**Stressed-out varsity applicant? Check.**

Applicants vastly outnumbered available places last year at the three publicly funded universities here. To get a shot at a coveted seat, students are beefing up their CVs any way they can.

By NYAN JIN YI

The battle of the books has long been a fact of college life. But with the increase in competition for university places, many students are now vying for attention in other ways, too.

School certificates and extracurricular activities have always been the way to go, but now that may not be enough. Many students are starting to look for new ways to make their CVs stand out.

The strain is evident, not just in the students but also in the universities themselves. "We are finding that students are increasingly looking for ways to make their CVs stand out," said a university administrator. "It's not just about grades anymore. We need to see what else they have to offer."