



MEDIA RELEASE

SMU's 2023 fresh graduates see healthy employment and starting salaries in latest employment survey

92.3 per cent of fresh graduates from the 2023 cohort who were in the labour force were employed within six months of completing their final examinations.

Singapore, 22 February 2024 (Thursday) – Fresh graduates from Singapore Management University's (SMU) 20th cohort have registered healthy and stable overall employment, with 92.3%¹ of them employed and commanding good starting salaries across all 7 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.

76.1% or 1,717 of the 2,257 SMU alumni who graduated in 2023 took part in the survey.

The survey showed that 92.3% of SMU fresh graduates in the labour force gained employment within six months of completing their final examinations. 68.4% of fresh graduates were offered full-time permanent jobs before graduation. Among those who were on full-time permanent employment², 52.5% were offered employment through internships, which are compulsory for SMU undergraduates.

Both mean and median gross monthly salaries remained largely unchanged from 2022 figures, at around \$4,890 and \$4,500 respectively.

The top three industries of employment for SMU graduates were Financial and Insurance, Information & Communication, and Legal, Accounting and Auditing, remaining favourites given their course specialties.

SMU Provost, Professor Timothy Clark said, "In spite of a challenging economic landscape due to the weaker outlook in 2023, we are delighted to observe the continuing high demand for SMU graduates, who have once again achieved notable success in securing employment opportunities. This underscores the value employers place in our comprehensive and interdisciplinary educational approach, alongside a co-curricular programme which fosters values and essential skills critical in the professional arena.

Furthermore, SMU's Internship Programme enhances the rigour and workplace applicability of students' experiential learning. Approximately half of our graduates obtained job offers from internships, and we take pride in being the pioneer university in Singapore to mandate internships as a graduation requirement."

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 2023.

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).

98.4% of 2023 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, 97.3% felt that the SMU experience had enabled them to develop interpersonal and collaboration skills while 97.7% felt that they had developed their communication and engagement skills. Another 95% felt that SMU had prepared them well in terms of work readiness, and the ability to persevere and adapt in the face of challenges.

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 2023 Graduates who have benefited from the SMU educational experience

ALYSSA ALMAS MOHAMAD SHAMSURI

After completing her A levels at Raffles Junior College, Alyssa joined SMU to study Sociology and Communications Management at the School of Social Sciences. Through internships in corporate communications and journalism, she realised she wanted a job which is dynamic, keeps her active, and allows her to help people in a professional capacity. This prompted her to choose a career in the Singapore Police Force after graduation.

Her experience going through SMU's mandatory Community Service Programme greatly influenced her decision to pursue a different career path from her peers. During her time volunteering, she was able to work with the underprivileged, both locally and overseas. This convinced her that she wanted to work in a job that enables her to help people.

Reflecting on her SMU experience, Alyssa says "SMU allowed me to grow as an individual and a leader. Through the small class sizes, I was able to build up my confidence and felt comfortable asking questions in class which helped to facilitate my learning. Additionally, taking up leadership positions through co-curricular activities allowed me to learn how to manage a varsity club and people management skills. I believe that this has allowed me to be prepared for the real world and to have a better understanding of others, in my job and personal life."

DISHAN HITESH TIMBADIA

Dishan graduated from SMU School of Economics and his time at SMU was marked by valuable experiences, including two summer internships and one semester-long internship, which provided him with a comprehensive understanding of both the startup world and the fundamentals of banking and finance.

The university exchange programme at IE University in Madrid, Spain, expanded his horizons, exposing him to diverse cultures and different approaches to education. More importantly, it allowed him to connect with people from various walks of life, altering his perspectives on life and the significance of meaningful friendships.

After graduation, he took on the role of a programme manager at an accelerator, working with startups and collaborating with innovation teams at notable organisations like DHL, PETRONAS, and IBM. This broadened his understanding of cutting-edge solutions and corporate dynamics. He moved on to start an e-commerce business "Afflaunt" in May 2023, where he showcased homemade scented products crafted by his mother. He feels that SMU's holistic approach to education, incorporating modules in marketing, leadership, and communication, complemented by his studies in Economics, has significantly enhanced his entrepreneurial skills and capabilities.

Going forward, Dishan has set his sights on joining the consulting industry. His goal is to deepen his understanding of various sectors and connect with like-minded individuals for personal and professional growth.

He says, "Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, my time in SMU has been an exciting chapter filled with diverse experiences and valuable connections. I believe that the core values of SMU's CIRCLE (Commitment, Integrity, Responsibility, Collegiality, Leadership, Excellence) have been ingrained in all my endeavours and will continue to guide me towards success and excellence."

