

## GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The Graduate Employment Survey (GES) is conducted annually to survey the employment conditions of the graduates, about six months after their graduation. The Ministry of Education publishes the results of the key employment indicators of the survey every year to provide prospective students with timely and comparable data to assist them in making informed course decisions. 12,998 graduates from the three publicly-funded universities were surveyed and the overall response rate obtained was 75%. MOE has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the data but will not be liable for any inaccuracies. Students should make use of the data below at their own discretion.

### SMU: 2011 GES Employment Rate<sup>1</sup> and Salary of Graduates By Bachelors Degree

Degree	Overall Employment <sup>2</sup> Rate (%)	Full-Time Permanent Employment <sup>3</sup> Rate (%)	Basic Monthly Salary <sup>4</sup> (\$)		Gross Monthly Salary <sup>5</sup> (\$)			
			Mean	Median	Mean	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
<b>School of Accountancy</b>								
Accountancy (4-year programme)	99.4%	96.9%	3106	2800	3267	2900	2700	3600
- Cum Laude and above <sup>6</sup>	100.0%	98.6%	3496	3100	3671	3225	2925	4125
<b>School of Business</b>								
Business Management (4-year programme)	93.0%	87.3%	3189	3000	3369	3020	2600	3800
- Cum Laude and above <sup>6</sup>	97.4%	91.5%	3604	3300	3777	3500	3000	4100
<b>School of Economics</b>								
Economics (4-year programme)	94.8%	88.9%	3369	3000	3559	3200	2800	3864
- Cum Laude and above <sup>6</sup>	94.0%	92.0%	3797	3475	3999	3500	3175	4275
<b>School of Information Systems</b>								
Information Systems Management (4-year)	99.2%	94.6%	3389	3000	3637	3215	2893	4150
- Cum Laude and above <sup>6</sup>	100.0%	96.0%	4057	3800	4294	4200	3150	4783
<b>School of Social Sciences</b>								
Social Sciences (4-year programme)	96.6%	88.5%	2725	2700	3043	3000	2550	3500
- Cum Laude and above <sup>6</sup>	95.8%	87.5%	3128	3400	3450	3500	3100	3700

*Source: Graduate Employment Survey conducted by SMU*

#### **Additional Notes:**

- The employment rates refer to the number of graduates employed as a proportion of economically active graduates (i.e. graduates who have entered the labour market) as at 1 Nov 2011 (i.e. approximately 6 months after completing their final examinations).
- Overall employment includes all types of full-time and part-time/temporary employment.
- Full-time permanent employment refers to employment of at least 35 hours a week and where the employment is not temporary. It includes those on contracts of one year or more.
- Basic monthly salary pertains only to full-time permanently employed graduates. It comprises basic pay before deductions of the employee's CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, overtime payments, commissions, allowances, other monetary and lump sum payments, and payments-in-kind are excluded.
- Gross monthly salary pertains only to full-time permanently employed graduates. It comprises the basic salary, fixed allowances, overtime pay and commissions. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments, and payments-in-kind are excluded.
- SMU's courses are direct 4-yr programmes and graduates could be awarded Cum Laude and above, Merit, High Merit or no awards. The data for SMU's courses above is displayed in 2 categories: (i) overall results for all graduates within the course regardless of the award they attained, and (ii) results for the graduates awarded Cum Laude and above. Should the graduates undertake more than 1 Degree (e.g. Dual Degree programme), they have been classified based on the first Degree.
- The above table reflects the preliminary results of the employment survey.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- What is the difference between mean and median salaries?*

The Mean monthly salary is an average of the salaries of the full-time permanently employed graduates. The Median monthly salary is the salary of the 'central' (i.e. 50th Percentile) graduate in the set of full-time permanently employed graduates when they are arranged in a sequential order by salary. It is useful to refer to these 2 indicators together. The median is a useful reference when the salary data is not evenly distributed (e.g. when the group contains graduates with exceptionally low or high salaries, especially when the number of respondents is relatively small).

For example, although the median gross monthly salary for the Business Management course offered by SMU shows that 50% of the graduates are earning \$3,020 or less, the mean gross monthly salary is about \$3,369. This indicates that there are some high earners

who have raised the mean salary. In contrast, the mean gross monthly salary of Social Sciences graduates is relatively similar to the median gross monthly salary. This indicates that salaries are more evenly distributed on both sides of the median for this group of graduates.

2. *What do the 25th and 75th percentile Gross Monthly Salaries indicate?*

If there are 100 students from that course who responded, then the 25th percentile (i.e. the lower quartile) Gross Monthly Salary indicates that 75 graduates earn more than that salary and 25 graduates earn more than the 75th percentile (i.e. the upper quartile) of the Gross Monthly Salary indicated.