

National University of Singapore University category: Platinum (Singapore)

Top class tertiary education

French international student Francois Delatorre chooses the National University of Singapore over other universities in France

By DAPHNE LEE

TWO years ago, Mr Francois Delatorre faced an important decision — to return to France or do his undergraduate studies in Singapore.

He was a student at the French School in Singapore. After his examinations, he applied to study in a preparatory school in France, which would guarantee him a position in a prestigious university back home.

However, unlike many of his friends who have since returned to France, Mr Delatorre also applied to the National University of Singapore (NUS), having heard that it is an internationally recognised university.

Today, the 18-year-old is on the University Scholars Programme (USP) at NUS and is a first-year undergraduate at the Faculty of Science, majoring in applied mathematics, with a minor in management.

"I was very attracted to the NUS education system, which allows me to choose cross-disciplinary modules," he says. "My elective modules are from the USP where I study very general theories covering numerous fields aimed at developing leadership and critical thinking."

The modules include writing and critical thinking: questioning evolution and progress, as well as entrepreneurship and society.

His year in NUS has been rewarding. "The teaching staff at NUS come from world-renowned schools. They are top researchers and are very qualified in their fields," he says.

For example, he says that most of the mathematics professors give numerous applications of the theory, making abstract lessons more interesting. Similarly, the business lecturers explain the application of theories well using their extensive work experiences.

With the quality education that he is receiving, Mr Delatorre sees a rosy future for himself. "NUS' international reputation spreads far and wide. I am confident that if I were to return to France for work, employees there would be very receptive to the NUS brand name," he says.

He also feels that he can continue honing his English while studying in NUS while enjoying the "international experience" that it provides.

Mr Delatorre chose to stay on-campus at



PHOTO: WEE T Y

Living on-campus allows Mr Delatorre (right) to interact with students from other countries, like Mr Zhao Yin who is from Shanghai.

“As we send our students out into the world, we bring the world to our doorsteps. NUS offers space, opportunities and challenges for our students to discover their talents, pursue their passions and realise their potential. In short, NUS education transforms.”

PROF SHIH CHOON FONG, NUS PRESIDENT

Prince George's Park Residences even though his father lives here. It is a convenient arrangement especially when the classes are just a couple of minutes away.

Staying on-campus allows him to mingle with his friends from Singapore, India and China. The 2,854 single-room residential complex has comprehensive facilities such as a mini-supermarket, four food outlets, seminar rooms, a multi-purpose hall and gymnasium.

When he is not busy with lectures and tutorials, Mr Delatorre takes off to Orchard Road for a

movie, visits his father during the weekends, and meets his Singaporean girlfriend.

Mr Delatorre hopes to graduate in 2010 with an honours degree, and he is already planning to pursue his master's in Singapore.

His ambition is to work in the finance industry at a managerial level. He says: "I believe that my major in applied mathematics can provide me with the technical abilities to deal with finance, my minor in management with more knowledge about business, and my programme in USP with the leadership required in business."