SMU grads in higher starting pay

THE fourth and largest batch of graduates from the Singapore Management University (SMU) are getting higher starting salaries than their seniors from the year before.

They are also landing jobs sooner, with nearly all snagging positions within six months of graduation, The Straits Times reported.

The overall starting salary for the Class of 2007 went up 6.7 per cent to $3,040 from $2,850 for the Class of 2006, according to SMU's latest employment survey. The top 20 per cent are getting monthly starting salaries of $5,600.

The top 12 per cent – one in eight graduates or 69 of them from across all degree programmes – are doing even better, drawing starting salaries of between $4,000 and $10,000 a month. Among the Class of 2006, just 8 per cent or 26 made it to this pay bracket.

SMU's Graduate Employment Survey had a response rate of 87 per cent – 618 out of the 711 who graduated between May and September last year responded.