FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE BTECH ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Admission

1. How many intakes are there per year?

There are two (2) intakes each Academic Year (AY) for the following BTech Programmes i.e. every August and January:

- Electronics Engineering
- Industrial & Management Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Supply Chain Management

There will only be one (1) intake each Academic Year (AY) for the following BTech Programmes:

- Chemical Engineering (with intake commencing in January of each AY)
- Civil Engineering (with intake commencing in August of each AY)

2. What do the Admissions Selection Committee look for in admitting an applicant?

The Admissions Selection Committee takes into consideration all information provided by applicants including their performance in their ‘O’ levels and diploma courses, relevant working experience and any other academic preparations. Based on the information, the Committee will select applicants who should reasonably be able to cope with the course. Those whose abilities to cope are not so clear to the Committee are required to sit for the entrance examinations and/or to attend an interview session to enable the Committee to make a fair decision. The only objective of all the above measures is to help the Committee make a reasonable assessment as to whether an applicant can successfully complete the course, if admitted.

3. Am I eligible to apply for the course if I already have a degree?

Yes, you may apply even if you are a degree-holder.

4. Can I apply if I have a GCE ‘A’ level certificate instead of a Polytechnic Diploma?

GCE ‘A’ level holders are not considered at the moment.

5. Is National Service (NS) counted as part of the working experience?

NS is not considered as relevant working experience. However, completion of NS is considered as having fulfilled one of the criteria in the admission process.

6. Can I apply for admission if I am currently serving my National Service (NS)?

Yes, you can do so. If you are eventually offered admission, you must have completed your NS before you are able to start the BTech degree programme.

7. Can I apply for admission using Advanced/Specialist Diploma?

Although an Advanced/Specialist Diploma will increase your chance of admission, you are still required to show that you have a basic diploma from a local polytechnic or its equivalent.
8. Can I apply if I have less than 2 years of working experience?

Yes, you can do so as long as you are currently employed on a full-time basis. Nonetheless, it is preferred that you have at least 2 years of working experience by the time you embark on the BTech degree programme. Age and work experience exemptions may be granted for applicants who fulfill certain criteria. You may refer to the BTech Programmes webpages for more information.

9. What is the minimum grade that will be considered for admission?

There are many factors other than diploma grades that are considered for admission but having very good diploma grades, e.g. better than B average, will be an advantage. Good performance in the entrance exams will also improve the chances of admission.

10. If I’m a foreigner who is not working in Singapore, can I apply for admission?

Yes, you can apply. However, if your application is successful and you would like to take up the offer, you must hold a valid pass for employment or residence in Singapore for you to enrol in our programmes. Otherwise, you will not be able to remain legally in Singapore to take up the BTech course. As the BTech programmes are part-time courses, being offered admission will not be sufficient grounds for you to be granted a Student Pass. This is at the sole discretion of Singapore’s Immigration and Checkpoint Authority (ICA).

11. Can SCALE assist in applying for work permits or Student Passes for working foreign students?

No, SCALE is not in a position to provide assistance for such applications.

12. Can I be granted more exemptions if I have completed similar modules in both local and overseas polytechnics or if I have graduated from relevant Advanced Diploma course?

Students admitted into BTech Engineering programmes are generally granted exemptions equivalent to about one year (out of four years) of the degree course. Further exemptions will only be considered for courses taken in established and recognised universities at either second year or at higher levels, on a case by case basis. Having too many exemptions will not be to your advantage as you may run the risk of not being able to cope with the demands of the course at higher levels. If your academic performance is affected, you may get into the situation of having to repeat modules and possibly take a longer period to graduate. The worst case scenario is to be dismissed from the University if you consistently fall below the continuation requirement.

13. Can I apply for both NUS’ full-time and part-time OR NTU’s part-time and NUS’ part-time course concurrently?

Yes, there is no restriction to apply for more than one degree course. Admission is considered separately by the various programmes/Universities. However, if a student is admitted to the NUS BTech Programme, he/she cannot concurrently be a student of another degree programme in NUS or elsewhere.

14. I have a basic diploma in Engineering, e.g. Mechanical. Can I apply for other part time engineering courses which SCALE is offering (e.g. Chemical or Electronics)?

Yes, you can apply for more than one programme. However, it will be treated as a special case and the final decision is up to the Admissions Selection Committee. You may be shortlisted to sit for compulsory entrance exam(s) in Mathematics and/or the respective discipline based on the
course you are applying for, except for Industrial & Management Engineering and Supply Chain Management for which there is just Mathematics entrance exam.

15. My GCE ‘O’ level results and diploma results are not good. Can I still apply for admission to the BTech programme? Will these affect my chances to be admitted into the programme?

