新大法学院8月开课
培养熟悉企业界律师

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新加坡管理大学设立的本地第二所法学院今年8月开班，以培养更多法律专才，为法律教育界注入多样性与竞争，同时应付我国对律师供应人数的需求。

新大法学院首批收生人数是90人，2008年起增加学额，每年培养120名律师。

新大校长霍华德亨特（Howard Hunter）教授昨天在记者会上透露，结合现有商业与金融课程的强调以及独特教育模式，新大法学课程可为学生提供全面的课程，培养兼具法律知识及熟悉国内外企业界运作的律师专才。

他说，新大独特教学模式之一是每班学生人数不多，法学院将保持这个教学模式，也准备采用研讨会以促进交流，加强学生的思想交流与分析能力，同时培养他们的自信及训练口才。

优秀律师不能单纯停留在法律知识与理论的掌握。新大法学院也强调训练学生了解企业与商界以及执业的实际情况，让学生在入学前做充分准备。

因此，除了必修的基本法律课程如比较法律制度（Comparative Legal Systems）和法律的经济分析（Economic Analysis of Law）外，法学院学生也必需选修占了全课程30%的非法律知识单元，其中包括分析技能与创意思考、工作与家庭（生活技能），以及亚洲现代历史、政治与经济等。

霍华德亨特教授说，新大将提供4年的法律学位课程。成绩优异的学生也可选修5年的双学位课程，修读法律外加新大的现有的会计、经济、社会科学、商业管理或资讯系统管理课程文凭。

目前是新大会计系一年级学生的郭淑芬（19岁）受访说，她还没决定毕业后来从事的行业，但考虑修读会计和法律的双学位课程。她认为这是最佳选择，因将来将有更多工作机会。

郭淑芬的同学黄正涵（21岁）可能从本科修读的会计系转修法律。他说，他很喜欢新大文学方向和环境，如要报读法律课程，会继续留在新大。

新大法学院代院长刘启扬副教授透露，法学院目前有16名教员，希望几年后增加到40人。

副总理兼财政部长晋嘉文教授去年8月宣布政府决定设立新大开设法学院，同时增加国大法学院收生人数，并放宽受承认海外大学法律毕业生成为执业律师的要求，以解决本地律师不足的问题。
The second law school to be established at the Singapore Management University will receive its first cohort of students in August this year. The new law school will produce more legal talents and add diversity and competition to legal education in Singapore. At the same time, it will meet the demand for lawyers in Singapore.

The first intake of students will be 90 and will grow to 120 from 2008 onwards.

SMU President Professor Howard Hunter said that leveraging on the university’s existing strengths in business and finance as well as the unique brand of SMU education, the new law school will provide a comprehensive curriculum and produce lawyers who are familiar with the business environment in Singapore and the region.

He said that SMU’s pedagogy of small class sizes will be extended to the law school. Seminar style teaching will encourage greater participation and deepen thinking and analytical skills. It will also build self-confidence and articulation skills.

Good lawyers today cannot possess only knowledge of the law. SMU’s new School of Law will train its students to understand the realities of the business world as well as workings of companies and operations of enterprises.

In addition to compulsory law courses such as Comparative Legal Systems and Economic Analysis of Law, students are also required to complete a bundle of non-law subjects which takes up 30% of the entire curriculum. These include Analytical Skills and Creative Thinking, Work & Family Life and Asian Modern History, Politics and Economies.

Professor Hunter said that in addition to the four-year undergraduate law degree programme, students can also apply for the five-year double degree programme to combine law with one of the existing five degree programmes of accountancy, economics, social sciences, business management or information systems management.

Current first-year accountancy student Sheena Quek (19-years-old) said that she has not decided on her career but will consider the double degree programme of law and accountancy. She feels that this would be a good choice as it will open the doors to better job opportunities.

Her classmate, Ng Zheng Han (21 years old) is considering switching from accountancy to law. He said that he enjoyed SMU’s teaching style and environment. If he were to consider law, he would continue staying at SMU.

Interim Dean of the law school Associate Professor Low Kee Yang hopes to increase its current faculty strength from 16 to 40.

Last August, Deputy Prime Minister Professor Jayakumar announced the government’s decision to set up a second law school in SMU and increase the intake in NUS law school. The government is also relaxing the guidelines for overseas law graduates to practise in Singapore to meet the shortage of lawyers in Singapore.