Grade guides online for varsity courses

All three universities reveal indicative grades for courses to ease worry

BY AMELIA TAN

TO TAKE the angst out of applying for university, the three universities have made the indicative grades required for admission to their courses available online.

The National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University, and the Singapore Management University (SMU) have revealed the qualifying grade profiles for their different degree programmes on their websites.

"This will serve as a guide for students who want to apply to universities this year," said Senior Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew in Parliament on Tuesday. He added that the move will "allay some of the anxieties in the application process."

Previously, students had to depend on information from others who had already been admitted to weigh their chances of securing a place on their favoured course.

This led to frustration and confusion among students and their parents. Each year, parents would write to newspaper forums questioning why their child had been denied a place on a university course while another peer with nearly the same grades had been given a place.

While the release of the indicative grades will help students make informed choices, students and university administrators point out that getting a place also depends on factors beyond grades, such as interviews and written tests.

SMU's director of undergraduate admissions Alan Goh said: "SMU has always practised a holistic admissions approach in recruiting students with diverse talents. Therefore, meeting the grade profiles does not guarantee admission."

But, Mr Nicholas Toh, 20, who is hoping for a place at the NUS law faculty this year, says more information should be made available. "How about what kind of people they're looking for? It would be more helpful," he said.

Do you make the grade?

**NUS**
- Medicine: AAA/A (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Law: AAA/A (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Dentistry: AAA/A (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)

**NTU**
- Aerospace Engineering: AAA/B (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Maritime Studies with Business Major: AAB/A (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering: ABB/A (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)

**SMU**
- Law: AAA/B (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Accountancy: ABB/A (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Business Management: ABB/B (A-level 3H2/1H1 subjects)
- Aerospace Engineering: 3.81 (Polytechnic GPA score)
- Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering: 3.60 (Polytechnic GPA score)
- Business Management: 3.49 (Polytechnic GPA score)

*10 per cent of students admitted last year scored below the grades indicated above*

Additional reporting by Goh Yi Han

*Each Higher 1 (H1) subject is equivalent to half the content of a Higher 2 (H2) subject.*