Admissions system made fair, now decide quickly: SMU

THE Singapore Management University (SMU) has urged students involved in this year's joint admission exercise to confirm their offers quickly to allow the universities to make plans to offer places to those on the waiting list.

This year, in a bid to improve the university admission exercise, the three universities have implemented a common deadline and a common IT platform for the acceptance of offers.

SMU, together with Nanyang Technological University and National University of Singapore offered a joint acceptance exercise to prevent confusion.

Last year, many applicants were confused and frustrated about the acceptance exercise because some applicants had accepted more than one offer. As a result, those on the waiting list were denied a place in the university of their choice.

With the new system in place, the problem of students occupying more than one spot would be resolved, as it would allow students to accept only one offer. Said Mr Alan Goh, SMU's Director of Undergraduate Admissions: “The pro of the system is to educate students to be socially and ethically responsible so that they would make a confirmed and definitive choice and to allow other students who are in the queue to move forward.

“In other words, you don’t hog the placements because this system only allows you one choice. So, the student has to consider very carefully.”

The joint acceptance exercise will be open to some 11,800 students next Tuesday. The deadline for applications is June 6, which gives students more than a month to make a decision.

To confirm their choices, applicants can log on to the website of the university of their choice and fill in the relevant fields. Students who have confirmed their places are allowed to change their minds anytime before the common acceptance deadline of June 6.

– Patricia Yap