



Media Release

SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business Rises in Financial Times' EMBA Ranking 2016

- *Ranking climbs to 9th among Asian business schools and 32nd globally*
- *Graduates are among highest paid and most experienced in work pre-EMBA*

Singapore, 17 October 2016 (Monday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) has been ranked 32nd globally in the Financial Times (FT) Executive MBA Ranking 2016, up four places from 36th position last year. It has also risen to 9th place among Asian business schools ranked, compared to 10th in 2015.

This is the second time that LKCSB made the top 100, in only its second year of qualifying for the ranking, since its Executive MBA (EMBA) programme was set up five years ago.

The findings of the FT Executive MBA Ranking 2016 reveal that SMU's EMBA graduates are highly paid in Singapore, Asia and the world. Commanding a salary of around US\$311,500, they earn the 6th highest salary¹ in the world, and are the highest paid compared to those from other Singaporean institutions. They are also among the better paid in Asia. On top of this, they are ranked highly for pre-EMBA work experiences² at 5th place globally.

Professor Gerard George, Dean of SMU's Lee Kong Chian School of Business, and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said, "Our progressive rise in the rankings is a testament of our strategy to become the best Asian business school. They align strongly with SMU's vision of providing transformative education and producing global leaders with an Asian perspective. Many of our Business School's programmes have been affirmed by Financial Times as among the best in the world, which is sound endorsement of our world-class teaching, excellent student cohort, and alumni success.

"The high salaries of SMU EMBA graduates also validate their value in the market, and signal the programme's strong reputation and the leadership abilities of our graduates. The exposure to a stimulating cohort with experience across industries and geographies further enhances the learning journey. It is a great group to be a part of!"

Taught interactively in a dynamic city campus in Singapore with study stints in China, India and the USA, the SMU EMBA offers a global education that prepares senior executives for top leadership roles in Asia.

In a relatively short span of five years, the programme has been successful in attracting senior leaders from a wide variety of industries across Asia, Europe, USA and the Middle East, with more

¹ Salary figures refer to the average alumnus salary three years after graduation, in US\$ and PPP equivalent (purchasing power parity, allowing comparison between countries).

² Work experience is a measure of the pre-EMBA experience of alumni according to the seniority of positions held, number of years in each position, company size and overseas work experience.

than 95 per cent of the class comprising senior executives of c-suite director levels and above. They have an average of over 18 years of working experience.

The [SMU EMBA](#), which was first introduced in 2011, is an innovative programme designed to provide the modern leader with both Asian and global business perspectives. Delivered in a combination of intense one to two week-long sessions and concentrated three-day weekends, the 12-month modular programme offers overseas study segments held in renowned partner universities, namely the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University in China, the Indian School of Business in India, and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in the US. This offers participants the unique opportunity to learn from four world-class institutions. While in the US, SMU EMBA students will also be invited to attend an additional three-day seminar at the Washington Campus to understand how public policies in the US affect businesses operating in Asia.

Notably, its curriculum has been designed in consultation with more than 100 corporate leaders from Asia, resulting in first-of-its-kind or customised courses such as “Agile and Disruptive Strategy”, “Network and Alliance Building” etc. Professors with vast international research and consultancy experiences teach in small-size classes comprising a very senior profile of students who are industry leaders from diverse backgrounds, to offer participants an enriching experience. The programme, which received its sixth cohort in May 2016, has graduated about 160 graduates from 21 countries in the past five years.

This is FT’s 16th annual ranking of EMBA degrees. EMBA programmes must meet strict criteria in order to be considered for the ranking – schools must be accredited by either the American AACSB or the European EQUIS accreditation bodies, and the programmes must have run for at least four consecutive years. This year, a record 137 programmes took part in the ranking process, up from 129 the previous year.

In June this year, SMU LKCSB emerged third in the world in the Financial Times (FT) Global Masters in Finance Post-experience Ranking 2016 for its [Master of Science in Wealth Management \(MWM\) programme](#). The School remains the only institution in Asia and in Singapore to make it to the top five positions globally, placed just after University of Cambridge’s Judge Business School and London Business School. LKCSB also ranked 4th among Asian business schools and 42nd in the world in the FT Global Masters in Finance Pre-experience Ranking 2016 for its [Master of Science in Applied Finance \(MAF\) programme](#). It is also the only Singaporean institution to be ranked. This was the second time that LKCSB was featured in both the Pre- and Post-experience rankings – last year, it was the first school to ever feature in both rankings and was the highest-positioned new entrant.

For full results and more details, please refer to the following:

- FT EMBA Rankings 2016: <http://rankings.ft.com/exportranking/executive-mba-ranking-2016/pdf>
- FT EMBA Rankings 2016 Methodology: <https://www.ft.com/content/1ce8a26a-817f-11e6-8e50-8ec15fb462f4>

Enclosure:

- Images of SMU EMBA, SMU LKCSB, and SMU
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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 about 3,500 students and over a hundred full-time faculty members with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities such as Cornell, Harvard, INSEAD, 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.

In 2011, LKCSB received both the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation and a five-year EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) accreditation. For both accreditations, the School has the distinction of being one of the youngest schools in the world to be accredited. In April 2016, LKCSB earned re-accreditation from AACSB for another five years. LKCSB also joined the ranks of other internationally-renowned business schools by becoming a member of the EMBA Council since 2012. The School is currently ranked fourth in Asia and 49th worldwide in the University of Texas, Dallas rankings for research contributions for the period 2011 – 2015.

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

Home to around 9,300 undergraduate and postgraduate students, SMU comprises 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

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