NTU rises to top 10 among young unis

22-year-old university is No. 8 in Times list of varsities under 50 years

By AMELIA TENG

THE Nanyang Technological University has made the top 10 in a ranking released yesterday, its highest position in a similar ranking by London-based educational consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds.

It came in eighth, moving up from the 16th spot last year, in the rankings published by Times Higher Education.

Its rise in the ranks comes about a week after the 22-year-old Singapore university took the No. 2 position in a similar ranking by London-based educational consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

The QS study released last Tuesday also ranked universities worldwide aged less than 50.

In the latest Times ranking, universities were compared on a worldwide aged less than 50.

The category’s top three universities, in that order, are: Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

Mr Lim Zhi Wei, 20, who will study pharmacy at the National University of Singapore next year, was among the NTU students doing well in the Times survey.

NTU students studying in the Lee Wee Nam Library before their examinations. The university took the No. 2 position in a similar ranking by London-based educational consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds last week. ST FILE PHOTOS

It improved in all five areas, with the highest scores in industry income and international outlook.

Industry income refers to the amount of funding a school attracts from industry players while international outlook is its ability to show a global mix of students.

“NTU has been very active on the engineering front, or it works with big companies like Deloitte and draws investment from business players,” he said. “It also attracts top global students, internationally, researches and students.”

An NTU spokesman said of the latest ranking: “Investment in research and education has made an impact and we are now reaping the rewards.”

He added that NTU has a “strong track record of collaboration and partnerships with car companies such as BMW Group and aircraft maker Lockheed Martin.”

In its Q1 ranking, NTU has been one of the world’s top 100 universities grouped into five areas: research, teaching, citations, international outlook and industry income.

To capture the characteristics of young universities, less emphasis is placed on reputation in the Times survey.

Reputation is reduced to one-fifth of the overall score compared with one-third in the Times magazine’s annual World University Rankings, which comes out in October.

In an e-mail reply, NUS provost Tan Eng Chye said rankings are reliable to help them compare options.

Singapore (NUS) next year, the National University of Singapore said: “Rankings are relative to some extent, and offer a glimpse of what to expect from the school.”

Overall rankings may not be a good benchmark, said Mr Timothy Chan, a director from SIM Global Education, because comparing “a research-oriented university with a teaching-oriented university with a relatively short history” may not be useful.

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University rankings serve as a guide

In an e-mail reply, NTU president Tan Eng Chye said rankings “provide useful composite information on aspects of our university’s work over time.”

But for some students, rankings were not a key factor. They were more concerned about the course and the teaching styles of staff. Mr Brian Lim, 22, who is applying to study in the pharmaceutical field in the US, said: “Rankings are an overall view, but I check other factors like cost and scholarships offered.”

“Rankings are a useful guide for students,” said Mr Shaun Lim, 20, who is looking to join the engineering front, as it works over time.”

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