

Students from local universities temper salary expectations

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University students are better managing their expectations on the salary of their first job. An online survey by talent company Universum showed that business students expect an average monthly salary of about S\$3,300 -- that is a reduction of eight per cent from 2012.



University students attending a lecture.

SINGAPORE: University students are better managing their expectations on the salary of their first job. An online survey by talent company Universum showed that business students expect an average monthly salary of about S\$3,300 -- that is a reduction of eight per cent from 2012.

Meanwhile, engineering students maintained their expected monthly salary at S\$3,354.

The survey polled more than 6,000 students from Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University.

Universum said the lower expectations could be due to the tight labour market, as well as concerns over the viability and ease of finding a good first job upon graduation.

Students also continue to rank foreign companies more favourably as an ideal place to work.



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The survey showed foreign employers have the edge over local companies in areas like training and development. However, private home-grown companies have better friendly work environment than their foreign counterparts.

Joakim Strom, managing director of Universum, said: "We will see more local companies (in the list) going forward because the local companies tend to start offering similar things as the foreign companies, such as international career opportunities and training.

"And I think the local companies are picking up very fast in terms of what they should offer to students in their career and development."