

SMU scores with all graduates finding jobs within 6 months

THE Singapore Management University (SMU) scored in its first-time participation in the Graduate Employment Survey.

A full 100 per cent of the five-year-old university's graduates found work within six months of graduating, with more than half of them securing a job even before graduating. These graduates included those who graduated in May, June and September last year.

To top that, three out of four of these graduates reported having received two or more job offers.

Last year's employment figures for the

other two local universities – the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) – have not been released.

But in the year 2003, 92 per cent of NUS graduates and 89 per cent of NTU graduates secured a job within six months.

Hired across a wide spectrum of professions including financial, accounting, consulting and services sectors, SMU graduates started at an average pay of \$2,500.

Those with distinctions start higher at nearly \$3,000.

As the first in Singapore to offer the double-degree programme, the university also reported high employability for graduates from the programme, with almost all securing a job before or within a month of graduating, on an average paycheck of \$3,147.

Said SMU President Prof Howard Hunter: "The employability of SMU students confirms our strong belief in both our seminar-style pedagogy and flexible but integrated curriculum, which together foster hands-on, team-oriented, project-based learning that is relevant to the marketplace.

It also reinforces what we have been hearing from employers through our internship programme – that SMU students are confident, resourceful and highly sought after."

Miss Chin Yingwen clinched a job as a hedge fund analyst last January – six months before she graduated in July the same year.

Attributing the employability of SMU students to the university's high profile and opportunities for the students to shine in their job attachments, she said: "Most of the people I know found work within three months of graduating or were hired before they graduated." – *Sheralyn Tay*