Source: *The Straits Times Online*
Date: 2 March 2016

Higher salaries for university graduates from NUS, NTU and SMU in 2015



1 of 2 Median salaries for university graduates from NUS, NTU, and SMU rose to a new high in 2015. PHOTO: NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

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SINGAPORE - Median salaries for university graduates last year rose to a new high of $3,300, up from $3,200 for the class of 2014.

This is according to the results of a joint graduate employment survey of 10,028 full-time, fresh graduates in November last year by the three universities - the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University.

The survey also found that about nine in 10 graduates, were able to find employment within six months of finishing their final examinations. The figure is similar to previous years.

About 83 per cent of the graduates in the labour force secured permanent full-time jobs compared to 82.7 per cent in 2014.

The mean gross monthly salary among fresh graduates who have permanent full-time jobs was higher at $3,468, up from $3,333 in 2014.

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Ministry of Education, Singapore

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The Graduate Employment Survey (GES) is jointly conducted by NTU, NUS, SIT, SUTD and SMU annually to survey the employment conditions of graduates about six months after their final examinations. The Ministry of Education (MOE) publishes the results of key employment indicators of the survey to provide prospective students with timely and comparable data to assist them in making informed course decisions. 13,600 graduates from NTU, NUS and SMU were surveyed in Nov 2015 and the overall response rate obtained was 73.7%. Due to their different academic calendars, graduates from SIT and SUTD are surveyed in Feb 2015 and Mar 2015.

SMU: 2015 GES Employment Rates[1] and Salaries of Graduates by Bachelor Degree

Degree	Overall Employment Rate[2] (%)	Full-Time Permanent Employment Rate[3] (%)	Basic Monthly Salary[4] ($)		Gross Monthly Salary[5] ($)			
			Mean	Median	Mean	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
School of Accountancy (4-year programme)[6]								
Accountancy	97.3	93.0	$3,287	$2,900	$3,427	$3,000	$2,850	$3,500
Cum Laude and above	97.7	97.7	$3,597	$3,100	$3,701	$3,200	$2,850	$4,110
School of Business (4-year programme)[6]								
Business Management	93.9	88.2	$3,513	$3,200	$3,611	$3,300	$3,000	$4,000
Cum Laude and above	98.3	93.3	$4,050	$3,800	$4,130	$3,868	$3,200	$4,600
School of Economics (4-year programme)[6]								
Economics	90.3	85.8	$3,798	$3,500	$3,946	$3,500	$3,200	$4,100
Cum Laude and above	98.2	92.7	$4,249	$3,800	$4,380	$3,850	$3,500	$4,700
School of Information Systems (4-year programme)[6]								
Information Systems Management	94.8	85.9	$3,491	$3,500	$3,660	$3,500	$3,200	$4,110
Cum Laude and above	97.4	92.1	$3,577	$3,800	$3,834	$3,800	$3,500	$4,166
School of Social Sciences (4-year programme)[6]								
Social Sciences	89.0	83.0	$3,306	$3,100	$3,550	$3,200	$2,980	$3,600
Cum Laude and above	93.1	89.7	$3,887	$3,500	$4,012	$3,560	$3,300	$4,583
School of Law (4-year programme)[6]								
Law[7]	99.0	99.0	$4,889	$4,600	$4,997	$4,731	$4,350	$5,800
Cum Laude and above	100.0	100.0	$5,160	$4,766	$5,313	$5,000	$4,500	$5,995

Source: Graduate Employment Survey jointly conducted by NTU, NUS, SIT, SUTD and SMU,

Notes:

1. **The employment rates refer to the number of graduates employed as a proportion of economically active graduates (i.e. graduates who engage actively in the labour market either by working or looking for a job) as at 1 Nov 2015 (i.e. approximately 6 months after completing their final examinations).**
2. **Overall employment includes all types of full-time, part-time and temporary employment.**
3. **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.**
4. **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.**
5. **Gross monthly salary pertains only to full-time permanently employed graduates. It comprises the basic salary, fixed allowances, over-time pay and commissions, before deductions of the employee's CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer's CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments, and payments-in-kind are excluded.**
6. **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 two 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 their first Degree.**
7. **Data on law graduates are obtained from a follow-up survey on 2014 graduates after they have completed their practical law course/pupillage.**

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. ***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 a 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 Accountancy course offered by SMU shows that 50% of the graduates are earning more than $3,000, the mean gross monthly salary is about $3,427. This indicates that there are some high earners who have raised the mean salary. In contrast, the mean gross monthly salary of Information Systems Management (Cum Laude and above) graduates is relatively similar to the median gross monthly salary. This indicates that the 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 the 75th percentile (i.e. the upper quartile) indicates that 25 graduates earn more than the gross monthly salary indicated.

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Graduates from SMU fared the best with 93.7 per cent of them being employed within six months of their final examinations. The figure was nearly 90 per cent for NUS and NTU.

