**[FAQ] DOUBLE DEGREE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND CHINESE MEDICINE PROGRAMME**

**Admissions**

Can polytechnic students enter directly into the second year of the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
As the Chinese Medicine courses are integrated into the first 3 years of the double degree programme, it is not possible for polytechnic graduates (or GCE ‘A’ Level graduates) to enter directly into the second year of this programme.

Are international students eligible for admission into the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
Yes. Applicants must satisfy the admission requirements. Please refer to the NTU Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OAFA) website for information pertaining to international applicants.

Citizens (Passport holders including Singapore Permanent Residents) of Hong Kong, Macau, China and Taiwan are strictly not allowed to apply.

Are mature age students eligible for admission into the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
Yes. Candidates who are at least 25 years of age with at least 4 years of working experience (after graduation from polytechnic) as at 1st July of the admission year may apply for admission as Mature Applicants.

To qualify as a Mature Applicant, you are required to submit a Personal Statement of not more than 200 words and 2 Referee Reports from at least one employer. Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview. You may contact the NTU Office of Admissions for more details here.

Are interviews conducted as part of the admission process for the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
All shortlisted applicants in 2020 will be subjected to a short interview.

If I have no background in biology, can I still take up the course?
Yes, so long as you have background in one Science, either in Physics or Chemistry.

Can someone with complete or partial colour-blindness or Hepatitis B carrier be admitted to the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
No. Some of the courses require students to identify colour shades as well as recognise them as critical diagnostic factors. Hospital and clinical internships may require students to do invasive techniques like acupuncture. Hence, Hepatitis B carrier and colour blind students will not be admitted. You can find out more here.
**Chinese Language**

Are any courses taught in Chinese in the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?

All Chinese Medicine based courses are taught in Chinese. This includes courses taught in both Nanyang Technological University and Beijing University of Chinese Medicine. All biomedical sciences modules are taught in English.

Does my Chinese have to be very good to take up this course?

Minimally, you are required to have a good GCE ‘O’ Level pass in Chinese Language. You are also required to be able to write and converse in Chinese as all Chinese Medicine based courses are taught in Chinese.

I can speak and write Chinese but I am afraid that I might not be able to cope.

You may get a culture shock at the beginning, having to converse and write in Chinese. However, this is an adaptation process which we believe you will slowly get used to. Many of us have been through this stage, and we have adapted quite well to it. Many students also found that their proficiency in Mandarin has significantly improved.

**Finances**

What is the current tuition fees for the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?

*First 3 years of study (in Nanyang Technological University (NTU)):
Tuition fees are paid to NTU. Every year, fees are reviewed and subject to revision. Although we are categorized as a double degree programme, our tuition fees are similar to many other single degree programmes.*

*Final 2 years of study (in Beijing University of Chinese Medicine (BUCM)):
Tuition fees are paid to BUCM. The current tuition fee in China is 35,000 RMB (approx. SGD 7,000) per year.
Refer to here for more information.*

What expenses do I need to pay for while studying at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine?

Apart from tuition fees, students need to pay for their air travel, accommodation, food, transportation costs and various other personal living expenses. The current tuition fee in China costs 35,000 RMB (approx. < SGD 7000) per year.

Total expenses (Including school fees + accommodation + living expenses + airfare + others) amount to approximately SGD30,000 – SGD35,000.
Is there a study loan available for the last 2 years of the programme?
There is an Overseas Study Programme (OSP) Loan (Up to SGD 42,000 for the 2 years of study)

For more information on scholarships and financial support offered by NTU, please refer to the NTU Office of Admissions’ website here.

About the Programme
How long has the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme been established?
The inaugural intake was in 2005 and they graduated in 2010. The new intake will be the 16th batch as of August 2020.

Will I receive my first degree after 3 years and the second degree after 5 years in the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
No. Both degrees will be awarded after completion of the 5 years of study.

Is there a part-time option for the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
No. The double degree programme is only offered as a 5 year full-time programme.

How many students are accepted per year into the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
30 to 40. A smaller intake allows for more interaction between the teachers and students, thus increasing the effectiveness of learning.

Can I practice as a qualified Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioner (TCM) in Singapore upon graduation from the double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine programme?
Completion of the double degree programme does not automatically register a graduate as a certified TCM practitioner. To practice in Singapore, graduates of the double degree programme are required to satisfy the requirements set by the Singapore TCM Practitioners Board of the Ministry of Health. This includes sitting for and passing the national licensing examination conducted by the Singapore TCM Practitioners Board of the Ministry of Health.