

Bachelor-master's in IT study award offered

BY LIAW WY-CIN

HIGH-FLIERS interested in IT careers can now apply for the most prestigious scholarship yet offered by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) — a joint bachelor's and master's programme in Singapore and the United States.

Students awarded the new scholarship in IT education, valued at about \$200,000 each, will spend two years at Singapore Management University (SMU), followed by another two years at the renowned Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in Pittsburgh.

The agreement between the two universities was signed on Thursday at SMU's city campus in Bras Basah.

Students will spend the first two years here undergoing SMU's business-oriented IT programmes, then head to Carnegie Mellon in their third year to complete the bachelor's degree.

Their fourth year will be spent working on a master's degree there, which takes 12 to 16 months.

The scholarship will cover costs including full tuition fees, allowances and living expenses. Graduates will be bonded to a Singapore-based infocomm firm for four years after graduation.

Applications close on April 7. Professor Steven Miller, dean of SMU's school of information systems, told The Straits Times it is expecting to take in between five and eight students for the scholarship, which begins in August.

This programme comes under the IDA's National Infocomm Scholarship and is the first of around 100 new scholarships IDA plans to roll out, at a cost of \$30 million, to meet infocomm manpower needs in Singapore.

For a start, about 40 students are expected to benefit from the SMU-CMU scheme over the next five years, said IDA's chief executive Chan Yeng Kit.