

SMU improves support for students with disabilities

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POSTED: 07 Feb 2014 16:31

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SINGAPORE: Singapore Management University (SMU) students will soon have to take a new compulsory undergraduate course that includes topics on diversity and inclusion.

The new course is part of the university's plans to provide a more inclusive culture and better support for students with disabilities and special needs.

A memorandum was signed on Friday between SMU and the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) to promote practices for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) in Singapore.

The signing was witnessed by Minister of State for Education Sim Ann.

Areas covered by the memorandum include better support in learning, assessment, and infrastructural changes for students with disabilities.

The university has been organising conferences on topics such as inclusion, discrimination and biases for its students since last year.



Publication: Channel NewsAsia

Date: 07 February 2014

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Bernadette Toh, director of Office of Global Learning at SMU, said: "We're not doing people with disabilities a favour. We are learning, and it is part of the rest of the majority to really embrace this and say that they can be better persons.

"They will actually be richer for embracing people with needs and learning from them, so it's not a one way street where I'm privileged and I'm helping people out."

SPD hopes that such collaborations will be extended to other educational institutions.

- CNA/nd