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

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 89.5% of graduates were able to find employment within six months of finishing their final examinations, with 83.1% securing full-time permanent jobs. The figure is similar to previous years.

The mean gross monthly salary among fresh graduates was also higher across the three universities. SMU graduates earned the most, with a record mean gross monthly salary of $3,624, up from $3,592 last year. The figure recorded for 2015 was the highest since the university’s pioneer cohort graduated in 2004.

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.

Among the three universities, business and computing, medicine and law were the courses with the highest median gross salary. Graduates from NUS medicine were the top earners with a median gross salary of $4,900, followed by SMU Law and NTU Business and Computing (Double Degree) taking home $4,731 and $4,583 respectively.

93.7% of SMU graduates found employment within 6 months

In terms of employment, graduates from SMU fared the best, with 93.7 per cent of them being employed within six months of their final exams. The figure was nearly 90 per cent for NUS and NTU.

According to NUS press release, graduates from 17 courses in Architecture, Arts, Business, Computing, Engineering, Industrial Design, Nursing, Real Estate and Science recorded an improvement in full-time permanent employment rates in 2015, compared to 2014. The top three courses that saw the highest increase in full-time permanent employment rates are Materials Science and Engineering, followed by Engineering Science, and Computer Science.

Professor Tan Eng Chye, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost, said, ”The latest Graduate Employment Survey reflects the consistently strong industry demand for NUS graduates. At NUS, we remain committed to expand our career preparation programmes and foster closer engagements with the industry to better prepare our students for life after graduation.”

SMU Provost Professor Lily Kong said “More than 80% of the students who took part in the survey were convinced that SMU has prepared them well in the areas of their career and employability. Through our internship programme, which is compulsory, many of them are given the opportunities to showcase their talent and are talent-spotted and offered jobs even before they graduate.”
Similarly, at NTU’s Nanyang Business School, more than one in three Business & Computing graduates are hired by their internship companies. More than nine in 10 of the Business School’s graduates in the labour force found full-time permanent jobs six months after completing their final examinations. Many of them received more than one job offer and some from as early as during their second-year internships.

NTU Professor Kam Chan Hin, Senior Associate Provost (Undergraduate Education), said, “With the increasingly competitive job market, both locally and globally, university graduates today are starting to see the value and importance of acquiring work experience during their studies. Our graduates possess a strong blend of relevant skills and real-world experience that enable them to hit the ground running, which is highly valued by employers. I’m confident about their prospects despite the challenging outlook for the global economy.”