



Publication: *The Business Times*, p 9

Date: 26 June 2013

Headline: SMU is No 2 in an FT ranking of Masters course

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By **ANNABETH LEOW**

THE Master of Science in Wealth Management programme run by the Singapore Management University (SMU) has been ranked second in the world among comparable masters in finance courses of study internationally.

It is the first time the nine-year-old programme offered through the Lee Kong Chian School of Business has been recognised since the *Financial Times* introduced these rankings in 2011.

The *Financial Times* surveyed the Masters level programmes in finance in universities that require relevant work experience before enrolling.

Only programmes which have been run for four consecutive years were ranked.

SMU was pipped by the London Business School, which has consistently bagged pole position in this *Financial Times* ranking. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Florida International University retained their third and fourth place rankings from last year; the University of Hong Kong rounded out the list in fifth place.



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The ranking assessed areas such as faculty and student diversity and the current salaries of the alumni from the Class of 2010, compared to their salaries pre-enrolment.

SMU graduates were found to draw US\$85,836 on average; their salaries rose by an average of 58 per cent after graduation.

They outdid the alumni of the four other schools in terms of career status and seniority three years after graduation.

The largest proportion of them (47 per cent) underwent company internships, compared to just 2 per cent of London Business School graduates and none from the other three schools.

They were also the quickest to land jobs, with 85 per cent employed three months after graduation, compared to 81 per cent of London Business School grads, 62 per cent of Hong Kong U grads, 34 per cent of Florida U grads and 26 per cent of Illinois U grads.

For a school to be eligible for this *Financial Times* ranking, at least 20 per cent of their alumni (comprising at least 20 responses) must have responded to the FT survey.