



Media Release

SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business ranks well in the Financial Times Global Masters in Finance Rankings 2016

- *3rd in the world and 1st in Asia for Master of Science in Wealth Management programme (Post-experience Ranking)*
- *4th among Asian business schools for Master of Science in Applied Finance programme (Pre-experience Ranking)*

Singapore, 20 June 2016 (Monday) – The Singapore Management University’s (SMU) Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) has 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.

SMU 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 is the second time that LKCSB is featured in both the Pre- and Post-experience rankings – last year, it became the first school to ever feature in both rankings and was the highest-positioned new entrant.

The findings of the Post-experience Ranking 2016 reveal that SMU’s MWM alumni experienced an impressive 90 per cent increase in salary after graduation. LKCSB was also ranked second in 'placement success', which indicates the strong demand for SMU MWM graduates by the industry and the effectiveness of the University's career services and support. The School also took second spot for being 'value for money', and saw more diversity in increased proportions of international students and faculty. Of note too is that 74 per cent completed internships as part of the programme.

“These rankings validate and boost our comprehensive efforts in making LKCSB the best Asian business school, and strengthen our reputation globally. While the international recognition is important, our aspiration is to deliver a transformative education that is based on our faculty research and a unique understanding of the Asian business context. We strive to create a positive impact on Singapore and the region, and remain an exemplary world-class university in Asia,” said Professor Gerard George, Dean of SMU’s Lee Kong Chian School of Business, and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

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. The 12-month programme comprises a rigorous curriculum that was jointly designed by and anchors on the strengths of four institutions – SMU, Wealth Management Institute (WMI), Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) and the Yale School of Management (SOM) – across Asia, Europe and USA.

In 2015, the SMU MWM became the first and only master's programme accredited by the Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore (IBF) Standards, and also incorporated the Client Advisor Competency Standards (CACS) assessment required for entry into the private banking industry. These enable MWM graduates to obtain deep mastery of academic and applied knowledge, and new entrants to be fully trained and job-ready for wealth management. The programme is also associated with the CFA Institute and CAIA. Participants have the opportunities for exposure and immersion through vast learning activities and interactions with industry professionals in Singapore and overseas. 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 WMI, IBF, SFI and Yale SOM. The programme has trained more than 500 wealth managers to date and will be welcoming its 13th batch in July 2016.

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 over 1,000 students in total under the various MAF tracks.

This is FT's sixth 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 Executive MBA Ranking 2015*, LKCSB's [EMBA programme](#) was 36th in the world, 10th among Asian business schools, and the highest-ranked new entrant then.

For full results and more details about FT Masters in Finance Rankings 2016, please refer to the following:

- FT Masters in Finance Post-experience 2016:
<http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/masters-in-finance-post-experience-2016>
- FT Masters in Finance Pre-experience 2016:
<http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/masters-in-finance-pre-experience-2016>
- FT Masters in Finance Ranking Methodology 2016:
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/6bbcc046-2c08-11e6-a18d-a96ab29e3c95.html#axzz4C6NCSQSF>

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 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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