Hot response to SMU’s admissions exercise; 5800 students vie for 800 places

5800 students vie for 800 available openings at the Singapore Management University (SMU), which is more than seven times over-subscribed.

The number of applicants has risen every year, with an increase of 18 per cent for this year’s admissions exercise. There were 800 openings for SMU’s four schools – Business (450), Accountancy (150), Economics and Social Sciences (100) and Information Systems (100).

Especially impressive about this year’s applicants was the marked improvement in quality of scores, especially at the top-level:

- There is a 41% increase in the percentage of students with A-level results of three ‘A’s and higher
- 50% increase in the percentage of Poly students who are Merit Holders
- 67% increase in the percentage of students with SAT score of above 1350

SMU Provost, Professor Tan Chin Tiong was very pleased with the response of the admissions exercise. He said, “Since our inception, SMU has made significant inroads in establishing ourselves in the education scene. In the past year alone, we have introduced a new school, sealed collaborations with world-class institutions, such as Carnegie Mellon University, to jointly develop teaching programmes, and have attracted world-renowned academics to lead our various schools. Our students have also done well, excelling in global competitions and internship stints. The large number of applications is indicative of the recognition that we are receiving from the business and academic world, and most importantly, the student community.”
Professor Tan added, SMU adopts a very stringent procedure in its selection of applicants. Besides the students’ A-level or diploma results, strong extra-curricular activities track record, the University also assesses the students’ academic abilities, leadership and interpersonal skills through personal interviews and essay writings, but more importantly, their spirit of innovation and courage, and daring to be different.

SMU’s new academic year will begin with an opening convocation on 16 August 2003.

SMU was incorporated in January 2000 with a collaboration with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs capable of excelling in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. It currently has 1,400 students and its new city campus will be ready in 2005.