



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **Singapore Wins University of Warwick's First Overseas "Winter" School for Gifted Youth**

The University of Warwick has announced that Singapore is to host the University of Warwick's first overseas residential "winter" school for gifted young people this week. A number of countries were in contention to host the Winter U, part of the University of Warwick's new International Gateway for Gifted Youth (IGGY). Interest from around the world was so strong that the University was able to bring forward its plans to hold the Winter U by a full year and to award the first Winter U to the National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science (NUS High School).

The IGGY Winter U in Singapore will see 110 gifted young people aged 11 – 19 attend a two-week residential course from 9 – 20 December, which will be held at the NUS High School. The gifted children will be able to choose from courses including: Medical Sciences, The World of Mathematics: Solving Global Issues through Mathematics, Enterprise: Global Young Entrepreneurs, Creative Writing and Comparative Culture, and a combined Physics / Chemistry course.

Dr Hang Kim Hoo, the Principal of NUS High School, said, "We are proud to be the partner school for the University of Warwick's IGGY and to have the privilege of hosting the overseas Winter U. NUS High School identifies strongly with IGGY's mission to nurture gifted youths and is always on the lookout for opportunities such as this to stretch the potential of our brightest students. We certainly look forward to more of such collaborations in future."

A number of Singaporean gifted young people attended IGGY's first Summer U (Summer School) held on the University of Warwick Campus in July. Dr Prema Raj and Dr Justina Jeyaraj, the parents of Rebecca Jeyaraj who attended said, "We were amazed at the course work for medical sciences, the research opportunities shared and the high calibre of your course leaders. What truly amazing teachers! They have ignited Rebecca's interest in genetics that we hope will take her through medical school."

Since announcing its intention to launch IGGY earlier this year, Warwick has received thousands of enquiries from over 30 countries.

Over the coming year, Warwick will also launch a set of online services to meet the needs of a growing population of the brightest young people around the world, enabling them to communicate with each other and to collaborate on challenging and creative projects wherever they are located.

The University of Warwick's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Thrift, said, "We are thrilled with the level of interest that IGGY has generated and I am delighted that we have been able to accelerate our plans in order to respond to this demand. Given its particular attention to the needs of gifted children, Singapore quickly emerged as an ideal location for the first overseas IGGY activity. We are keen to work with partners to increase the range of opportunities that can be made available through IGGY and to ensure that access to IGGY is possible for students from all social backgrounds."

Application details can be found at [www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/iggy](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/iggy). It will cost participants £800 for a place on the IGGY Winter U, although bursaries will be available to those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. The closing date for applications is 17 October.

**Enclosures:**

- Appendix 1.1: University of Warwick Fact Sheet
- Appendix 1.2: IGGY Fact Sheet
- Appendix 1.3: NUS High School Fact Sheet

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## Appendix 1.1

### **About the University of Warwick**

Among UK universities, Warwick is a uniquely successful institution with a track record of outstanding research, quality teaching, innovation and business engagement. Founded in 1965, it is one of the country's leading universities with an acknowledged reputation for excellence in research. In the last government Research Assessment Exercise, Warwick was rated fifth for research excellence, with twenty-five out of twenty-six departments achieving the top 5 or 5\* ratings. In media league tables, Warwick has consistently maintained its position in the Top Ten.

Warwick's teaching and other programmes flow from this excellent research. Its undergraduate and postgraduate teaching is research-led and, as a result, students benefit directly from the work of academics and research teams. The University has a student population of around 16,000 undergraduates and postgraduates. Warwick's reputation attracts students from across the world – there are currently around 4,000 overseas students – and the University typically receives around 30,000 applications for just over 3,000 undergraduate places. Academic work is concentrated in four faculties – Arts, Science, Medicine and Social Studies. However, Warwick is particularly known for its interdisciplinary research – the Economic and Social Research Council funded the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, the first centre of its kind in Europe.

Warwick's research is also the basis for its record of innovation and its links with business, industry and policymakers. Researchers are engaged in work which is both at the cutting edge of human knowledge and is of direct relevance to society. Among the University's leading exemplars are:

**The Warwick Manufacturing Group** Through the application of innovation, new technologies and skills deployment, WMG brings academic rigour to industrial and organisational practice. WMG is an international organisation, running teaching and research centres in Hong Kong, South Africa, India, China, Malaysia and Thailand and providing expert advice to many overseas governments and companies.

**The Warwick Medical School** A Postgraduate medical school with an expanding research portfolio, WMS was established in 2000. WMS has particular, national and international research strengths in metabolic diseases, such as diabetes and obesity, reproductive medicine, public mental health, clinical trials and health care systems improvement.

**The Warwick Business School** With over 6,500 students, WBS is one of the leading business schools in Europe. Determinedly international in focus, the School's research and teaching embrace management in the private sector and public services and includes a world-leading PhD programme.

**The CAPITAL Centre** A partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the CAPITAL Centre was established to utilise theatre performance skills and experience to enhance student learning and to draw on University research and resources to shape the development of the RSC's acting companies.

**The new Warwick Digital Laboratory** A £50 million project, in which researchers will work on digital manufacturing, e-security, digital healthcare and 3-D visualisation techniques.

Warwick has set its sights on becoming a universally acknowledged world centre of higher education by 2015 – its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is approaching this challenge by re-affirming its commitment to absolute academic excellence and the entrepreneurial spirit which have served it so well in the past.

For more information, please visit [www.warwick.ac.uk](http://www.warwick.ac.uk).

## Appendix 1.2

### **About the International Gateway for Gifted Youth (IGGY)**

IGGY is a new organisation aimed at the brightest and most creative young people aged 11 – 19 from around the world. Members will become part of a global community that will give them increasing access to a wide range of opportunities unavailable anywhere else.

With opportunities designed for the top 5% of young people in terms of ability and potential, IGGY will offer members access to an increasingly diverse range of projects, challenges, and learning opportunities that are engaging, stimulating and provide genuine opportunities for international engagement and collaboration. IGGY will provide opportunities for individual endeavour, international teamwork and collaboration, competition, expertise and input from leading professional, academic and creative experts.

IGGY is a gateway to a challenging academic world, but is also open to those who excel in the areas of talent and vocational disciplines. It will provide a centre of excellence for young people who are aiming to be in the top 5% in sport, the performing and creative arts, alongside other talent areas. IGGY does not replace or negate the need for high quality educational opportunities for the most able students within schools. Its aim is to supplement this provision and extend it to other areas of knowledge and experience which are not ordinarily available to all pupils, including cross-national learning.

### **IGGY Learning and Development Programmes (Including IGGY U)**

A fundamental aspect of IGGY is the face-to-face learning and development opportunities it will facilitate through international partners (including universities and employers). This will be particularly important for young people in areas or communities with little or no online access. By interacting with peers, mentors and experts in their chosen field, IGGY members will be able to take their abilities and aspirations to new levels, and open their horizons in ways that would otherwise be impossible. Increasing a global understanding on key issues and concepts is at the heart of IGGY in recognition that collaboration across national boundaries is an essential aspect of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and development.

The first of many IGGY Learning Programmes was the IGGY Summer U, which took place in the UK during the last week of July and first week of August 2008. The Winter U will take place in Singapore from 9 – 20 December.

### **IGGY Membership**

Whilst the target and pitch for IGGY provision and opportunities is deliberately high, IGGY will take a practical and pragmatic approach to membership recognising that there is no definitive method for assessing ability and potential internationally.

IGGY will recognise existing national and international membership programmes as eligibility for membership of IGGY (i.e. those who meet or have met the criteria adopted for admission to, for example, YG&T (NAGTY-eligible) in England; students who have participated in CTY and similar

programmes in the US or internationally; students of Singapore's Gifted Education Programme). The list of approved recognition programmes will be expanded on a regular basis.

Achievement in national tests within individual countries will also be recognised, and schools and sponsoring bodies will be encouraged to identify those young people who might benefit from and be suitable for IGGY membership, but who may not yet be performing at the right level in terms of formal assessments or examinations. In addition IGGY will encourage applications from young people who demonstrate high levels of creative ability. IGGY is committed to widening participation and will consider all cases for admission on their individual merits.

IGGY is establishing an international advisory group to support the development of its admissions policies and processes going forwards.

### **IGGY Online**

IGGY Online will be at the heart of the IGGY community and will provide easy access for students to communicate, collaborate and learn alongside bright people from around the world with similar interests to themselves. IGGY Online will begin to launch over the coming weeks and will develop in the future into a safe and creative space featuring some of the most innovative functionality available.

As IGGY grows, it will develop into a dynamic and engaging collaborative online learning space. The website will be host to a growing archive of material created by and for the IGGY community. Members will be able to access a wealth of resources, including podcasts, video bulletins, forums and blogs. IGGY members will be encouraged to adopt a research and enquiry-based approach to learning and development, and be creators and collaborators of knowledge rather than simply receivers of it.

IGGY Online will provide access to real-world challenges and collaborative projects which bring young people together from different parts of the world. IGGY members will be able to track and record their developing interests as well as highlighting and celebrating their achievements.

### **IGGY Partners**

IGGY will be partnering with some of the world's leading universities, businesses, organisations and charities to provide opportunities for its members. Partners will have the chance to work with, challenge and invest in the development of some of the brightest and most creative young minds in the world. IGGY will provide them with links to a first-class, international pool of talent and potential. Through IGGY, Partners will have the opportunity to nurture and develop the leaders, thinkers and decision-makers of the next generation.

Partners can help in many ways, including sponsoring projects, courses or other IGGY activities, being involved in the provision of facilities, resources and knowledge to members, and funding bursaries, scholarships or mobility funds for disadvantaged members.

For more information, please visit [www.warwick.ac.uk](http://www.warwick.ac.uk).

### Appendix 1.3

#### **About NUS High School of Mathematics and Science**

The National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science is a specialised independent school that aims to cultivate and nurture whole individuals through its curriculum, co-curricular activities and enrichment programmes. Its academic programme caters to the cognitive and affective needs of the best and brightest students in Mathematics and the Sciences. The school offers a six-year programme that follows a broad-based curriculum where innovative and interesting teaching methods are used and classes are held in technologically rich rooms. Emphasis is given to higher level cognitive and learning skills, such as critical thinking, independent learning, problem solving, formal writing, research and development. Students who graduate from the school are awarded the NUS High School Diploma.

For more information, please visit [www.highsch.nus.edu.sg](http://www.highsch.nus.edu.sg).