

Singapore

STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description:

Post-secondary education is provided by three kinds of institutions: universities, polytechnics, and the ITE. There are three publicly-funded universities: National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University. There are five polytechnics: Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic.

Stages of studies:

University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree

Admission to first degree courses is on the basis of Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level, Polytechnic results or other examinations of equivalent standing. Bachelor's (Pass or Pass with Merit or Honours) degrees are normally obtained after 3 to 5 years, depending on the subject. Bachelor's degrees in Dentistry, Law, Engineering, Building, Real Estate, Architecture and Music require four years, while Medicine requires five.

University level second stage: Master's Degree

The Master's degree is obtained after one to three years of postgraduate study. Candidates for a Master's by research must hold a good Honours degree and submit a thesis. The minimum entry qualification for a Master's by course work and dissertation is a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, although requirements vary from course to course.

University level third stage: Doctor's Degree

The Doctor's degree is awarded after a minimum of two further years following upon a Master's degree. Candidates are required to submit a thesis. The Doctorate in Business requires a combination of course work and dissertation. The Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Science are conferred on the basis of published work.

ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies:

Name of secondary school credential required: Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

Minimum score/requirement: Passes in English, Mathematics and relevant subjects

For entry to: Polytechnics

Admission to university-level studies:

Name of secondary school credential required: Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education Advanced Level

Minimum score/requirement: Passes in at least two Advanced Level subjects and an attempt at General paper in one sitting.

For entry to: Universities and Polytechnics

Alternatives to credentials: Relevant Polytechnic Diploma or any other equivalent qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate.

Foreign students admission:

Admission requirements: To enter the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University, students must have good passes in the Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level examinations or other examinations deemed suitable by the universities for admission into undergraduate programmes. Some students may be required to take an entrance examination. To enter the Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic

Polytechnic, students must hold the Singapore-Cambridge GCE O-Level or equivalent with passes in English, Mathematics and relevant subjects.

Entry regulations: Foreign students need to obtain Student Passes from the Immigration Checkpoints Authority (ICA), 10 Kallang Road, Singapore 208 718 (<http://www.ica.gov.sg>).

Language requirements: Students must have a good knowledge of English.

RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Quality assurance system:

From 2004, all applications for registration of private schools are carried out online through the Online Business Licensing Service.

Singapore does not have a central authority that accords recognition to qualifications and courses of study.

NATIONAL BODIES

Ministry of Education

Minister: Ng Eng Hen

1 North Buona Vista Drive

Singapore 138675

Tel: +65 6872 2220

Fax: +65 6775 5826

E-Mail: contact@moe.edu.sg

WWW: <http://www.moe.gov.sg>

National Research Foundation - NRF

100 High Street

#03-02 The Treasury

Singapore 179434

Tel: +65 6332 9010

Fax: +65 6332 9011

E-Mail: nrf_contact@nrf.gov.sg

WWW: <http://www.nrf.gov.sg/>

Role of national body: Department under the Prime Minister's Office responsible for providing Secretariat support to the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC), chaired by the Prime Minister; coordinating the research of different agencies within the larger national framework in order to provide a coherent strategic overview and direction; developing policies and plans to implement the five strategic thrusts for the national R&D agenda; implementing national research, innovation and enterprise strategies approved by the RIEC, and to allocate funding to programmes that meet the NRF strategic objectives.

Association of Pacific Rim Universities - APRU

President, Steering Committee: Yuichiro Anzai

Secretary General: Kenneth J. McGillivray

c/o National University of Singapore

University Hall

Lee Kong Chian Wing, Level 3

21 Lower Kent Ridge Road

Singapore 119077

Tel: +65 6516 3140

Fax: +65 6778 2285

E-Mail: apru@apru.org

WWW: <http://www.apru.org/>

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Source: Singapore Ministry of Education, 2005 (Bodies, 2008)