GMAT just one of many assessment tools

Letter from PROFESSOR TAN CHIN TIONG
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WE REFER to the letter, “How relevant is GMAT?” by Steve K Ngo (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 admission into 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. This allows us to assess the applicant holistically, taking into account his achievements in all areas.

SMU receives applications for our graduate programmes from a heterogeneous pool of students all over the world. They come from very diverse backgrounds with different types of academic qualification. GMAT is a useful common benchmark to assess the applicants objectively and fairly. Their performance in GMAT provides us with an objective basis for comparison.

That being said, we would like to reiterate that GMAT is just one out of many criteria we use to consider applicants for our graduate programmes.