KEANE LEE JUN WEI, 李俊伟

After graduating from Ngee Ann Polytechnic with a Diploma in Mass Communication, Keane Lee joined SMU's Lee Kong Chian School of Business. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Management (BBM), majoring in Marketing. During his time in SMU, he served as President of Atomos Watch Club (a horology interest group formed in SMU) from 2021 to 2023 and interned at Panerai Singapore and Rolls-Royce Singapore.

Keane found both his internship opportunities through the career portal. With the help of his then career coach from the Career Centre, he was able to navigate the application and interview process with ease and confidence.

What was initially a casual interest in watches grew into a career — after connecting with like-minded friends in Atomos and working for luxury watch manufacturer Panerai, Keane has rejoined Panerai as the brand's Regional E-Business Specialist after graduation.

Keane is also a strong believer in enriching communities and giving back. While in SMU, he was also part of Project Enreach - an overseas community service project to Dalat, Vietnam. The project aimed to help improve the conditions of Dalat's education landscape by raising funds, providing support to the renovation of local school facilities, and organising language classes for children in the area. He was also selected to be a Concept Developer for SMU's Lien Centre for Social Innovation where he spearheaded the development of the digital application "Glowmakers" which provided students an online interactive road map to show how they can be changemakers and champion meaningful causes while they were pursuing their studies.

Keane shares, "Pivoting into a business course in SMU from media studies in polytechnic seems like a daunting task at first. However, the world-class faculty, supportive offices, helpful alumni, and the presence of like-minded friends has made the journey so much more enjoyable."

ZEPH NG XIN SHENG, 吴欣圣

Zeph Ng graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a Diploma in Financial Informatics and furthered his studies at SMU's School of Computing and Information Systems, which he chose because of its unique focus on technical competencies and emphasis on practical skills. Recognising the importance of theoretical knowledge and its practical applications, Zeph was drawn to SMU's curriculum, which challenges students to innovate and develop practical solutions to real-world problems. He believed that this approach would not only equip him with the necessary technical competencies but also foster his creativity and problem-solving abilities, preparing him effectively for the demands of the workforce.

During his time in SMU, he did four internships to gain diverse work experiences and insights across various domains within the technology industry. He recognised the value of hands-on experience in complementing classroom learning. With his passion in FinTech, Zeph had the opportunity to hone his leadership skills and soft skills as President of SMU FinTech club. He landed his first full-time job even before he graduated at Citibank as a Technology Analyst, where he is able to marry his technical skills with his passion in FinTech.

He shares, "I am thankful for SMU's emphasis on holistic learning – creating an environment that goes beyond textbooks and classrooms, fostering a culture of innovation, critical thinking, and building solutions to real-world problems. Putting to work the knowledge we've learned in class makes learning fun and impactful. With a dynamic curriculum, supportive faculty, and a wide range of opportunities for experiential learning, SMU equipped me with not only knowledge but also the practical skills and mindset necessary to thrive in today's ever-changing technology landscape."

SMU's 2023 graduates across all seven of the University degree programmes enjoyed competitive monthly salaries

Information Systems graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,530, as compared to the 2022 cohort's \$5,472. The median gross monthly salary is \$5,400, similar to 2022. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,866 and a median gross monthly salary of \$5,625.

Computer Science graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$6,120, and a median gross monthly salary of \$5,800. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a higher mean gross monthly salary of \$6,902 while the median gross monthly salary was \$6,250.

Business Management graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,795, as compared to last year's \$4,937. The median gross monthly salary was \$4,436, up from \$4,400 in 2022. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a higher mean gross monthly salary of \$5,244, while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,875.

Economics graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,937, up from \$4,824 in 2022. The median gross monthly salary was \$4,500, the same as in 2022. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,565, while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,833.

Accountancy graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,463 as compared to \$4,497 in 2022. The median gross monthly salary is \$3,900, up from \$3,825 in 2022. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$5,069 while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,500.

Social Sciences graduates earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,330 as compared to \$4,265 in 2022. The median gross monthly salary is \$4,000, the same as last year. Those with *Cum Laude* or better earned a mean gross monthly salary of \$4,547 while the median gross monthly salary was \$4,312.

Please refer to Annex for the detailed figures.

The follow-up survey³ on SMU **Law** graduates showed that 99.2 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 \$6,509 and \$7,000 respectively. Those who attained a *Cum Laude* and above had a mean gross monthly salary of \$6,690 and median gross monthly salary of \$7,000.

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.

³ SMU's **Law** graduates in 2022 were excluded from the 2022 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 2023.

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.

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 13,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU is comprised of 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 the six 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