

## SMU-Carnegie in tie-up to offer Master's

THE best and brightest young minds are being encouraged to pursue a high-flying career in the infocomm industry, with a new fast-track programme offered in a tie-up between Singapore Management University (SMU) and America's Carnegie Mellon University.

The unique programme, believed to be the first for any institution outside the United States, will culminate in a Master's degree in four years instead of the usual five.

SMU and Carnegie Mellon will also be collaborating in other areas like student exchange programmes and pedagogy development.

Outstanding polytechnic and junior college students will be eligible to apply for the four-year programme, which will see them spending equal amounts of time in each university.

Their course of study will be an unusual mix of IT, business and liberal arts to give them both a Bachelor of Science from SMU and a Master's degree from Carnegie Mellon.

Students can choose from any of the

seven areas of specialisation for the Master's degree, including information systems management, information networking and information security.

The two universities will also help obtain and coordinate internships for the students.

Singapore's Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) has set aside \$12 million worth of scholarship funding over the next five years to attract students. It will provide for 40 scholarships, paying the full expenses of the programme.

Said IDA CEO Chan Yeng Kit: "Talent will drive the industry. So, if the demand is high, and the quality of students is good, we will be very happy to increase the funding and expand this programme."

The first batch of students under this special programme will be graduating in 2010. They can look forward to employment with one of the 14 companies which are sponsoring their scholarships.

These include big international names like Microsoft, Intel and Oracle, and major local companies like DBS and SingTel.

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