



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### An MBBS with a difference

***NUS medical students can now take a year off to study for a postgrad qualification before returning to complete their degree***

*Singapore, 13 November 2020* — Undergraduate medical students at the National University of Singapore's Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) now have the opportunity to study for a Master's degree in addition to their medical qualification, the MBBS.

They will be able to take one academic year off their MBBS programme to pursue another area of study, before returning to complete their medical studies. The MBBS Intercalated Year Programme (IYP) will give these medical students opportunities to learn beyond their curriculum, giving them the opportunity to pursue other disciplines and subjects. This widens students' learning experience and provides them with additional knowledge and skills that they will need as future doctors working in complex environments where multidisciplinary collaboration and interactions are common.

The IYP is a unique offering that differentiates NUS Medicine MBBS students and provides new opportunities for NUS medical graduates to expand their roles in the healthcare sector beyond clinical practice.

The first course available through the IYP is a Master's of Science by Research offered by the NUS Medicine Division of Graduate Studies. This research-oriented programme will equip up to five selected Medicine students with the competencies to spearhead and drive medical biotechnology efforts. Students will undertake supervised research with staff members from any of the School's departments for their period of candidature. At the end of the year of study, they will submit a thesis to the Board of Examiners. In addition to the research component, students are required to take and pass coursework, which comprises two core modules and elective modules totaling 16 modular credits. The course fees for the Master of Science (Research) will be fully sponsored by the School, with an additional stipend awarded to eligible students.

Interested applicants must possess a good academic record, in addition to the requirements of the respective programmes.

More courses are expected to be available as the programme matures. NUS Medicine is exploring a Master's in Public Health with the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health for the IYP. More details will be made available in due time.

With the objective of training more doctors who are trans-disciplinary in their outlook, there are plans for additional courses in data analytics, design thinking, implementation science, health economics, innovation and entrepreneurship to be set up in the coming years.

“We are excited to offer this new programme to enhance our students’ learning experience with us. Hopefully as the programme grows, we will be able to offer more of such growth opportunities to a greater number of students,” said Associate Professor Lau Tang Ching, Vice-Dean for Undergraduate Education at NUS Medicine.

NUS Medicine Dean, Professor Chong Yap Seng said that the demands within the practice of medicine are constantly evolving, but are more pronounced in this generation. “We want to provide our students not only with the technical knowledge they need as doctors, but also with soft skills and the analytical minds needed to solve problems of the future.”

Applications for the IYP commencing in the 2021/2022 academic year will open in November 2020.

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## **About the National University of Singapore (NUS)**

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 17 faculties across three campuses in Singapore, as well as 12 NUS Overseas Colleges across the world. Close to 40,000 students from 100 countries enrich our vibrant and diverse campus community.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, 31 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs focus on themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg).

## **About the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine)**

The NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine is Singapore's first and largest medical school. Our enduring mission centres on nurturing highly competent, values-driven and inspired healthcare professionals to transform the practice of medicine and improve health around the world.

Through a dynamic and future-oriented five-year curriculum that is inter-disciplinary and inter-professional in nature, our students undergo a holistic learning experience that exposes them to multiple facets of healthcare and prepares them to become visionary leaders and compassionate doctors and nurses of tomorrow. Since the School's founding in 1905, more than 12,000 graduates have passed through our doors.

In our pursuit of health for all, our strategic research programmes focus on innovative, cutting-edge biomedical research with collaborators around the world to deliver high impact solutions to benefit human lives.

The School is the oldest institution of higher learning in the National University of Singapore and a founding institutional member of the National University Health System. It is Asia's leading medical school and ranks among the best in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019 by subject and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2019).

For more information about NUS Medicine, please visit <https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/>