Supportive classmates made local the right choice

BY TRIS PRUETTHIPUNTHU

I HAVE been a law student at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for two months, and am enjoying the experience.

This is quite a surprise because not long ago, I dreaded the thought of studying here.

Having been in the Gifted Education Programme at Raffles Institution and the humanities programme at Hwa Chong Junior College, there was pressure on me to go abroad to university.

My classmates and I indulged in heady talk about our colleges and scholarships of choice. It was the norm, and everyone was part of the race.

I was heartbroken when I received my A-level results, which did not match my expectations.

It did not help to see my schoolmates go to exciting new destinations to embark on a whole new chapter of their academic life.

I had a dim view of local education, seeing it as inferior and less exciting.

But the watershed came when I decided to stop knocking NUS and give it a chance.

I haven’t been disappointed. An overseas education is attractive, but at the same time some people struggle with the climate, foreign accents and other issues.

I have been blessed to find coursemates who have been tremendously supportive. They have eased my initial worry over studying here.

So, if you feel that an overseas education is the only way to go — give NUS, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University a chance.

You never know what you might find.

The writer is a first-year law student at NUS.