SMU offers master’s in accounting courses

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THE Singapore Management University (SMU) has launched a new graduate-level course to meet the growing demand of qualified accounting professionals in Singapore.

It is the first local university to offer a Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) degree, a two-year part-time programme that caters to those who intend to join the industry but do not have a basic accounting degree.

The course, which will be offered once a year beginning next January, will also suit those who want to move into management roles such as financial controllers or chief financial officers. There are plans to take in 30 students for the inaugural cohort.

SMU’s MPA is accredited by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore, to which students can seek admission upon graduation. Once they meet the required practice experience, they will become Certified Public Accountants.

“Accounting professionals are keenly sought after, whether as practitioners or to occupy senior managerial positions in companies. Demand has soared to an all-time high today,” said Associate Professor Pang Yang Hoong, Dean of SMU’s Accountancy School.

Agreeing was Ernst & Young Singapore chairman Fang Ai Lian: “There is a severe shortage. Accounting graduates are in hot demand not only within the profession, but in all sectors of the economy.”

Teaching the 16 courses in the MPA will be a combination of SMU faculty and industry professionals.

Apart from accounting courses, they will also teach other business-related areas such as economics, finance, law, management and strategy.

Those interested must have a recognised degree in a non-accounting major, at least two years’ work experience, and take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), which measures general verbal and mathematical skills.

The application deadline is Nov 18. There will be a briefing on Oct 29. For details, visit www.smu.edu.sg/mpa