NTU cracks top 50

LIN YANQIN 
yanqin@mediacorp.com.sg

BY GIVING its programme an international flavour, it has helped its graduates open their eyes to doing business in a global economy.

This thumbs-up from its alumni has earned the Nanyang Technological University’s Nanyang Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme a spot in the top 50 — a first for a Singapore university — in the Financial Times’ Top 100 Global MBA programmes ranking for this year. Scoring well in the areas of the international mobility of its graduates, its value for money, international exposure and student diversity, the programme is in 46th place, up from 67th place last year.

“Eighty per cent of our students come from over 20 countries and this provides a rich setting for cross-cultural learning of business practices,” said Professor Jitendra Singh, who took over as dean of the Nanyang Business School (NBS) last August. Over the next six years, Prof Jitendra — who credited his predecessor Prof Hong Hai for NBS’ progress — hopes to bring the programme into the top 25.

The ranking is compiled from two sets of surveys, done by the alumni and with the school itself. NTU fared less well in terms of graduates’ career progression. The average alumni salary three years after graduation was US$89,836 ($127,695) annually, while the salary of graduates from Hong Kong UST Business School — ranked 17th — was US$97,235.

Said Prof Jitendra: “We will work on attracting more global recruiters to recruit our students ... and help our students gain high quality employment.”

The National University of Singapore’s MBA programme, which ranked 81st last year, was not ranked this year due to a “technicality”. “We have been informed by FT that NUS Business School was not included in the FT ranking this year due to a shortfall of ‘usable responses’,” said Prof Kulwant Singh, NUS Business School’s interim dean, adding that it was “not uncommon that good schools have been excluded” on similar grounds.

Singapore Management University’s MBA programme director Doris Sohmen-Pao said SMU’s aim was for its programme — to start this year — to become tops in Singapore and well ranked in future. “But there’s a danger in making curriculum decisions based on ranking and it’s not good for anybody to do that.”

NTU said yesterday it plans to increase fees for its MBA programme to “around $40,000”, from its current $28,000 to $32,000 range. The University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School remained tops in the FT’s ranking, where it has been since 2001.