2 in 3 top students want SMU

JUST before the close of this year’s university joint admission exercise on June 6, it seems the bulk of the top students here are picking the Singapore Management University (SMU) as their first choice for their undergraduate studies.

As of last Monday, nearly two-thirds (65 per cent) of all students who have been accepted by Singapore’s three universities, have opted for SMU, its provost, Professor Tan Chin Tiong, told TODAY. These are students who typically got at least three As in their A-Level examination, he added.

To date, SMU has received a record of over 9,400 applications for just 1,100 places in the coming academic year. This, said Prof Tan, is testament to its ability to attract the country’s “top quality students.”

He said: “In our first year, we admitted 300 from 2,000 applicants. I would argue that the quality of our students then was good, but nothing like what we have now, which is outstanding.”

When contacted by TODAY, both the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University said they were unable to provide admission statistics until next week at the earliest. This year, in a bid to improve the admission process, the three universities have set a common deadline and IT platform to take in students.

— Lee U-Wen