



NEWS RELEASE

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NTU Singapore's inaugural NTU Talent Scholarship recognises students' non-academic talent

National athletes, entrepreneurs, and budding artistes were among the 11 recipients of the inaugural **NTU Talent Scholarship**, the first scholarship at **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** that focuses on developing students' strengths in non-academic fields, and where stellar grades are not a requirement.

The new scholarship represents NTU Singapore's move away from an emphasis on grades to take on a broader, more inclusive definition of meritocracy.

It is awarded to undergraduates who are outstanding in their own fields and have made a significant societal impact representing NTU Singapore or the country. This includes but is not limited to artistic individuals such as musicians, filmmakers, and writers; sporting professionals; and leaders and community builders.

Complementing the NTU Talent Scholarship is the launch of the **new NTU Talent Development Programme**, which aims to empower talents to hone their non-academic skills and to make a difference in society.

These initiatives strengthen NTU's commitment to deliver a more holistic education and builds on the University's efforts to expand its range of unique learning opportunities as well as to progressively extend aptitude-based admissions to at least half of its intake each year.

NTU Deputy President and Provost Professor Ling San said: "Apart from ensuring that we equip students with life skills and knowledge through our Interdisciplinary Collaborative Core curriculum, NTU has been broadening our range of programmes to encourage students to pursue their passions and help them fulfil their potential in non-academic ways. The NTU Talent Scholarship and NTU Talent Development Programme go hand in hand to foster a learning environment that celebrates talent in a wide range of areas and defines success broadly with indicators that go beyond grades, such as contributions to society."

The NTU Talent Scholarship is open to students of all qualifications and is offered as both mid-term and full-term options.

Among this year's inaugural batch of 11 mid-term scholarship recipients is **freelance actress Oh Ling En**, whose talent has been recognised with two Young Talent Awards and two Most Popular Rising Star nominations at Mediacorp's Star Awards. The second-year Psychology student aspires to spark positive change through different acting roles. For instance, she played the role of a bully in local drama *Dark Angel*.

"As someone who would stand up for victims in school, I saw the role as an opportunity to advocate against bullying. I hope to continue to be a role model that advocates for the greater good of society," she said.

Another recipient is final-year Computer Engineering student **Mitra Ren Sachithanathan**, whose passion for championing environmental sustainability led him to co-found ChangeX, a start-up that develops and implements tech-based solutions for a greener future. He led the team to secure S\$45,000 in grants through pitches of their artificial intelligence (AI)-powered solution, which empowers food and beverage outlets to optimise inventory and fully utilise surplus ingredients with its smart menu feature.

Mitra, who is also completing a Second Major in Business, said: "I seek to be a catalyst for change – to inspire and enable people and organisations to transform and adopt environmentally sustainable practices. I will continue to rally the masses and lead a green revolution both on and off campus."

National sailor Jania Ang has represented Singapore in various international sailing competitions, including the 2023 Southeast Asian Games where she clinched a silver medal.

The first-year Sport Science and Management student hopes her peers who are juggling many commitments can benefit from her journey of overcoming the struggles to keep the sporting dream alive amid school and time with family and friends.

She added: "Sailing is a sport that is subjected to nearly infinite permutations of nature's conditions, and it helped me acquire skills and traits such as adaptability, discipline, and tenacity, which are relevant whether you are in the corporate, education, or sporting worlds. I see my skills and capabilities as vessels through which I can help those around me to explore joys in life like sports, and improve at what they do, especially those who have limited access to such opportunities."

Nurturing purpose-driven students

Full-term and mid-term NTU Talent Scholars will be part of the new **NTU Talent Development Programme**, which is designed to nurture students with a strong sense of purpose and empower them to use their talent to champion worthy causes.

This new programme offers curated offerings such as learning journeys and experiential learning opportunities to develop competencies relevant to five different developmental pathways and familiarise students with ecosystems related to the paths they wish to pursue.

The five developmental pathways are:

- **Tech disruptors** who aspire to digitally transform organisations and boost the quality of life in communities through disruptive technologies and innovations such as AI;
- **Eco champions** who endeavor in making a difference in the fight against climate change, poverty, and inequality;
- **Innovation entrepreneurs** who are passionate about turning innovations into sustainable business or social ideas;
- **Well-being and healthcare advocates** who are dedicated to building skills and knowledge to empower others improve their physical and psychological well-being, and address the challenges associated with ageing; and
- **Culture and society specialists** who have their finger on the pulse of what makes societies tick.

The NTU Talent Development Programme will be progressively made available to all students who have experiences or skills relevant to these developmental pathways.

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About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the

Engineering, Business, Science, Medicine, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building projects. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg