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Grads and varsity body glad to hear of scholarships

UNIVERSITI Malaya final-year student Kang Soon Chen, 24, has already applied to do her Master's in case she cannot obtain employment and she's glad that the Government will be providing help for people doing post-graduate studies.

"There aren't many opportunities for us because most companies are looking for people with experience but we're fresh graduates," she said.

Academic paths: (From left) Shih Min, fellow UM final-year student Liew Khe Li, 24, and Soon Chen taking a look at postgraduate options following the announcement of the stimulus package yesterday.

Another UM student, Loo Shih Min, 24, said she had applied to do her Master's in several public universities.

"Doing a Master's will enhance my employability and give me more career options," she said.

Malaysian Association of Private Colleges and Universities president Dr Parmjit Singh welcomed the government scholarships for students in private universities.

"To widen access to tertiary education, we need to make education more affordable," he said.

National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng, while lauding the hiring of contract teachers, said they should undergo training first.

"They must prove they deserve their RM2,000 salary, which is higher than the current rate of RM1,695 for a graduate teacher," he said.

Meanwhile, N. Shanker, who works for an automotive company in Klang, welcomed the Government's decision to subsidise basic necessities but felt the impact of the mini budget would be quite small on his family as they had outstanding credit card balances and loans.

Shanker said he had expected the mini budget to include cuts on credit card interest.

"Most people have credit cards, so reducing the interest would help us directly," he said, adding that although his employer was not retrenching staff, his overtime payment had been cut and workload doubled.

"I hope the RM200mil being pumped in the automotive industry will help revive it," he said.