

Undergrads can study healthcare admin at SMU

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In another boost to the healthcare workforce here, a new undergraduate programme in healthcare administration will start next January, it was announced yesterday.

The Health Economics and Management programme will be offered as a second major at Singapore Management University (SMU), in partnership with SingHealth, one of three healthcare clusters here.

Students will study topics such as health systems and policy, applied analytics in healthcare management, as well as operations and supply chain management.

They can also do an internship at any of SingHealth's healthcare institutions. The programme, which is open to SMU students in their first or second year of study, will rope in SingHealth staff to co-teach four courses.

A memorandum of understanding between SingHealth and SMU was signed at the Singapore Healthcare Management Congress yesterday.

Mr Tan Jack Thian, SingHealth's group chief operating officer, said more healthcare administrators will be needed as several new hospitals and nursing homes are due to open.

This is the second formal training partnership between the two sides.

The first is the SMU-SingHealth Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management and Leadership, launched in 2009. More than 200 clinicians and healthcare administrators from Singapore and elsewhere in Asia have graduated from the programme.

The Singapore Healthcare Management Congress, held at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, is a platform for healthcare administrators to share best practices.

Senior Minister of State for Health Amy Khor, who was guest of honour at the opening of the congress yesterday, said administrators can "collaborate with professionals to pioneer new care models and manage enterprise risks in innovation".

More than 1,400 healthcare administrators from Asia are attending the three-day congress, which ends tomorrow.