Why do varsities use US admission test?

I WOULD be interested to hear from our three universities why they implemented Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) admission requirement for almost all their non-MBA courses.

GMAT is an American system which countries which inherited the British education system like Singapore do not emphasise. Probably a fraction of business schools in Britain require GMAT to enter into an MBA course but this is remote. I recently discovered that even for those who want to do a postgraduate degree in marketing or economics in a local university still need to do GMAT. Why is this so?

In fact, Insead's MBA admission does not stipulate GMAT requirement. Yet it is still one of the best business schools in the world.

The website of the Graduate Management Admission Council, the organisation behind GMAT, is called “MBA.com”. It basically tells you almost everything about MBA degrees.

The question is why should we adopt a system which is not of our education culture? Why make things so bothersome, especially when GMAT registration, tutorial and revision fees can be costly?

Lastly, there is simply no evidence that GMAT is the litmus test of who can make it through an MBA degree.

Steve Kesmond Ngo

Why US admission test used

I REFER to the letter, “Why do varsities use US admission test?” (ST, April 17). The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) is a widely used assessment tool to help business schools determine the aptitude of applicants for graduate studies in both MBA as well as other more specialised graduate management programmes. GMAT has been an effective instrument in measuring analytical writing, quantitative reasoning and comprehension skills.

The Singapore Management University (SMU) takes a holistic approach in assessing applicants for our six master's programmes in wealth management, applied finance, professional accounting, economics, finance and applied economics. A good GMAT score is only one of several criteria we look at. We also consider, as equally important, the academic performance of the applicant in his bachelor's degree, working experience, personal statement and recommendation from referees. In most cases, we also interview the applicant face-to-face.

SMU receives applications for our graduate programmes from all over the world. Applicants come from very diverse backgrounds with different types of academic qualification. GMAT is a useful common benchmark to assess the applicants objectively and fairly.

Professor Tan Chin Tiong
Provost
Singapore Management University