



MEDIA RELEASE

SMU's 2022 fresh graduates see healthy employment and starting salaries in latest employment survey

95.1 per cent of fresh graduates from the 2022 cohort who were in the labour force were employed within six months of completing their final examinations.

Singapore, 20 February 2023 (Monday) – Fresh graduates from Singapore Management University's (SMU) 19th cohort have registered healthy and stable overall employment, with 95.1%¹ of them employed and commanding good starting salaries across all six of the university's degree programmes.

The results were revealed in the annual Joint Autonomous Universities Graduate Employment Survey (JAUGES), jointly conducted by SMU and the other Autonomous Universities.

76.3% or 1,531 of the 1,982 SMU alumni who graduated in 2022 took part in the survey.

The survey showed that 95.1% of SMU fresh graduates in the labour force gained employment within six months of completing their final examinations. The proportion of SMU graduates in full-time permanent employment was 89.5%, a 2.4%-point increase from 2021. 68.3% of fresh graduates were offered full-time permanent jobs before graduation. This was a 4.1%-point increase as compared to the previous cohort. Among those who were on full-time permanent employment², more than half (55.9%) were offered employment through internships, which are compulsory, for SMU undergraduates.

Both the mean and median gross monthly salaries increased in 2022. The mean gross monthly salary of SMU graduates in full-time permanent jobs is **\$4,896** in 2022, an increase over the previous year's salary of \$4,358. The median gross monthly salary of graduates in full-time permanent employment is **\$4,500** in 2022, up from \$4,000 in 2021.

The top three industries of employment for SMU graduates were Financial and Insurance, Information & Communication, and Legal, Accounting and Auditing.

SMU Provost, Professor Timothy Clark said, "Despite slower economic growth in 2022, we are delighted to see that SMU graduates are very much in demand, with the great majority gainfully employed with good starting salaries. This is an acknowledgment of the appropriate marketplace readiness of our students honed by SMU's robust and holistic broad-based academic and co-curricular programmes that nurture the values and soft skills much desired at the workplace. Compulsory global exposure, community service, and mandatory internships (which graduates

¹ This refers to the number of graduates working in full-time permanent, part-time, temporary employment or freelancing, 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) as at 1 November 2022.

² Full-time permanent employment refers to the number of graduates working on a full-time permanent basis, as a proportion of graduates in the labour force (i.e. those who were working, or not working but actively looking and available for a job).

complete an average of 2.7 during their studies), all contribute workplace relevance to students' applied learning."

98% of 2022 graduates said that the SMU experience had a positive impact on them and they had experienced personal growth during their time at the University. In addition, 98% felt that the SMU experience had enabled them to develop interpersonal and collaboration skills while 97% felt that they had developed their communication and engagement skills. Another 95% said they were able to persevere and adapt in the face of challenges and also took ownership of their own personal development.

"An SMU education ensures students develop the skills and attributes that are critical and desired in any workplace today and these underpin our graduates' future careers," added Prof Clark.

Career Services offered by Dato' Kho Hui Meng Career Centre (DKHMCC)

The DKHMCC offers a range of comprehensive services, programmes, and resources for SMU students to chart their career directions, and also empowers them with the necessary skills to realise their potential and goals.

Each student is assigned a [career coach](#) upon matriculation to support him/her in career planning through his/her four-year journey at SMU. These certified coaches from DKHMCC come from diverse backgrounds and are in tune with industry developments and trends. They administer personality/career profiling tools, critique cover letters and resumes, facilitate job searches, and hone students' interview skills.

In addition, DKHMCC offers career services workshops from the freshman year as part of SMU's pioneering [Finishing Touch \(FT\) programme](#). The compulsory foundational FT programme delivered online equips SMU undergraduates with career management skills and gears them towards employability and career readiness, while the advanced modular FT modules which blend both classroom and online sessions help them develop and focus on their career goals progressively throughout their four-year course of study. Every year, DKHMCC organises more than 400 events which include career and industry talks, employability clinics, career fairs, as well as networking events, for our students.

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 via DKHMCC, which works closely with industry to ensure successful placements in internships and jobs. The DKHMCC's close and regular contact with employers is vital in helping SMU students be market-relevant and career-ready. Students also have access to a 24/7 web-based portal (OnTRAC) to search for internships and career opportunities.

DKHMCC also continues to support graduates up to three years after their graduation, with continued access to the jobs portal, employability clinics and personalised assistance by individual career coaches, should they require further guidance.

Examples of 2022 Graduates who have benefited from the SMU educational experience

Nicholas Wong Jun Jie, a graduate of the School of Social Sciences, did four internships as he wanted to gain exposure to different fields of interest before deciding on one to venture into upon graduation. He also looked for internships that would help him build up skillsets that are valuable in

any industry. He landed his first full time job before he graduated, doing analytics and insights at an MNC he had interned at. He says, “SMU not only provided me with the flexibility to explore fields that I’ve always wanted to explore beyond my major, but also taught me the relevant skillsets to ensure that I thrive in those areas. Coupled with the range of opportunities from overseas community service projects to exchange programmes, SMU provides the complete holistic package for anyone who is looking for a different university experience.” He is currently a data analyst with the government sector.

