Over 100,000 S’poreans seek degrees at private schools

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The pent-up demand for a university place at home has pushed up the number of Singaporeans pursuing degrees and diplomas at private schools to more than 100,000.

This is in stark contrast to the 17,000 places set aside each year for Singaporeans at the three local universities.

There are about 45,000 Singaporeans pursuing undergraduate degrees at the three universities and the Singapore Institute of Technology, an institute meant for polytechnic upgraders seeking a degree.

Figures from the Council for Private Education, which tracks student numbers in private schools, showed that total enrolment had ballooned in the middle of this year, of which 31,000 are foreigners.

The remaining 11,900 are Singaporeans.

Going by the profiles sketched out by the schools, most Singaporean students are aged below 20 and tend to be polytechnic graduates hoping to get their degrees in two years.

The leading private education institution, Singapore Institute of Management, has seen a growth in the number of Singaporean students, with close to 30,000 Singaporeans attending its courses.

The institute’s global education arm, CONTINUED ON PAGE 66

Singaporeans pick more established private schools

Singaporeans study at the private schools so that while they see a degree as a must, they are not set on getting a second-rate degree with little market value.

Thus, they may be willing to step up to the brand-name university partners.

The Education Ministry’s view is that more university places could be provided.

Mr Wong said, and the public is sceptical that the expanded university vector must cater to a wider spectrum of students with a variety of backgrounds, abilities and talents.

Mr Andrew Chen, chief executive of East Asia Institute of Management, said: “A significant number of the remaining private school places will probably be filled.”

He added that Singapore’s university education at a private school is not only for fee-paying students but for educational opportunities at a lower cost and accessible to them.

Mr Weng also said that the private school sector is “investing in the future”. He added that the quality of private schools was also a worry for Ms Goh.

SINGAPORE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

The Council for Private Education, which is the regulatory body for private educational institutions, said that more Singaporeans are now choosing to attend private schools.

The council said that private education is becoming more popular as more students are seeking alternative pathways to higher education.

The council said that private schools are offering more flexible programmes and that students have more options to choose from.

The council also noted that the demand for private education is expected to continue to grow in the coming years as more students look for alternative pathways to higher education.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Private schools such as the Singapore American School, the Singapore Indian International School and the Singapore American School of the Arts have seen an increase in the number of Singaporean students.

The Singapore American School has seen a 10% increase in the number of Singaporean students in the past year, while the Singapore Indian International School has seen a 5% increase.

The Singapore American School of the Arts has seen a 20% increase in the number of Singaporean students in the past year.

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