NUS, New York University team up to offer one of world’s first dual law degree

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IT IS now possible to obtain a New York law degree in Singapore. In a bid to attract legal talent on a global scale, the National University of Singapore (NUS) has tied up with a leading US law school to offer a dual graduate degree.

“I believe this is a first, or at least one of the first programmes in the world,” said dean of NUS Faculty of Law Professor Tan Cheng Han, adding that it is different from a joint degree where students take two different majors.

Faculty members from the School of Law at New York University (NYU) will fly in to teach, alongside NUS lecturers, law courses with an international focus. The NYU professors will conduct two-thirds of the curriculum.

NYU stands fifth in a 2006 ranking of Top 100 law schools in the US News and World Report, a leading college ranking magazine.

Graduate students enrolled in the NYU@NUS programme are expected to take courses leading to a conferment of two Leading to Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees. Its initial intake of students is 80.

The 10-month programme will cost US$37,000 ($60,000), equivalent to what a graduate student taking a similar law degree in NYU will pay.

Prof Tan said the commitment to provide a programme similar in standard to that of NYU justified the fees.

“It’s not a franchise programme but one of a quality that you can expect to get in New York, so don’t expect to see a discount in fees,” he said, adding that the programme will offer 50 scholarships.

The cohort is expected to comprise mainly foreigners from regions such as China and India, with Singaporeans making up less than 10 per cent. This is in tune with the aim to make Singapore a legal hub, said Prof Tan.

NYU@NUS will start the programme in May next year.

Applications are available from the second half of this year.