Yes, you may still apply. Applicants who do not have a strong background will be given a chance to sit for compulsory entrance exam(s). If you perform well, it will be an advantage when your application is considered.

16. Can I apply to multiple BTech Programmes at the same time?

Yes but a non-refundable and non-transferable application fee will apply. If you receive offers for admission to more than one programme, you can accept only one offer. Please check here for the application fees for multiple programmes.

17. Will there be any entrance exams or selection procedures involved?

Applicants who do not have a strong or relevant background and those with foreign qualifications may be short-listed to sit for compulsory entrance exam(s) in Mathematics and/or specific discipline-based subjects related to the programme they are applying for, except for Industrial & Management Engineering and Supply Chain Management for which there is just the Mathematics entrance exam. Applicants may also be invited to attend an interview.

18. Can I apply for admissions to the BTech course if I have completed the 2.5-year part time diploma course offered by the local polytechnic?

Yes, you may apply but you will need to attend the BTech Engineering Bridging Units (BEBUs) before your admission can be considered. More details on BEBUs can be found at http://scale.nus.edu.sg/programmes/btech-engg.html

19. I have submitted incorrect particulars in my admission application form. What should I do?

Access the SCALE Online Application Portal with your Application Number and the Password you have created. It will retrieve your application form based on what you have submitted. You will then be able to make the amendments. Kindly note that once your application status is “being processed”, you will not be allowed to make any further changes to your application via the SCALE Online Application Portal. By then, if you must make changes, you will have to send an email to SCALE Admissions Team at scale.admissions@nus.edu.sg, quoting your Application Number, clearly specifying the changes required and attaching all the supporting documents.

20. I have forgotten the password I have created and I am unable to access the application I have submitted. What should I do?

Access the ‘forget your password’ page and enter the details as required and a temporary password will be sent to your email address. You may then follow the instructions to change your password.

21. I have taken examinations at ‘O’ levels 3 times, how should I fill in my results?

Please indicate the best grade of the subjects that you have taken based on the best sitting. For example: For Mathematics grade of B3 in 1983 and Mathematics grade of A2 in 1984, please fill
in grade A2 for Mathematics. However, you should submit the result slips for all sittings taken for our verification.

22. How do I know that I have been offered admission?

You can check your application status via SCALE Online Application Portal based on the application outcome dates stated on our website and access the Portal with your Application Number and the Password you have created.

23. What do I have to do after I have been offered admission?

i. Decide if you would like to accept the offer by clicking on the appropriate button before the specific acceptance deadline and if you have received admission offers to more than one course, you are only able to select ONE.
ii. You will be required to upload a recent passport-size photograph of yourself for the purpose of preparing your Student Card which you will be collecting during the Orientation Session.
iii. You will need to undergo a pre-admission medical examination and X-ray, either at NUS Health and Wellness Centre, or by any Singapore-registered physician.
iv. You will have to drop by SCALE for documents submission and documents verification purpose.

After accepting your admission offer, information on the online Registration process (comprising Part 1 and Part 2) and Orientation Session will be shared with you, by email, accordingly for your necessary action. You will need to respond in a timely manner for each before you are able to start your studies at NUS.

24. What should I do if I have changed my mailing address or Residency (e.g. recently obtained Singapore Permanent Residence) status after I have submitted my application based on the old information?

Access the SCALE Online Application Portal with your Application Number and the Password you have created. It will retrieve your application form based on what you have submitted. You will then be able to make the amendments. Kindly note that once your application status is “being processed”, you will not be allowed to make any further changes to your application via the Online Admission System.
By then, if you must make changes, you will have to send an email to SCALE Admissions Team at scale.admissions@nus.edu.sg, quoting your Application Number, clearly specifying the changes required and attaching all the supporting documents.

25. Can I specialise in a specific area in the BTech programme, e.g. Fluid Mechanics?

In the third and fourth year of study, BTech students will be able to choose from a range of electives; and by appropriately selecting electives, one can specialise in a specific area of study. Students interested in specialisations may visit the website at http://scale.nus.edu.sg/programmes/btech.html to review the list of electives available.

26. Is the BTech degree recognized in the job market?

NUS has been offering BTech degree programmes since 1995 to provide an opportunity for polytechnic diploma graduates, who are employed in the local industry, to obtain a degree from a world class university. Over the years, the courses have helped our graduates significantly in their work and many have moved on to better careers.
27. Can I apply as a Professional Engineer (PE) with an Engineering Bachelor of Technology degree?

Please visit the PE Board website here for more information as registration is restricted to certain branches of Engineering.

28. I have more queries on Admissions, who can I contact?

Please email your queries to scale.admissions@nus.edu.sg