

Beyond Grades:

Insights from Top Universities

Text by Joanne Ng, Deputy Manager,
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SMA recently hosted a talk entitled "Unlock the Secrets of Top Overseas University Admissions" with FinGroup, and it was a huge success. Held on 1 April 2026 at the SMA office, the event drew 65 attendees, with spots filled within just four days.

The speaker, Lim Boon Tat, shared valuable insights on how top universities evaluate applicants beyond academic results. Topics covered included building a distinctive application narrative, developing intellectual depth, and showcasing leadership and impact. Boon Tat, a Public Service Commission scholar and an alumnus of University of Cambridge and Brown University, also shared his expertise in mentoring students on competitive academic pathways. The talk was followed by a lively question and answer session, with attendees eager to learn more about navigating the complex admissions landscape.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this insightful session! We are glad to have provided a platform for SMA Members to gain a competitive edge in supporting their children's overseas university aspirations.

For those who missed the talk and wish to find out more, please write to joanneng@sma.org.sg. If you have not been receiving our email announcements and wish to receive updates from us, please write to sma@sma.org.sg. ♦



Dr Chow U-Jin kicking off the session



Speaker Lim Boon Tat addressing the audience



Expert advice in action