

Varsities' new locked-in fees

TUITION fees at the three local universities will go up by between 4 and 20 per cent starting this year, The Straits Times reported.

Two of them – the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) also introduced a new locked-in fee structure.

Under this system, students will pay the same amount throughout their studies and will not be affected by subsequent fee increases. Singapore Management University (SMU) has been using this system since 2006.

The increase is due to higher operational costs, but financial help will be available to those who need it.

Most of the courses will see a \$250 increase, except for law and business at

NUS and SMU, which will see increases of up to \$1,200. These changes were announced yesterday.

The hike, the universities' first since 2006, will affect the new batch in August. Current students are not affected.

SMU law students will pay \$10,050 a year, a 12 per cent increase from \$9,000 last year. Fees for other courses will go up by 10 per cent, from \$8,300 to \$9,130.

NTU students will have to pay a flat 4 per cent more for any course. This works out to an annual fee of \$6,360.

At NUS, most students will pay \$6,360, a \$250 rise from \$6,110.

But business course fees will go up by 7 per cent, to \$6,540, and law will rise by 20 per cent, to \$7,340.