



NTU breaks into top 50 on FT's best business schools list

BY JANE NG

NANYANG Technological University's business school has vaulted into the top 50 in the Financial Times' ranking of Master of Business Administration (MBA) programmes around the world.

Ranked 46th this year, up from 67th last year, it is the highest a Singapore business school has been ranked.

The National University of Singapore's MBA – ranked 81st last year – is unranked this year due to “incomplete data collected”, said Professor Kulwant Singh, the interim Dean of NUS' Business School.

The previous dean, Professor Christopher Earley, stepped down last month, and a global search is on for his replacement.

As for the Singapore Management University, it announced the launch of its first MBA only last week.

The FT list assesses three broad criteria: the career progression of alumni; international diversity; and how well ideas are generated.

The Nanyang Business School

scored well in four components: international mobility, student diversity, international exposure and value for money.

But it is the survey's heavy stress on the career progression of alumni that has worked to the school's advantage, because of items like percentage of salary increases.

In the case of NTU's Class of 2004, which was audited, this went up by 111 per cent three years after graduation.

The dean, Professor Jitendra Singh, noted that his graduates' pay packages correspond to the dramatic salary increases in the region, especially in China and India.

This salary boom also accounts for the high rankings of previously unranked schools like China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University at No. 41 and the Indian School of Business at No. 20.

Top on the FT list is the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, a position it has held for eight of the 10 years since the ranking was started. The London

Business School and the Columbia Business School take second and third spots, respectively.

French business school Insead, which has a campus here, is in sixth position.

The ranking is compiled based on two sets of surveys – one of school alumni who graduated from the programme three years ago, and the other of the school.

At the Nanyang Business School, 80 per cent of its students come from over 20 countries, helping it to do well on student diversity. Some 14 per cent of its full-time cohort is from India while 18 per cent is from China.

One alumnus from India is Mr Ayush Gulati, 31, who graduated in 2004. He said that he liked the Nanyang MBA for its blend of theory and practice. He is now an assistant vice-president for investment banking operations for Deutsche Bank in London.

As for the “value for money” category, the school's fees are currently \$30,000, making it 15th in the ranking.

Prof Jitendra Singh, looking to the future, wants the school to

make it to the top 25 in the next six years or less.

One way is to up salaries – by getting the global community of recruiters, like top consulting firms or investment banks, to recruit its students.

Another way is to build a high quality faculty doing world-class research, he said.

“We want to invite top investment banks and consulting firms here to look at our graduates. We produce world-class graduates, but the world doesn't know it yet.”

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