

NUS, China's Tsinghua University to establish joint programme

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SINGAPORE: The law schools of two leading universities in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Tsinghua University, will establish new programmes for students to earn degrees from both institutions.

NUS said on Friday that its Faculty of Law signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tsinghua University on 14 December.

The concurrent degree programme is based on a "3+1" model. Selected students from both schools will spend part of their course time at the partner institution to earn an LLM (Master of Laws) degree.

Each home institution will send five of its current LLB (Bachelor of Laws) candidates who have completed at least three years of study at their home institution. These students will spend at least one year at the other institution.

Admission will be based on interviews by both institutions. The fees will be set and the assessment carried out by the institution in which the students are actually studying for a given year.

When they complete the programme, they will receive an LLB degree from their home institution and an LLM degree from the partner institution.

Opportunities may also be available for the faculty of both law schools to teach at the partner institution.

The two law schools have also agreed to discuss cooperation at the graduate level, including a possible joint LLM degree.

Vice-Dean of Research and International Programmes at NUS Law School, Professor Stephen Girvin, said these programmes will provide students with excellent networking opportunities, as well as tremendous exposure to Chinese legal practitioners.

He said they will deepen their understanding of Chinese law, which is an integral consideration for doing business with Asia's most populous nation and largest economy.

"These important programmes add significantly to our suite of joint degree programmes with other leading law schools. These new programmes will allow NUS law students to obtain two law degrees, giving them the opportunity to broaden their legal education in a unique way. Such opportunities, particularly with a top Chinese law school, are especially important in the globalised world we live in," said Prof Girvin.

Dean of the Tsinghua University's Law School, Professor Wang Zhenmin, believed that the partnership has profound implications for the legal profession.

He said it will provide a platform for both universities to contribute to the continuing development of law and order, and peace.

"It is often said that the 21st century belongs to Asia. The realisation of this dream depends largely on how disputes are resolved and wars are averted. Many disputes among nations were resolved by soldiers. We hope that disputes in the 21st century could be peaceably resolved by lawyers and advocates," he said.

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