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NTU: 2015 GES Employment Rates[1] and Salaries of Graduates by Bachelor Degree

Degree	Overall Employment Rate[2] (%)	Full-Time Permanent Employment Rate[3] (%)	Basic Monthly Salary[4] ($)		Gross Monthly Salary ($)[5]			
			Mean	Median	Mean	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
College of Business (Nanyang Business School)								
Accountancy and Business	98.6	97.3	$4,225	$3,500	$4,438	$3,770	$3,000	$4,850
Accountancy (3-yr direct Honours Programme)	97.3	96.5	$3,182	$2,850	$3,240	$2,875	$2,850	$3,125
Business (3-yr direct Honours Programme)	92.2	87.6	$3,343	$3,100	$3,502	$3,200	$2,900	$3,700
Business and Computing	100.0	100.0	$4,036	$4,184	$4,395	$4,583	$3,800	$4,876
College of Engineering								
Aerospace Engineering	86.0	86.0	$3,699	$3,650	$3,724	$3,700	$3,450	$4,000
Aerospace Engineering and Economics**	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Bioengineering	92.6	76.5	$3,079	$3,000	$3,197	$3,113	$2,900	$3,450
Business and Computer Engineering**	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Chemical And Biomolecular Engineering	86.8	80.9	$3,156	$3,100	$3,373	$3,300	$3,000	$3,600
Chemical And Biomolecular Engineering and Economics**	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N..A
Computer Engineering	85.1	83.0	$3,489	$3,350	$3,577	$3,500	$3,200	$4,000
Civil Engineering	95.3	93.0	$3,125	$3,100	$3,206	$3,200	$3,000	$3,300
Computer Science	92.4	91.4	$3,489	$3,300	$3,535	$3,300	$3,150	$3,800
Electrical And Electronic Engineering	88.6	86.2	$3,345	$3,200	$3,446	$3,300	$3,000	$3,690
Environmental Engineering	89.7	82.1	$3,472	$3,200	$3,673	$3,300	$3,000	$3,835
Environmental Engineering and Economics**	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Information Engineering And Media	87.3	80.0	$3,271	$3,200	$3,375	$3,275	$3,000	$3,500
Information Engineering And Media and Economics**	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Materials Engineering	82.9	76.8	$3,213	$3,100	$3,397	$3,200	$3,000	$3,600
Mechanical Engineering	88.0	80.7	$3,248	$3,200	$3,388	$3,250	$3,000	$3,600
Mechanical Engineering and Economics**	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Maritime Studies	95.0	95.0	$3,249	$3,200	$3,271	$3,200	$3,000	$3,300
College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences								
Art, Design & Media	79.3	56.9	$3,284	$2,800	$3,457	$2,800	$2,200	$3,000
Chinese	81.8	76.6	$2,978	$3,000	$3,045	$3,200	$2,800	$3,500
Communication Studies	85.1	74.4	$2,921	$2,900	$3,008	$3,000	$2,600	$3,330
Economics	87.4	75.9	$3,322	$3,200	$3,496	$3,300	$3,000	$3,800
English	88.0	74.0	$3,238	$3,000	$3,322	$3,314	$2,604	$3,743
Linguistics And Multilingual Studies	88.4	55.8	$3,475	$3,000	$3,753	$3,000	$2,800	$3,600
Psychology	73.3	52.0	$3,099	$3,121	$3,264	$3,200	$2,800	$3,562
Sociology	85.7	79.4	$3,260	$3,000	$3,402	$3,125	$2,700	$3,600
College of Sciences								
Biomedical Science (Traditional Chinese Medicine)[7]	100.0	100.0	$2,832	$2,800	$2,882	$2,800	$2,500	$3,105
Biological Sciences	74.6	65.3	$3,117	$3,000	$3,229	$3,190	$2,875	$3,600
Chemistry & Biological Chemistry	83.9	72.3	$2,960	$2,900	$3,139	$3,000	$2,800	$3,500
Mathematics & Economics	95.3	84.4	$3,291	$3,000	$3,440	$3,205	$2,925	$3,500
Mathematical Science	81.8	72.7	$3,254	$3,125	$3,402	$3,240	$2,950	$3,500
Physics / Applied Physics	82.1	69.6	$3,098	$3,000	$3,186	$3,200	$2,900	$3,400
Sports Science and Management	90.7	72.1	$3,232	$3,000	$3,307	$3,295	$2,900	$3,600
National Institute of Education (NIE)								
Science (with Education)[6]	100.0	100.0	$3,496	$3,500	$3,604	$3,504	$3,500	$3,855
Arts (with Education)[6]	100.0	100.0	$3,551	$3,500	$3,622	$3,500	$3,500	$3,605

Source: Graduate Employment Survey jointly conducted by NTU, NUS, SIT, SMU and SUTD

SMU graduates also earned the most, with a record mean gross monthly salary of $3,624 since the university's pioneer cohort graduated in 2004.

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COURSES WHERE NUS FRESH GRADUATES ACHIEVED HIGHER STARTING SALARIES* IN 2015
1. Bachelor of Arts
2. Bachelor of Arts (Hons)
3. Bachelor of Social Sciences
4. Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons)
5. Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy)
6. Bachelor of Business Administration (Accountancy) (Hons)
7. Bachelor of Computing (Communications and Media)
8. Bachelor of Computing (Computer Science)
9. Bachelor of Computing (Electronic Commerce)
10. Bachelor of Computing (Information Systems)
11. Bachelor of Arts (Industrial Design)
12. Bachelor of Science (Real Estate)
13. Bachelor of Engineering (Biomedical Engineering)
14. Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering)
15. Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering)
16. Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering)
17. Bachelor of Engineering (Engineering Science)
18. Bachelor of Engineering (Environmental Engineering)
19. Bachelor of Engineering (Materials Science and Engineering)
20. Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering)
21. Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
22. Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons)
23. Bachelor of Science (Hons)

Their peers from NUS and NTU took home $3,469 and $3,419 respectively, about 4.3 to 4.5 per cent higher than the 2014 batch.

Overall, fresh graduates from engineering fields such as computer engineering, engineering science and environmental engineering saw the biggest pay jumps. Some double-degree programmes at NTU as well as the social sciences, accountancy and information systems courses at SMU also saw the highest salary increases.

Details of the survey findings can be found at: www.moe.gov.sg/education/post-secondary/.

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