What makes campus living so attractive

Convenience, camaraderie are strong pulls, causing NTU residential hall demand to spike

Raymond Toh

A stay in one of the 21 halls of residence at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) brings a myriad of benefits, ranging from convenience to freedom, students tell The Straits Times.

“The proximity to class was the main reason I chose to live in a hall,” said final-year mechanical engineering student Nathaniel Lee, who lives in the east and sees his class commute drop from 90 minutes to 10 minutes since moving into NTU halls last year.

“Students have more freedom and don’t need to account to anyone,” Mr Lee, 23, added. “I like the community feel, getting to know my roommates and good friends during my stay.”

Professor Kwek Kiah Woon, NTU’s associate provost for student life, said students who are friends during their stay at NTU are more likely to keep the culture alive (in every aspect) even after graduation.

In the past, all freshmen were required to live in halls, and the guaranteed two-year stay will keep the culture alive (in every aspect), said Mr Kwek.

But student Ahmad Farid Jumari, who has been living on campus since his first year, added that he has taken up different commitments, like cheerleading, which have raised the possibility that the guaranteed stay may no longer have an incentive to join activities and bond with other residents, he said.

Prof Kwek added that students with promising ideas could potentially be monitored by NTU professors and even win seed money to develop their projects. This expansion is expected to cater to more than 90 per cent of undergraduates.

French and Thai.

Russian joins list of language electives on offer at NTU

Tai Hong Yi

The Russian Far East and Siberia, “endowed with huge energy and natural resources,” present an economic niche for those willing to take the plunge.

This was the message the Russian ambassador to Singapore, Mr Andrey Tatarinov, had for a group of 60 Nanyang Technological University (NTU) students last week.

These students are the first to take the plunge into Russia will need people who speak Russian, know Russian culture and traditions, and logistics,” he told The Straits Times.

Mr Tatarinov touched on the needs of the country’s regional cooperation with Asian and Gulf countries, for Singapore’s companies in Russia. He cited examples of local firms that already have footholds, such as Changi Airpines International, which bought a 25 per cent stake in Russian airport operator Vnukovo.

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