

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The Graduate Employment Survey (GES) is jointly conducted by NTU, NUS, SIT, SUTD and SMU annually to survey the employment conditions of graduates about six months after their final examinations. The Ministry of Education (MOE) publishes the results of key employment indicators of the survey to provide prospective students with timely and comparable data to assist them in making informed course decisions. 13,600 graduates from NTU, NUS and SMU were surveyed in Nov 2015 and the overall response rate obtained was 73.7%. Due to their different academic calendars, graduates from SIT and SUTD are surveyed in Feb 2015 and Mar 2015.

SMU: 2015 GES Employment Rates¹ and Salaries of Graduates by Bachelor Degree

Degree	Overall Employment Rate ² (%)	Full-Time Permanent Employment Rate ³ (%)	Basic Monthly Salary ⁴ (\$)		Gross Monthly Salary ⁵ (\$)			
			Mean	Median	Mean	Median	25 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
School of Accountancy (4-year programme)⁶								
Accountancy	97.3	93.0	\$3,287	\$2,900	\$3,427	\$3,000	\$2,850	\$3,500
Cum Laude and above	97.7	97.7	\$3,597	\$3,100	\$3,701	\$3,200	\$2,850	\$4,110
School of Business (4-year programme)⁶								
Business Management	93.9	88.2	\$3,513	\$3,200	\$3,611	\$3,300	\$3,000	\$4,000
Cum Laude and above	98.3	93.3	\$4,050	\$3,800	\$4,130	\$3,868	\$3,200	\$4,600
School of Economics (4-year programme)⁶								
Economics	90.3	85.8	\$3,798	\$3,500	\$3,946	\$3,500	\$3,200	\$4,100
Cum Laude and above	98.2	92.7	\$4,249	\$3,800	\$4,380	\$3,850	\$3,500	\$4,700
School of Information Systems (4-year programme)⁶								
Information Systems Management	94.8	85.9	\$3,491	\$3,500	\$3,660	\$3,500	\$3,200	\$4,110
Cum Laude and above	97.4	92.1	\$3,577	\$3,800	\$3,834	\$3,800	\$3,500	\$4,166
School of Social Sciences (4-year programme)⁶								
Social Sciences	89.0	83.0	\$3,306	\$3,100	\$3,550	\$3,200	\$2,980	\$3,600
Cum Laude and above	93.1	89.7	\$3,887	\$3,500	\$4,012	\$3,560	\$3,300	\$4,583
School of Law (4-year programme)⁶								
Law ⁷	99.0	99.0	\$4,889	\$4,600	\$4,997	\$4,731	\$4,350	\$5,800
Cum Laude and above	100.0	100.0	\$5,160	\$4,766	\$5,313	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$5,995

Source: Graduate Employment Survey jointly conducted by NTU, NUS, SIT, SUTD and SMU,

Notes:

- The employment rates refer to the number of graduates employed as a proportion of economically active graduates (i.e. graduates who engage actively in the labour market either by working or looking for a job) as at 1 Nov 2015 (i.e. approximately 6 months after completing their final examinations).
- Overall employment includes all types of full-time, part-time and temporary employment.
- Full-time permanent employment refers to employment of at least 35 hours a week and where the employment is not temporary. It includes those on contracts of one year or more.
- Basic monthly salary pertains only to full-time permanently employed graduates. It comprises basic pay before deductions of the employee's CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, overtime payments, commissions, allowances, other monetary and lump sum payments, and payments-in-kind are excluded.
- Gross monthly salary pertains only to full-time permanently employed graduates. It comprises the basic salary, fixed allowances, over-time pay and commissions, before deductions of the employee's CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments, and payments-in-kind are excluded.
- SMU's courses are direct 4-yr programmes and graduates could be awarded Cum Laude and above, Merit, High Merit or no awards. The data for SMU's courses above is displayed in two categories: (i) overall results for all graduates within the course regardless of the award they attained, and (ii) results for the graduates awarded Cum Laude and above. Should the graduates undertake more than 1 Degree (e.g. Dual Degree programme), they have been classified based on their first Degree.
- Data on law graduates are obtained from a follow-up survey on 2014 graduates after they have completed their practical law course/pupillage.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the difference between mean and median salaries?

The mean monthly salary is an average of the salaries of the full-time permanently employed graduates. The median monthly salary is the salary of the 'central' (i.e. 50th Percentile) graduate in a set of full-time permanently employed graduates when they are arranged in a sequential order by salary. It is useful to refer to these 2 indicators together. The median is a useful reference when the salary data is not evenly distributed (e.g. when the group contains graduates with exceptionally low or high salaries, especially when the number of respondents is relatively small).

For example, although the median gross monthly salary for the Accountancy course offered by SMU shows that 50% of the graduates are earning more than \$3,000, the mean gross monthly salary is about \$3,427. This indicates that there are some high earners who have raised the mean salary. In contrast, the mean gross monthly salary of Information Systems Management (Cum Laude and above) graduates is relatively similar to the median gross monthly salary. This indicates that the salaries are more evenly distributed on both sides of the median for this group of graduates.

2. *What do the 25th and 75th percentile gross monthly salaries indicate?*

If there are 100 students from that course who responded, then the 25th percentile (i.e. the lower quartile) gross monthly salary indicates that 75 graduates earn more than that salary, and the 75th percentile (i.e. the upper quartile) indicates that 25 graduates earn more than the gross monthly salary indicated.

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