More firms but fewer jobs at NTU fair

THE number of jobs available at Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) annual career fair yesterday fell to about 3,000 from 4,500 last year.

Organisers said this was ironic as it attracted a record 221 Singapore and multinational organisations, a rise from 175 last year.

The situation could have been due to the “modest economic outlook”, Professor Kam Chan Hin, NTU’s associate provost of undergraduate education, said in his speech at the fair.

Graduates will have to temper their expectations, added Prof Kam, who advised final-year students to continue looking for jobs and not be too choosy.

Mr Loh Pui Wah, director of NTU’s career and attachment office, said: “Employers may be more cautious and therefore conservative in their hiring numbers compared with last year, in view of the economic uncertainty this year.”

The students admitted to feeling the heat.

Mr Ivan Tan, a final-year electrical and electronic engineering student at NTU, said: “I’m still optimistic about the job market because of the wide range of companies participating this year.”

But the 24-year-old feels there would be more competition with fewer jobs available.

Ms Toh Mei Juan, a human resource administrator at shoe store chain Charles & Keith, said the company is not offering internships now, although there would be vacancies later in the year.

Sumitomo Chemical Singapore also said it was merely creating awareness at the job fair and not recruiting.

Final-year student Michelle Mah, 23, who is pursuing a master’s degree in psychology at the NTU, said she is not very confident of getting a job after attending yesterday’s fair.

She sent her curriculum vitae to five companies last month, but so far, only three have replied.

“Due to the large number of students applying, I am unsure if employers will read the resume I sent in,” she said.

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