



## Media Release

### **SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business Maintains Top 3 Standing in the Financial Times Masters in Finance Rankings 2018**

*3rd in the world and 1st in Asia for its MSc in Wealth Management (Post-experience Ranking) and 4th among Asian Business Schools for its MSc in Applied Finance (Pre-experience Ranking)*

**Singapore, 18 June 2018 (Monday)** – The Singapore Management University's (SMU) Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) is pleased to report that its MSc in Wealth Management (MWM) has been recognised for the fourth consecutive year as one of the top three finance Masters programmes in the world by the Financial Times (FT) Masters in Finance Post-experience Ranking 2018.

**SMU LKCSB remains the only institution in Asia to make it to the ranking, placed just after London Business School and University of Cambridge's Judge Business School.** Alumni of the MWM programme reported an average alumnus salary of US\$119,157, a 86% increase in salary three years after graduation from the programme. LKCSB is also ranked first in delivering an international course experience as well as second place in terms of career progression.

In addition, SMU LKCSB ranked 4th among Asian business schools and 45th in the world in the FT Masters in Finance Pre-experience Ranking 2018 for its Master of Science in Applied Finance (MAF).

**LKCSB is also the only institution in Singapore and South-Asia to be ranked for its finance programmes;** this is the fourth time that LKCSB is featured in both the Pre- and Post-experience rankings.

Welcoming this recognition, Professor Gerard George, Dean of SMU's Lee Kong Chian School of Business, and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said: "We are very pleased with this achievement as it affirms LKCSB's consistent track record in upholding top quality education and world-class research. With the accelerating pace of technology transforming the business and finance sectors globally, LKCSB will continue its emphasis on academic excellence, strong career services and an engaging post-graduate student experience, to help executives leverage on opportunities and stay ahead of the curve."

#### **About [SMU LKCSB MSc in Wealth Management](#)**

The SMU MWM started in 2004 as Asia's first and only full-time master's programme in wealth management, and the first specialised one in the world. It comprises a rigorous curriculum that is designed in consultation with industry professionals and academics collectively. It anchors on the strengths of institutions across Asia, Europe and USA. It is a recognised postgraduate programme associated with the CFA Institute and CAIA. The Client Advisory and Competency Standards (CACS)

Assessment has been recently incorporated, to equip individuals with competencies required to be certified for private banking in Singapore.

Participants interact with wealth management professionals across three continents, through vast learning opportunities including exposure and immersion in global investing. Regularly reviewed to reflect industry developments, the MWM programme has a careful balance between theory and practice. Graduates obtain deep mastery of wealth management and are fully trained and job-ready. The modular structure allows professionals to pursue the master's degree while working, and those without wealth management experience can embark on an internship to enhance their employability. Graduates receive the MWM degree from SMU and certificates from eminent universities in Switzerland and USA in just 12 months. The programme has trained more than 500 wealth managers to date and will be welcoming its 15<sup>th</sup> batch in July 2018.

### ***About [SMU LKCSB MSc in Applied Finance](#)***

Launched in 2002 as SMU's first postgraduate programme, the SMU MAF is a 12-month full-time or 18-month part-time programme. Its industry-relevant curriculum prepares students to pursue the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. It provides a strong foundation in the principles, practices and operations of international and domestic financial markets, focusing on applying updated and relevant knowledge in real-world situations. The programme has grown over the years – in 2008, the MAF (China) programme was established in partnership with Xiamen University in China; in 2013, SMU also partnered Washington University's Olin Business School to offer the Global Master of Finance Dual Degree programme, which provides students with an exceptionally enriching learning experience in two continents. To date, SMU has graduated more than 1,000 students in total under the various MAF tracks.

### ***About the ranking***

This is FT's eight survey and annual ranking. To be eligible in the Pre- and Post-experience rankings, schools must be internationally accredited and the programmes must have run for at least four consecutive years. The ranking considers the features of the institutions and their programmes, and is based on two questionnaires – one completed by alumni who have been in the workplace for three years since graduation, and another by the business schools themselves.

Separately, in the FT Global MBA Rankings 2018, LKCSB's [Master of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#) programme was [ranked 49th worldwide](#), the strongest initial placement in this ranking for a Singaporean University.

For full results and more details about FT Masters in Finance Rankings 2018, please refer to the following:

- [FT Masters in Finance Post-experience 2018](#)
- [FT Masters in Finance Pre-experience 2018](#)
- [FT Masters in Finance Ranking Methodology 2018](#)

For information about the ranked SMU postgraduate programmes:

- [Master of Science in Wealth Management \(MWM\)](#)
- [Master of Science in Applied Finance \(MAF\)](#)

### **Enclosure:**

- Images of SMU LKCSB and SMU

### **About SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB)**

SMU commenced its curriculum in 2000 with the School of Business, which welcomed its pioneer cohort of students in August 2000. In 2004, the Lee Foundation contributed S\$50 million to SMU in honour of the late Dr Lee Kong Chian, a well-known Southeast Asian businessman, philanthropist and community leader. In recognition of the Lee Foundation's generosity, SMU named in perpetuity the School of Business, the building and the university-wide scholars programme after Dr Lee Kong Chian.

Today, LKCSB is a dynamic Asian business school with more than 4,000 students and over a hundred full-time faculty members with doctorate degrees from renowned universities such as Cornell, Harvard, INSEAD, London Business School, Wharton, Oxford, Stanford and Yale. The school offers undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes and is affiliated with a number of research centres such as the Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics, the Centre for Marketing Excellence and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

LKCSB is ranked 3rd in Asia and 35th worldwide in the University of Texas, Dallas rankings (based on research contributions for the period 2013 – 2017) and is one of the youngest business schools in the world to have a triple accreditation with the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System), and AMBA (Association of MBAs). Many of the school's postgraduate programmes are also ranked in the FT (Financial Times) Business School Rankings including the Executive MBA (24th), the MBA (49th), the MSc in Wealth Management (3rd), the MSc in Applied Finance 45th) and the MSc in Management (76th).

[www.business.smu.edu.sg](http://www.business.smu.edu.sg)

### **About Singapore Management University**

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning

Home to over 10,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and post-graduate research programmes, SMU, is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)