SINGAPORE - The Singapore Management University (SMU) law school says it could revise its annual intake of undergraduates upwards to take in up to 180 undergraduates annually in the next three to five years, instead of the current 120.

The review comes as more outstanding students are applying for places at the school, reported The Straits Times.

Admission to the law programme is competitive. About 700 applicants out of 1,000 applicants who apply each year are shortlisted for an interview and a written test, with only about 120 admitted.

The school of law will also see a change in leadership, with Professor Yeo Tiong Min, 46, taking over as dean in July, while Professor David Llewelyn, 55, will become deputy dean.

Professor Yeo said the school is in discussions with the Ministry of Law on the idea student intake.

The ministry told The Straits Times it will decide on enrolment figures for SMU and National University of Singapore (NUS) law schools after a review of the supply and demand of lawyers is completed.

At a press conference yesterday, Prof Yeo outlined his plans for the school.

He said: "Quality means not just producing graduates for the legal profession but also producing well-rounded individuals who are able to serve their employers and serve the wider community."
Prof Yeo added that the school is looking to introduce a pro bono programme that is compulsory for all students, and to grow partnerships with overseas universities.

Educated at NUS and Oxford University, Prof Yeo taught at NUS for 17 years, specialising in private law. He was named Singapore’s first Honorary Senior Counsel earlier this year.

Outgoing dean Professor Michael Furmston, 78, will continue to teach at the school after stepping down, and says he looks forward to going back to teaching and writing.

candicec@sph.com.sg