SINGAPORE: For a second straight year, graduates of Singapore Management University have scored a 100 percent employment rate.

All found jobs within six months of graduation, with three quarters receiving multiple job offers.

During his four years in SMU, Taresh Dhawan spent a total of four months on internships.

His last internship at petrol giant Shell led to his first job as a trading operator.

Said Taresh, "If you have an internship over a period of one month or two months, there is no doubt in my mind that that is so much better than a half hour interview. You get a chance to suss out the place that you may be working at. For me, reducing that unknown is a big deal."

All SMU students have to spend at least 10 weeks with a business organisation before they graduate.

And that has clearly paid off.

Some 21 percent of graduates from the class of 2005 landed jobs in the companies at which they interned.

Last year, SMU graduates were snapped up by the financial, accounting, consulting and services sectors.

Said Professor Howard Hunter, president of SMU, "We're also in a period of an expanding economy and I hope that the success of our students in getting jobs will help lay the foundation for future students and establish SMU in such a way that we'll be equally successful when the economy is slower."

For now, the job market is looking rosy for university graduates.

The NUS employment survey released last week showed the highest employment rate in a decade.

NTU is expected to release its survey on Wednesday. - CNA /ct