, said A-level students can apply for early admission using preliminary-exam results. Those who want to apply after getting their A-level results in March

can do so till April next year.

Professor Lewis said the college is, in particular, looking for young people with “leadership potential, an appetite to become critical thinkers and the motivation to make the best use of the college’s extraordinary resources”.

In the first two years, the students will take general education courses bringing together Western and Asian perspectives before going on to focus on a major.

By 2015, the college will have 1,000 students and 100 faculty members.

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