

UniSIM renamed Singapore University of Social Sciences

SUSS will continue to offer programmes that UniSIM offered, and will participate in SkillsFuture

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SIM University (UniSIM) has been renamed Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), as part of the government's effort to restructure the institution into the country's sixth autonomous university.

The new name was picked to reflect the university's mission of driving life-long learning, anchored in disciplines with a strong social focus. SUSS is now under the ambit of the Ministry of Education, and is no longer a member of the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) group.

UniSIM said in a message on its website that the university's day-to-day operations and location remain unchanged.

In a statement on Friday, Education Minister (Higher Education and Skills) Ong Ye Kung said SUSS would add diversity to Singapore's higher education landscape and complement the five existing autonomous universities.

The five are the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and Singapore Institute of Techno-



UniSIM had provided applied and life-long education to adult learners to equip them for career advancement and transitions, and to serve society. FILE PHOTO

Autonomous universities receive government funding, but have the flexibility to innovate and differentiate themselves and their offerings.

"What will be most unique about (SUSS) is its tradition of applied education, and outreach to adult learners, all of which will be kept and strengthened," said Mr Ong.

The university will have two distinctive

education in the social sciences domain, as well as in disciplines that have a strong impact on human and community development.

It will continue to offer the range of programmes that UniSIM had previously offered, targeted at both fresh school leavers and adult learners.

These programmes focus on preparing

well as those with a strong social orientation, such as human resource management, early childhood education, and family and criminal law.

SUSS will also retain a limited offering in other areas including business and engineering, especially for adult learners.

The second feature of the university will be its focus on life-long and continuing learning.

UniSIM had, since its inception in 2005, provided applied and life-long education to adult learners to equip them for career advancement and transitions, and to serve society.

SUSS will also participate in the SkillsFuture national movement to foster continuing education and skills development.

Mr Ong told Parliament earlier this month that he is planning to table a Bill in the middle of this year to formally restructure UniSIM into the sixth autonomous university.

Cheong Hee Kiat, who was UniSIM president and now heads SUSS, said the university will ensure it remains at the forefront of "innovative, flexible and applied tertiary education".

It will work closely with industry, employers and the community in how it develops and designs its programmes,