

Majority of NTU students get jobs before graduation

BY WANG ZHEN ZHENG

TWO thirds of this year's graduating cohort from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) secured jobs before their graduation, according to an in-house preliminary **survey** by the university.

The survey also found that all 115 pioneer graduates of the Double Degree in Accountancy and Business programme secured jobs prior to graduation.

The top 10 per cent of students in the programme secured jobs with an average monthly salary of \$7,145.

Among those who got a job is Mr Mark Woon, 26, who graduated from the School of Material Science and Engineering. He was offered a job as a **semiconductor** engineer by electronics giant Toshiba, and will head to Japan to work for the next three years.

He revealed that he had gone for the interview without a tie, thinking it would just be a casual chat.

Reflecting on the episode, he

said: "I believe that it's the substance of a person that matters."

Mr Woon considers himself luckier than some in his batch, who are still struggling to find a job.

He said: "I believe that hard work, perseverance and the ability to see the world through different perspectives will really help in the job-application process."

At the graduation ceremony yesterday, NTU president Bertil Andersson pledged to allow as many as 70 per cent of students to go for a stint **abroad** in a renowned university or company during the course of their studies in the future. Currently, 50 per cent of students get to do so.

At the Singapore Management University (SMU), 75 per cent of students get some form of international exposure, through internships, student exchanges, study missions or community-service work.

"We aim to eventually increase this to 100 per cent," said an SMU spokesman.

On June 17, Professor Andersson attended the official launch of the NTU **Alumni** Association (USA-East) in Washington. It aims to encourage networking among the 360 NTU alumni based in the United States.

The NTU Alumni Association (USA-West) was launched last year to cater to alumni who work or live in the western region of the US.

There are currently 68 NTU alumni associations, of which 39 are based overseas – in China, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Europe and the US. The rest are based here.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Survey: 民意测验 mǐn yì cè yàn

Semiconductor:
半导体 bàn dǎo tǐ

Abroad: 国外 guó wài

Alumni: 校友 xiào yǒu
