



MEDIA ADVISORY

4 July 2012

SOTA and NAFA sign MOU to pave new tertiary education pathways for aspiring arts professionals

School of the Arts (SOTA) and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on 4 July 2012. The MOU formalises the processes for SOTA students seeking admission into a range of NAFA Diploma courses. They will benefit from a number of credit exemptions thus accelerating their paths to attaining a specialised diploma and then a degree if they so wish to.

The memorandum covers entry requirements for SOTA students who have completed Years 4, 5 or 6 of the SOTA programme, the module exemption schedule for various courses, and the special admissions process and timeline.

SOTA Year 4 students with relevant Dance, Theatre or Visual Arts subjects can enrol in NAFA's Diploma in Dance, Theatre, 3D Design, Design & Media or Fine Art and benefit from up to 26 credits of exemption. Visual Arts students enrolling in 3D Design, Design & Media and Fine Art can further benefit from direct admission, skipping the interview process. SOTA Year 6 students with relevant Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and Music subjects can receive up to 41 credits of exemption when they enrol in NAFA's various Diploma courses. Students without credit exemption will need to complete at least 120 credits in total in order to graduate from a diploma course.

This development of new pathways caters to a small segment of SOTA students who wish to embark on a dedicated arts programme at the tertiary level after their fourth year. This close collaboration between the two premier arts institutions will collectively strengthen the resolve and aspiration in continuously nurturing emerging young artistic talents and preparing them for active roles in the development of Singapore's vibrant arts and cultural landscape.

Students who wish to join Semester 2 of selected first year NAFA Diploma programmes from next year may apply via the special admissions process that will commence in October this year.

Annex 1 – Credit exemptions for Academic Year 2012/ 2013

Annex 2 – Speech by NAFA Vice President (Academic), Dr Shang Huai Min

Contact person: Yeo Hwee Yong (Ms)
Senior Executive, Office of Corporate Communications
School of the Arts
DID : 6342 5806
HP : 9773 7593
Email: hweeyong.yeo@sota.edu.sg

Hazel Chan (Ms)
Media Relations Manager
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
DID : 6512 4017
HP : 9144 0841
Email: hschan@nafa .edu.sg

About The School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school to offer a 6-year unique integrated arts and academic curriculum for youths aged 13-18 years old.

Set up by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA), the School offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised

With a vision to identify and groom future generations of artists and creative professionals to be leaders in all fields, SOTA builds on Singapore's unique strengths, including her multicultural Asian diversity and global connected networks to synergise talents and resources.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

About Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Founded in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts is the oldest tertiary arts institution in Singapore. It is registered with the Council for Private Education, Singapore and is funded at polytechnic-level by the Ministry of Education, Singapore. NAFA has eight Departments: 3D Design, Arts Management and Education, Design and Media, Fine Art, Fashion Studies, Dance, Music and Theatre. A diverse range of full-time diploma courses is available and it also delivers degree programmes in partnership with reputable universities from Singapore, the UK and USA. Its graduates are well known for their creativity and practical skills with many finding jobs within 3 months after graduation.

NAFA also extends its reach to the young and adults in a bid to promote greater appreciation for the arts. The School of Young Talents offers weekend courses in art,

music, dance and drama for 4 to 18 year olds, whilst the Continuing Education Branch offers enrichment courses and part-time certificate programmes for adults.

With a rich heritage and long tradition of excellence, track record and strong fundamentals in place, NAFA is poised to continue to champion the development of arts education in Singapore and beyond.

