Varsities consider H3 grades for discretionary admissions

IN HIS letter, “Consider S-Paper grades in university admission” (ST, Feb 2), Mr Tan Tor Seng asked why the grades for H3 papers are not considered for admission to our local universities.

Both the S-Paper in the previous A-level curriculum and the H3 programmes in the new curriculum are optional subjects meant to allow students to pursue subject areas in which they have interest and exceptional aptitude.

H3 subjects provide students with a variety of learning opportunities, including advanced content and research. They are not intended to be used as a distinguishing criterion in considering university applications.

For admission, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) consider an applicant’s grades in three H2 subjects, one H1 subject, General Paper and Project Work. This allows fair assessment of all applications as most students offer this combination at the A-level examinations under the new curriculum.

The Singapore Management University has the flexibility to assess applicants on a broader basis since its inception in 2000.

NUS and NTU do consider H3 subjects in assessing students applying under their discretionary admissions scheme, along with their achievements in co-curricular activities, community involvement projects and other pursuits independent of their examination grades. Currently, up to 10 per cent of students in each intake may be admitted to NUS and NTU under this scheme. This allows achievements, talents and skills not reflected in the A-level grades to be recognised.

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