Daphne Yap Li Sing is an alumna of Lee Kong Chian School of Business and a Skillsfuture Singapore (SSG)- Workforce Singapore (WSG) joint scholarship recipient. She completed a total of five internships during her study. During the pandemic, she realised that the government sector required help and thus took on internship roles at the Singapore Tourism Board and Ministry of Trade and Industry. There, she worked on domestic tourism campaigns to aid the local museum and food industry and was involved in multiple cross-border trade and aquaculture projects. Daphne also went on a summer exchange programme at the University of Cambridge’s Pembroke-Kings College and a Business Study Mission in Seoul where she interacted with the founders of JustCo and Go Pizza. She also kickstarted a sold-out fund-raising project for Women Empowerment and was the Founding President of SMU Re-X, a student led CCA that aims to Reignite, Reimagine and Revitalise Retail. For Daphne, “SMU was the catalyst that encouraged me to step out of my bubble and conquer my fears. The myriad of growth opportunities allowed me to accomplish many things and even if I could turn back time, I would not have changed a thing!” Daphne is currently serving her bond at the Enterprise Programmes Division at WSG.

Shafeeka Rahama is a graduate from the School of Computing and Information Systems. To see which career path best suited her strengths, she took up three internship opportunities spanning from e-commerce to banking. Apart from taking up leadership roles, she also went for an exchange programme with Kyung Hee University in Korea where she took up contrasting modules such as anthropology and literature, to develop a holistic way of thinking. She landed her first full time job, before graduation, at Citibank, where she had previously interned. She now works as a full-time Java software developer under the bank’s technology analyst programme, working on high performance microservices/applications. She shared how SMU had prepared her for the industry, “SMU has provided career preparation support since year 1 in the form of hosting networking events, resume crafting and interview preparation workshops, and having each student assigned to a career coach. This support, coupled with the wide variety of technology stack that SMU covers in its curriculum, allows me to be confident in the skills set I have to offer. SMU has helped me to go beyond the scope of work assigned and to explore areas where I can create an impact for the team and company.”

Mikail Ismail, a graduate of the School of Accountancy and a Dean’s list awardee, spent the bulk of his time at SMU organising multiple camps and activities and mentoring his peers. He did an internship at Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and gained multiple soft and hard skills that helped prepare him for the workplace today. The opportunity enabled him to showcase his talent to the management team where he left a good impression. Today, he is gainfully employed at MAS working with their FinTech and Innovation Group. He says his university life at SMU was filled with excitement, “None of my four years were the same, each came with its own set of challenges, pleasant surprises and useful takeaways. I spent half of it as a Student Leader, a third as a coach and mentor to juniors and explored new activities, hobbies and interest groups in my final year, in search for fresh experiences and fond memories. Indeed, I am not the same person who first entered university back in 2018. The SMU experience has helped hone both my academic and non-academic skills, and greatly shaped my character and personal values. Truly, there never was a time where I felt stagnant in SMU, as the opportunities to develop and grow were ever-present.”

SMU's 2022 graduates across all six Schools enjoyed competitive monthly salaries

Information Systems graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,472, as compared to the 2021 cohort's \$4,906. The median gross monthly salary is \$5,400, up from \$5,000 in 2021. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,799 and a median gross monthly salary of \$5,638.

Business Management graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,937, as compared to last year's \$4,371. The median gross monthly salary was \$4,400, up from \$4,000 in 2021. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a higher mean gross monthly salary of \$5,630, while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,800.

Economics graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,824, up from \$4,777 in 2021. The median gross monthly salary was \$4,500, as compared to \$4,435 in 2021. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,169, while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,500.

Accountancy graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,497 as compared to \$3,814 in 2021. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,825, up from \$3,400 in 2021. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,097 while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,025.

Social Sciences graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,265 as compared to \$3,836 in 2021. The median gross monthly salary is \$4,000, as compared to \$3,600 last year. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,576 while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,316.

Please refer to Annex for the detailed figures.

The follow-up survey³ on SMU **Law** graduates showed that 94.1 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 \$6,221 and \$6,375 respectively. Those who attained a *Cum Laude* and above had a mean gross monthly salary of \$6,429 and median gross monthly salary of \$6,400.

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.

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.

³ SMU's **Law** graduates in 2021 were excluded from the 2021 survey results as they were undergoing pupillage in the first six months of their graduation. They have since started employment and are therefore included in the follow-up survey of JAUGES 2022.

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 Singapore Management University (SMU)

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

Home to over 12,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU comprises eight schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, Yong Pung How School of Law, School of Social Sciences, College of Integrative Studies and College of Graduate Research Studies. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters', and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with its schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg