

Education for expats

New Raffles Campus school to accept foreign students in '07

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SINGAPORE-BASED education services provider Raffles Campus has announced plans to open a new integrated international school here in January.

On Monday, the Ministry of Education gave its in-principle approval to establish the E R International School (ERIS), which aims to cater to up to 1,500 students from the expatriate community. The school will obtain full registration status only after it has complied with all the requirements.

The refurbished 44,085 sq m campus sits on the former site of the Australian International School, located at Ulu Pandan Road next to the Pandan Valley condominium.

The pioneer intake will comprise foreign students from Grades 5 to 9 and Grade 11. Grades 10 and 12 – the equivalent of the O- and A-



GOING GLOBAL: An artist's impression of Raffles Campus' ER International School on Ulu Pandan Road.

level years – will be offered from 2008, while students in Grades 1 to 4 will be admitted in the September 2007 semester.

With ERIS on board, the competition for a share of the foreign student pie will soon intensify. Singapore now has two privately funded schools that take in foreign students – ACS (International) and Hwa Chong International School. A third, St Joseph's Institution (International), will open its doors in January – the same time as ERIS. A number of international schools, including the United World College and the Overseas Family School, also vie for the foreign student market.

For a start, ERIS will offer Cambridge University's International General Certificate of Education

Advanced Level and the International General Certificate in Secondary Education.

From 2009, two additional streams – the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the American High School Diploma – will come on board. School fees will range from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year.

Facilities include more than 50 air-conditioned classrooms and laboratories, a swimming pool, football field and a sports hall. The campus will also have full wireless Internet access.

ERIS will boast a kindergarten that is open to children of all nationalities, including Singaporeans.

In a statement, ERIS named Mr Donald Hooper from the United Kingdom as its founding principal. The 15-year education veteran has managed schools in countries like Ukraine, Colombia and Pakistan.

Raffles Campus, which made the news last month when it was acquired by Dubai's Emaar Properties – one of the world's largest real estate companies – said ERIS is just the first of more than 100 schools it aims to build worldwide.