No job worries at SMU

100% of students find jobs within half-year of graduation

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For the second year running, every single graduate from the Singapore Management University (SMU) has landed a job either before or within six months of their graduation.

This is according to a survey of the cohort of 337 students who graduated last year conducted by the university.

In fact, three-quarters of the graduates surveyed found jobs within a month of graduation, and more than half had already clinched jobs prior to graduating.

Forty per cent found jobs in the banking, finance, auditing and accounting sectors, while 21 per cent accepted job offers from the companies in which they had spent their internships. And even as the job market veers towards contract hiring, nine out of 10 graduates found permanent, full-time jobs.

SMU graduates earned an average starting salary of $2,500 a month, with business management graduates taking home $2,600 a month, up 5 per cent from 2004. Those who graduated with distinction earned an average of $3,000 a month.

A National University of Singapore survey of 4,000 graduates last week showed a similar starting salary. NTU will be releasing the results of their Graduate Employment Survey today.

Said SMU president Professor Howard Hunter: “The 100 per cent employment rate shows that SMU’s flexible but integrated curriculum is producing a certain competence that is highly sought-after.”

The graduates’ versatility is also reflected in how some of their graduates are able to cross seamlessly between industries.

Ms Sarah Seow forms part of the 21 per cent of SMU’s 2005 batch of accounting graduates who did not take the obvious path of signing up with an accounting firm. Instead, she joined GE Energy Asia-Pacific as a financial analyst under the company’s prestigious leadership training programme, the Financial Management Programme (FMP).

She said: “Accountancy gives you valuable ‘hard’ skill sets. And SMU also taught me ‘soft’ skills like how to present and explain numbers to a layman. We didn’t have our noses in books all the time.”

GE Energy’s finance director Steve Dwyer added that “SMU seems to be doing well” in equipping students with good communication and leadership skills.