



MEDIA RELEASE

SMU Graduates see increases in employment rates and salaries in latest employment survey

Graduates from 2015 cohort scored an all-time high in terms of starting salaries and employment rate; 93.7 per cent of SMU's jobseekers were employed within six months of completing their final examinations.

Singapore, 2 March 2016 (Wednesday) – Graduates from Singapore Management University's (SMU) 12th cohort have registered a strong overall employment rate¹ of 93.7% and high starting salaries across all six of the university's degree programmes.

The results were revealed in an annual Joint Graduate Employment Survey (GES) conducted by Singapore's five autonomous universities, namely Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Singapore Institute of Technology, and the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

76.2% or 1,248 participants of the 1,638 SMU alumni who graduated in 2015 took part in the survey.

The survey showed that 93.7% of SMU graduates in the labour force gained employment within six months after completing their final examinations, with two out of three being offered jobs before graduation. A quarter of those who received job offers landed full-time employment through internships which are compulsory for SMU undergraduates.

The mean gross monthly salary² of SMU graduates in full-time permanent jobs **is a record \$3,624**, since SMU graduated its pioneer cohort in 2004. This is an increase over the previous year's salary of **\$3,592**.

SMU Provost, Professor Lily Kong said, "Once again, the consistently strong survey results is a testament to SMU's high quality, value-add education which equips our students with a total skill-set, consisting of (hard) domain knowledge skills, (soft) people skills and 'heart' skills. Our holistic educational experience is built on a multi-pronged pedagogical approach that involves interactive pedagogy, experiential learning and technology-enabled education. Combined with opportunities for global exposure, community service, and internships, SMU helps our students to grow and become confident, articulate and well-rounded individuals and leaders."

"This transformative experience is impactful as evidently shown in this year's survey which revealed that close to nine in ten of our students felt that they have undergone a significant

¹ The overall employment rate refers to the number of graduates working in full-time permanent, part-time and temporary employment, as a proportion of graduates in the labour force (i.e. those who are working, and those who are not working but are actively looking and available for work).

² The median gross monthly salary for graduates in full-time permanent employment is \$3,300 in 2015.

growth as a result of their time at SMU, and some of whom believe they have had a complete transformative experience,” she added.

“In addition, more than 80% of the students who took part in the survey were convinced that SMU has prepared them well in the areas of their career and employability. Through our internship programme, which is compulsory, many of them are talent-spotted and offered jobs by their host companies even before they graduate,” said the University’s chief academic officer.

SMU students also have access to extraordinary career services workshops from their freshman year as part of SMU’s pioneering Finishing Touch (FT) programme. The compulsory programme prepares SMU undergraduates in career management skills and gears them towards employability and career readiness by helping students develop and focus on their career goals progressively throughout their four-year course of study.

Recognising the importance and value of having real-world and career-relevant work experience for its students, SMU is the first university in Singapore to make internships compulsory for all students. Students are provided opportunities through the Dato’ Kho Hui Meng Career Centre (DKHMCC) which works closely with industry to ensure successful placement of students in internships and jobs. The DKHMCC’s close and regular contact with employers is vital in helping SMU students be market relevant and business-ready.

Yet another factor that contributed to SMU’s impressive employment record is the University’s broad-based curriculum which opens up more opportunities for our graduates. The versatility of SMU graduates was demonstrated in the wide variety of professions and industries that they are employed in, ranging from finance and insurance, information and communication, legal, accounting and auditing, public administration and defence, business and management consultancy, and advertising services and market research.

SMU’s 2015 graduates continue to do well across the six Schools.

The most significant increase in salary was recorded for **Social Sciences** graduates. The survey showed that the 2015 Social Sciences graduates achieved a 12.1 per cent increase over the 2014 cohort, receiving \$3,550 as the mean gross monthly salary. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,200. Those with *Cum Laude* or better also saw a higher mean gross monthly salary of \$4,012 compared to last year’s \$3,545.

The mean gross monthly salary of **Economics** graduates in the 2015 cohort is \$3,946 which moved 8.3 per cent higher from last year. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,500. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a significantly higher average monthly salary of \$4,380 compared to last year’s \$3,824.

SMU’s **Accountancy** graduates garnered a mean monthly salary of \$3,427. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,000. Those with *Cum Laude* or better achieved a high mean gross monthly salary of \$3,701.

The **Business Management** graduates’ mean gross monthly salary is \$3,611. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,300. Those with *Cum Laude* or better were paid a higher mean gross monthly salary of \$4,130, compared to last year’s \$4,116.

The mean gross monthly salary of SMU’s **Information Systems (IS)** graduates increased 3.7 per cent to \$3,660 for the 2015 cohort. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,500. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$3,834.

Please refer to Annex for the detailed figures.

The follow-up survey³ on SMU **Law** graduates showed that 99 per cent of the respondents who were in the labour force were employed. The mean and median gross monthly salaries of Law graduates in full-time permanent employment were \$4,997 and \$4,731 respectively. Those who attained a GPA of 3.4 and above had a mean gross monthly salary of \$ 5,313.

Explanatory Note: *Cum Laude* and Merit Awards

SMU uses the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) criteria to identify degree candidates with academic excellence in the following award categories: *Summa Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude* and *Cum Laude*. These are Latin awards adopted from the American system, and can be translated as with Highest Distinction, with High Distinction and with Distinction, respectively. All *Cum Laude* awards are highly selective.

They do not equate to the various classes of degree honours conferred by universities that follow the British system of academic honours. A graduate needs a GPA of at least 3.40 out of 4.00 to be awarded *Cum Laude*. All SMU bachelor degrees are four-year full-time programmes.

Cumulative GPA	Awards
≥ 3.80	Summa Cum Laude
3.60 to 3.79	Magna Cum Laude
3.40 to 3.59	Cum Laude
3.20 to 3.39	High Merit
3.00 to 3.19	Merit

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About the 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 produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to

³ SMU's **Law** graduates in 2014 were excluded from the 2014 survey as they were undergoing pupillage in the first six months of their graduation. They have since started employment and have been included in the follow-up survey of GES 2015.

learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 9,300 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, 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 interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg