

Local tertiary scholarships rank at the top

Published: Thursday July 11, 2013 MYT 3:23:00 PM

Updated: Thursday July 11, 2013 MYT 3:24:46 PM

SINGAPORE: Scholarships issued by local universities remain the top picks for scholarship applicants in Singapore, according to an annual survey by BrightSparks, Singapore's largest scholarship and higher education media.

Administered for their students by local tertiary stalwarts National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and Singapore Management University (SMU), these scholarships see a five-year-high popularity since 2009, gathering 22.4% votes from 'A' level and International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma graduates and Polytechnic final year students.

While NUS and NTU scholarships continue to hold first and second place among 'A' Level and International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma graduates, SMU also made a quick debut into the top five scholarship provider rankings, rising over 16 notches to fifth rank.

It said students today are more likely to know what sector they want to enter. Less than a third (31.4%) of respondents in 2013 said they were undecided about whether to join the public or private sector after graduating, a 12% decrease from half a decade ago.

In 2009, over two in five students (43.4%) said they could not decide.

It said students today are more proactive towards career planning because their parents, schools, and peers are talking about careers and engaging them on career planning much earlier.

It added banking & Financial Services remains the most popular industry with 39.1% of 'A' Level and IB diploma graduates, and 28% of first and second year university graduates voting for it.

On the other hand, the Hotel & Hospitality industry has taken a popularity tumble among 'A' level and IB diploma graduates, dropping eight ranks to 16th position in 2013. In comparison, Hotel & Hospitality was ranked in 8th place in 2009.