

ANNEX C – FAST TRACK SMU-CARNEGIE MELLON PROGRAMME OFFERED UNDER NATIONAL INFOCOMM SCHOLARSHIP

What it is

- A new fast-track programme under the National Infocomm Scholarship will allow Singapore Management University (SMU) students to graduate within four to four and half years with both a Bachelor of Science (Information Systems Management) degree from SMU and a master's degree in IT from Carnegie Mellon University.
- This scholarship allows students to spend two years at SMU and another two to two and a half years at Carnegie Mellon, an elite and world-renowned university in the field of information technology.

Undergraduate degree

- Scholars spend the first two years in Singapore at SMU's School of Information Systems. During this time, they take a mixture of IT and business courses as well as liberal arts foundation courses in the highly innovative approach to business oriented IT education.
- Scholars will spend the third year at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, continuing to take a mixture of IT, business and liberal arts courses in order to satisfy the requirements of SMU's Bachelor of Science (Information Systems Management) degree. Scholars' home base at Carnegie Mellon will be the university's Information Systems undergraduate programme.

Master's programme

- Scholars commence on the master's programme at Carnegie Mellon in the fourth year. An attractive aspect of this SMU-Carnegie Mellon collaboration is that scholars can opt for one of seven different IT related specialisation in the master's programme:
 - (a) Master of Science in Information Systems Management
 - (b) Master of Science in Information Technology (Software Engineering)
 - (c) Master of Science in Information Technology (Very Large Scale Systems)
 - (d) Master of Science in Information Technology (e-Business)
 - (e) Master of Science in Information Networking
 - (f) Master of Science in Information Security Policy and Management
 - (g) Master of Science in Information Security, Technology and Management

The first four of these master's programmes can be completed in three academic semesters over a 12-month period. Students who select these programmes would complete both the SMU bachelor's and the CMU master's in four years. The other three programmes, focusing on networking and information security, require four academic semesters over a 16-month period. Students opting for these would complete both the SMU bachelor's and CMU master's in four and a half years.

Upon the completion of their degrees, scholars are required to serve a four-year bond with a Singapore-based company in the infocomm industry. Scholars will work out the choice of their master's degree with the company prior to enrolment in the master's programme.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants for the National Infocomm Scholarship must have achieved outstanding 'A' level results, outstanding polytechnic results, or equivalent (e.g. International Baccalaureate or other recognised international high school degrees). Applicants must also show a strong track record of co-curricular activities that demonstrates leadership, innovation and creativity. Applicants should have a genuine interest in a career in the infocomm industry.
- To qualify for the fast-track programme under the National Infocomm Scholarship, applicants must be a top-tier high performer who has clearly demonstrated academic and leadership abilities. They must meet the rigorous and holistic admissions requirements of SMU and Carnegie Mellon.

Coverage and benefits

- Up to 40 scholars over five years will be selected for the SMU-Carnegie Mellon fast-track programme, subject to the selection board's discretion. The scholarship covers full tuition and miscellaneous fees for the full period of study at both SMU and Carnegie Mellon University.

About the SMU-Carnegie Mellon partnership

- A strategic partnership and working relationship between SMU's School of Information Systems (SIS) and Carnegie Mellon University has been ongoing since January 2003 when SMU entered into an agreement with Carnegie Mellon to work together to design and establish the SIS educational and research programmes. Through this ongoing relationship, this special fast-track programme was developed to support IDA's national strategy to attract top pre-university student talent into the area of information technology.