New uni admission criteria from 2008

A-LEVEL students entering university in the year 2008 will have a new set of university admissions criteria to meet.

All three local universities have made revisions in their admissions criteria to support the new A-level curriculum, to be introduced in junior colleges from 2006.

For all three universities, the minimum academic requirement will be two Higher 2 (H2) passes; an attempt at General Paper or Knowledge & Inquiry; and an ‘S’ grade pass in the Mother Tongue language.

The National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University sent out a joint statement announcing that admissions into the institutions would be based on the University Score, which takes into account General Paper or Knowledge & Inquiry and Project Work, as well as three H2 and one H1 content-based subjects.

Some faculties may also assign a faculty score based on additional criteria, such as interviews, portfolios, reasoning or aptitude tests.

Consideration will be given to applicants' strengths and talents, as well as participation and achievement in academic or non-academic fields, independent of their examination results.

In a separate statement, the Singapore Management University (SMU) said it will base its admissions on four criteria: Good academic grades; SAT scores; co-curricular activity performance; and interviews and essay-writing.

It will not assign a separate faculty score to students seeking admission to a particular degree programme. It will also not impose any special A-level subject pre-requisites for admission to its five undergraduate degree programmes, which are business management, accountancy, social science, economics and information systems management. This is to give flexibility to A-level students with different subject combinations.

SMU says it believes in a broad-based and holistic education, so examination grades will not be the sole determinant of whether an applicant will get a place in SMU.

Instead, it is looking out for all-rounded undergraduates with the potential for high academic performance, which is not always immediately identifiable from academic grades. – Channel NewsAsia