ALL three universities announced earlier this week that they would be raising tuition fees for the coming academic year.

On Tuesday, both the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) announced that they will be increasing their undergraduate tuition fees by 3 per cent.

The higher fees will apply for both new and existing students.

For NUS medicine and dentistry students, this means a $510 increase per year to $17,520.

NUS music students will pay $7,570, or $220 more.

The undergrads in all the other NUS faculties, as well as all NTU students, will pay $6,110 per year in tuition fees — an increase of $180.

The hikes follow a 5 per cent increase in fees in August last year. The Singapore Management University (SMU) announced on Wednesday that it will increase its tuition fees by 15 per cent, from $6,500 to $7,500.

The higher fees apply only to the incoming cohort. Existing students are not affected.

SMU has guaranteed the incoming cohort that their fees will not increase over their four years of study, so they would not have to worry about hikes in fees.

Last year, SMU raised its tuition fees by 15 per cent as well, from $5,650 to $6,500.

The New Paper broke the story in February last year on how the students felt that the increase was too much, and formed a fee hike review committee which surveyed 1,200 students on how the hike can be better managed.

They proposed that the 15 per cent or $850 increase be spread over three years to make it more affordable.

This means that existing students pay $300 more the first year, $300 more the second year, and $250 more the third year.

The committee then submitted their proposal to the university management and rallied SMU students to wear blue ribbons to show their support.

SMU accepted the proposal for existing students. However, new students who enrolled last August had to pay the full $6,500 fees.