A breath of fresh air

Scholar Anshuman Mohan relates how he thrived in the stimulating learning environment at Yale-NUS

NARENDRA AGGARWAL

WITHOUT the support of the Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship, Mr Anshuman Mohan, 21, would probably not have been able to afford studying at the prestigious new college.

The scholarship was awarded to him in 2013 and will subsidise his tuition fees for all four years of his education at Yale-NUS College.

Says Mr Mohan, who is from India: “The scholarship is a big reason why I am at this college because it cuts costs and makes my time at college less of a burden on my parents. More importantly, receiving this merit-based scholarship made me believe that Yale-NUS College really saw promise in me and made me feel like I would be valued at the college, and definitely swayed my decision to attend.”

A junior at college, he says that he chose Yale-NUS because he knew that the new college was promising to do something very interesting and radical.

“I did not want to pass up the chance to be a part of a new liberal arts school. Most of what I have learnt came from my experience in the Indian education system, and this system promised to be a breath of fresh air.”

As a science major, Mr Mohan places a high value on studying in a liberal arts college.

“At Yale-NUS, my classmates often have remarkably different backgrounds. I grew as a mathematician from listening closely to the questions and remarks that are made in tutorials, and chatting with my classmates about the material outside class,” he says.

“Even in more advanced science classes, I find that we have much livelier discussions and debates in our classes at Yale-NUS than at classes I’ve taken at other non-liberal arts schools. Perhaps this is because the common curriculum that every student takes at Yale-NUS encourages us to learn how to make convincing arguments.”

The scholar has had exciting overseas experiences as a Yale-NUS College student. He went to Myanmar for a week-long experimental learning and writing programme.

During his first summer break, Mr Mohan and three classmates won a travel fellowship from the school, which funded the travel from Singapore to Hanoi by bicycle. One of their aims was to explore the status of the bicycle in contemporary South-east Asia.

Over the next summer, he spent time as a research intern in Princeton University's department of computer science. The school played a huge part in giving him the opportunity for that experience after he won a place in the Yale-NUS College’s mystery internship programme.