Firms keen to hire grads

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PETALING JAYA: Fresh graduates from local public and private universities can look forward to bright job prospects this year.

A total of 196 organisations polled by a recruitment and market research company found that 73% of them are keen to hire such graduates.

Most of the respondents are mainly mid-sized and large organisations in Malaysia.

The survey conducted by Talentbank found that job opportunities are promising for those with a background in accounting, business management, marketing, computing and information technology, human resource management, mechanical engineering, electronics and electrical engineering, mass communication, and banking or economics.

Talentbank, a 10-year-old employer branding company, said about 76% of the respondents indicated they planned on hiring newly graduated students from universities in Malaysia next year.

The research findings were first released about three months ago.

In response to the survey, Malaysian universities are proud that their efforts to create employable graduates are paying off.

Sunway Education Group chief executive officer Prof Dr Elizabeth Lee said they have been equipping students with skills that would help them compete in the already competitive job market, including training them on résumé writing and interview skills.

She also said they are optimistic about an uptick in employment this year owing to various government initiatives such as the wage subsidy, hiring incentives and creation of new economic opportunities in the digital space.

Taylor’s University Faculty of Innovation and Technology School of Computer Science and Engineering Postgraduate Programmes (Computing) director Assoc Prof Dr Azween Abdullah said higher education
institutions need to create graduates prepared for the workforce by allowing them to learn from the best industry practices and picking up the most relevant skills.

However, Malaysian Employers Federation executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan noted that many companies in Malaysia are only offering short-term contracts as there is still much uncertainty in the economy due to the pandemic.

“Currently, some employers may offer shorter fixed-term contracts or term-based or project-based roles to fulfil urgent needs of the business due to Covid-19,” he said.