

## NTU's Class of 2019 continue to be in strong employment demand



Fresh graduates from the Class of 2019 at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU) continue to be sought after by employers, with graduates from business and computing courses again being in highest demand.

Nine in 10 NTU fresh graduates in the labour force were employed within six months of completing their final examinations. More than eight in 10 in the labour force are in full-time permanent employment.

In all, 4,690 NTU graduates responded to the 2019 Joint Autonomous Universities Graduate Employment Survey (JAUGES), jointly conducted by NTU and the other Autonomous Universities. This comprises 4,630 graduates from the Class of 2019, including 38 medical graduates from the Class of 2018 – the pioneer cohort of medical students – who took part in a follow-up survey.

Graduates from Information and Digital Technologies courses continue to be in demand, with graduates from Computer Engineering and Computer Science courses recording full-time permanent employment of 90 per cent or more amongst those in the labour force.

Business and Computing (double degree) graduates are one of the highest-paid among their peers, with a median gross monthly salary of \$4,833. They come just after Medicine graduates, who top the list with a median gross monthly salary of \$5,700 after completing their one-year housemanship or first-year residency. Computer Science graduates draw the next highest median starting salary at \$4,200.

The overall mean gross monthly salary for NTU's Class of 2019 has risen to \$3,693, up from \$3,634, while their median gross monthly salary stayed the same.

NTU Deputy President and Provost Professor Ling San said: "As a leading global university with strengths in sciences and digital technologies, NTU works closely with renowned industry partners to identify and forecast trends that are then reflected and updated in our curriculum. NTU also collaborates with these companies to combine classroom learning with on-the-job training, so we can continue to equip our students with the confidence and necessary skills to navigate the workplace of tomorrow. As a result, we now have an array of work-integrated learning options tailored to our students' different needs."

### **Work-integrated learning helps NTU graduates shine**

Most NTU students go on 10 to 30 weeks of internship or work attachment either locally or overseas. On top of attachments to healthcare institutions, final-year Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) students also embark on a six-week overseas elective in various countries including the UK, Japan, India, and Thailand.

Last year, the University launched its Work-Study Degree Programmes for areas such as Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Maritime Studies and Mathematical Sciences. Students on this track will complete three mandatory internships over a period of 40 to 50 weeks, so they have opportunities to gain more work experience.

Professor Ling said: "On-the-job learning is popular with our students, who recognise the value of deep industry exposure in building both technical and soft skills. These complementary skills are instrumental in helping NTU students excel in the workplace, and give them a competitive edge, making them quality candidates for employers."

For instance, among graduates from NTU's School of Computer Science and Engineering, more than nine out of 10 in the labour force found full-time permanent employment within six months of finishing their final exams. More than half of Computer Science graduates in full-time permanent employment were offered a position in the company that they did their internship at, and among those who received full-time permanent job offers, close to two-thirds received more than one offer.

NTU Computer Science graduate Ms Ong Tse Yin, an associate analyst at a global payments and technology company, credits her employment to her internship experiences and overseas exposure as an undergraduate. Some of her internship experiences include teaching at a coding school for children and designing the curriculum, as well as working as a cyber-intelligence intern at a leading energy company.

“The combination of technological knowledge and soft skills such as leadership and communication –which honed during my internships – and cross-cultural experiences during my exchange programme has given me an edge,” she said.

NTU LKCMedicine graduate Dr Claudia Tong, who works at a local public restructured hospital, has been rostered to be at the frontline of the COVID-19 outbreak since January. She appreciates the hands-on curriculum as well as the combination of practical and ward-based teaching at LKCMedicine that have well-prepared newly-minted clinicians like herself to face real-life scenarios.

“As doctors, it is our calling to be at the forefront during disease outbreaks. I’m thankful to the tutors who have shown us that this is what it means to be a doctor. During our time at LKCMedicine, we have been exposed to patient interaction and teamwork, starting right from Year 1, teaching us to always place our patients at the heart of what we do,” she said.

The JAUGES results for NTU’s Class of 2019 are available on this [website](#).

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