Yale-NUS College to kick off with 157 students

S’poreans make up 60%; 11,400 applications sent in

By LYNN KAN

WHEN term begins in August, the inaugural class at Singapore’s first liberal arts college will have 157 students from 26 countries, seven more than originally planned.

There were more than 11,400 applications from 130 countries, the college said yesterday.

The overall yield rate – referring to the percentage of students who chose to enrol after having been offered admission – is 52 per cent, similar to liberal arts colleges around the world.

The college plans to grow its class size to 250 students over the next few years on the back of immense interest and the high calibre of applicants.

Singaporeans make up six in 10 of the first class at Yale-Nus.

Among the remainder, 32 come from Asia, Australia and New Zealand, 13 from the United States, 11 are from Europe, the United Kingdom, Africa or South America, and four are Canadians.

Some 63 Singaporeans will start at Yale-NUS two years later after they complete their national service.

All students were selected through a holistic approach combining examination grades, interviews, recommendations, essays and extracurricular accomplishments.

Yale-NUS’ Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Kristin Greene noted that students who had the opportunity to enrol in Ivy League universities and other top universities in the US and UK picked Yale-NUS instead.

“They’ve chosen to blaze their own trail and be part of shaping a setting of academic excellence and innovative community for generations of students to come,” said Ms Greene.

Fifty faculty members designed the Yale-NUS Common Curriculum along with the Majors, which span the arts and sciences, and innovative elective courses.