With six public universities, students now have a diverse range of degrees to choose from. To attract the best students, the universities are striving to be different – in their programmes, tuition fees, student and faculty mix, accommodation options, financial help and overseas opportunities. Calvin Yang looks at the options offered.

**University facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Faculty members</th>
<th>Full-time undergraduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUS</td>
<td>2,374</td>
<td>27,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTU</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>23,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMU</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>7,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUTD</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIM</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Those who teach SIM's full-time degree programmes
Sources: NUS, NTU, SMU, SUTD, SIM

**FINANCIAL HELP**

NUS: It has a wide range of scholarships and financial aid available.

Over the past five years, it has seen a two-fold increase in students receiving scholarships, from about 800 in 2009 to 1,650 in 2013. There was a 60 per cent increase in the number of students receiving bursaries over the same period.

NTU: For the new academic year that starts in August, it will be providing about 500 full-term scholarships, namely the Nanyang Scholarship and College Scholarship. Singaporean students interested in taking up a bursary each will receive assistance as long as their household per capita income is $1,900 or less per month.

SMU: It has a comprehensive range of financial schemes. For scholarships, about 60 per cent of those who apply have been successful in securing a scholarship supported by the university or its donors. SUTD: It offers 175 scholarships and 43 bursaries, excluding government ones. SIT: More than 10 per cent of students are on scholarships or sponsorships by their employers or prospective employers.

**OVERSEAS EXPOSURE**

NUS: About 20 per cent of undergraduate students have at least one overseas exposure stint, such as summer school or internships.

NTU: Some 60 per cent of students get some form of overseas exposure, such as taking classes at a partner university overseas.

SMU: About 86 per cent of students have some form of overseas exposure, mainly through student exchange programmes.

SUTD: Nearly 60 per cent of undergraduates have overseas experience.

**TUITION FEES**

These are for Singaporean students admitted in the academic year 2014/15, except for UniSIM undergraduates.

NUS: Annual tuition fees range between $7,850 for courses like computing, engineering, and arts and social sciences – and $24,220 for medicine and dentistry.

NTU: Fees are between $7,850 for most programmes, and $31,500 for medicine, dentistry and law.

SMU: Undergraduates who started last August are paying $11,100 per year, except for law students, who are paying $12,300.

SUTD: An education at the university costs $13,650 per year.

SIT: Annual fees range from $10,100 to $15,300.

**STUDENT RESIDENCES**

NUS: The six halls of residence, four student residences and five residential colleges offer about 11,000 places in all for full-time students. A one-week stay in a typical single, non-air-conditioned room costs between $110 and $130.

NTU: Its 18 residential halls house more than 10,400 undergraduates. Rental fees range from $225 to $280 monthly for a twin-sharing room.

SMU: It does not have any student residences.

SUTD: It has three student housing blocks with a capacity of around 1,100 beds. Depending on the room type, an undergraduate typically pays around $350 to $480 per month.

SIT: It does not offer any student residences.

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