SMU pips NUS in graduate jobs again

By JURENA CHAN

SINGAPORE Management University (SMU) has pipped the National University of Singapore (NUS) in terms of graduate employment for a second straight year, according to figures released by the two institutions.

SMU said yesterday that 100 per cent of its 2005 graduates found work within six months. NUS said last week that its figure was 94 per cent.

SMU, which claims to give its students a “dynamic” American-style education, also said yesterday that 90 per cent of its 2005 graduates found full-time employment and the rest part-time work.

The average gross monthly starting salary for those working full-time was more than $2,500, SMU said. Its business management graduates did best. Overall they commanded an average starting salary of $2,600, or 5 per cent more than in 2004. And those who graduated with distinction or higher started on $3,000 a month or more.

SMU graduates found work in various sectors, from finance to services. More than 40 per cent went into banking, finance, auditing or accounting.

Also, 3 per cent of this year’s graduates found jobs overseas, in places such as Japan, China and Hong Kong. The figures were obtained from a survey of 337 SMU graduates.

NUS said last week that a survey it carried out showed that 85.5 per cent of its 2005 graduates found full-time work within six months, up from 80.6 per cent a year ago. The average monthly starting pay of its 2005 graduates in full-time employment was $2,500, up 5 per cent from a year earlier.