Annex 1 – Credit Exemptions for Academic Year 2012/2013

Note: This list is for reference only and not to be reproduced in full

NAFA Diploma Course	SOTA Year 4 (with relevant Dance, Music, Theatre or Visual Arts subjects)	SOTA Year 5 (with relevant Dance, Music, Theatre or Visual Arts subjects)	SOTA Year 6 (with relevant Dance, Music, Theatre or Visual Arts subjects)
3D Design	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy 18 credits of exemption -No interview is required	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy 23 credits of exemption; -No interview is required	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy 40 credits of exemption; -No interview is required
Arts Management	NA	NA	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy up to 29 credits of Exemption; -Interview is required
Dance	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy up to 19 credits of exemption -Interview is required	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy up to 21 credits of exemption; -Interview is required	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy up to 48 credits of exemption; -Interview is required
Design & Media	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy 22 credits of exemption -No interview is required	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy 22 credits of exemption; -No interview is required	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy 40 credits of exemption; -No interview is required
Fashion Design	NA	NA	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy up to 41 credits of exemption; -Interview is required
Fashion Merchandising & Marketing	NA	NA	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy up to 41 credits of exemption; -Interview is required
Fine Art	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy 26 credits of exemption -No interview is required	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy 26 credits of exemption; -No interview is required	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy 40 credits of exemption; -No interview is required
Music Performance	NA	NA	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy 40 credits of exemption; -No interview is required
Theatre	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy up to 25 credits of exemption -Interview is required	-Join at Stage 2; -Enjoy up to 25 credits of exemption; -Interview is required	-Join at Stage 3; -Enjoy up to 40 credits of exemption; -Interview is required

Annex 2 – Speech by NAFA Vice President (Academic), Dr Shang Huai Min

Mrs Rebecca Chew, Principal, School of the Arts

Mr Choo Thiam Siew, President, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

NAFA Board members

Colleagues from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and National Arts Council

Colleagues, students

Ladies & gentlemen.

A very good morning to you.

This morning we are happy to have the staff and management of SOTA and NAFA, representatives from MOE, MICA and NAC here for the SOTA-NAFA MOU signing ceremony. We are delighted to have you with us. Thank you for coming. The ceremony is set in the midst of our NAFA 3D Design Graduation Show 2012 as we had wanted to share the works of our students with you. I would like to invite you to view the works of the graduating students of environmental design, exhibition design, furniture design, interior design, jewellery design and object design after the ceremony.

The arts and creative scene in Singapore has become more vibrant over the years. Since the launch of the Renaissance City Plan in 2000, the number of arts activities in Singapore has tripled to around 35,000 in 2011. Museum visitorships have increased by fivefold to 2.9m compared to 1999. Attendance at performing arts events are equally encouraging. The increasing appetite for aesthetics will fuel the growth of the arts and creative industries and more employment opportunities will become available to artists, designers and performers.

Since the establishment of NAFA more than 74 years ago, we have nurtured generations of artists, designers, and creative professionals, all of whom have contributed to the vitality of the arts and creative industries in Singapore and beyond. As a leading tertiary arts academy, it is our responsibility to design curricula that would best enhance the potential and development of talented youth interested in a career in the arts.

Hence, the collaboration with SOTA to develop a comprehensive framework that would make it even more attractive for artistically talented youth to pursue a course of study in the arts, is a natural progression. We are very happy indeed, to establish an even closer relationship with SOTA, our neighbour, to achieve this end.

The SOTA-NAFA MOU creates additional entry points to NAFA for SOTA students. SOTA students in years 4, 5 or 6 who aspire to pursue tertiary arts education and training may choose to enroll for a NAFA diploma programme. Upon completing Year 4 of their studies in SOTA, students who are admitted into NAFA would receive up to 26 credits of module exemption. For SOTA students who have completed Year 6, they

would receive up to 48 credits of module exemption, equivalent to a study load of more than 1 academic year at NAFA.

The SOTA-NAFA tie-up, therefore, is more than an additional pathway for continued studies in the arts, it enables talented youth the flexibility, choice and independence in deciding their education pathway based on their interests. These youth, upon graduating from the NAFA diploma programme have the option of continuing with their degree studies at universities in Singapore, or enrolling in a degree programme at NAFA offered in partnership with reputable universities from the UK.

I am pleased to share that there is already interest from SOTA students to join NAFA in further developing their artistic talents even before an official MOU is signed. One good example is the current Music Performance student, Foong Jun Jie, who had joined NAFA in Academic Year 2011 to further his studies in music performance.

I would like to thank my colleagues at SOTA and NAFA for their dedication, hard work and support in materialising this scheme. Both institutions have worked conscientiously to ensure that an infrastructure is in place for the benefit of students. I am ever hopeful that even more artistically talented youth will pursue a course of study in the arts. NAFA looks forward to additional partnership opportunities with SOTA, and will continue to work closely with SOTA to advance the cause of arts education and to develop the arts education landscape.

On this note, I thank you once again for sharing your morning with us.