

46.4% of fresh grads from private institutions land full-time jobs: Poll

Jobs found within 6 months; overall 85.3% find work, including part-time, freelance

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About half of the fresh graduates from private education institutions (PEIs) here found full-time work within six months of completing their examinations, a survey shows.

Released by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) yesterday, the latest graduate employment survey indicated that 46.4 per cent of fresh PEI graduates secured full-time permanent jobs, a dip from 49 per cent for the previous cohort.

But overall, 85.3 per cent of them found work, including part-time or freelance jobs, up from 80.7 per cent previously.

The survey found that job prospects for PEI graduates lag behind their peers from autonomous universities.

The overall employment rate for fresh graduates from the 2021 cohort in autonomous universities was 94.4 per cent while the full-time permanent employment rate was 84 per cent.

The figures for post-national service polytechnic graduates were also higher, at 94.2 per cent and 63.3 per cent respectively.

The poll also showed that the median gross monthly salary of PEI fresh graduates in full-time jobs was \$2,989, compared with

How private school graduates fare

Proportions of graduates in the labour force who were:	2019/2020	2020/2021	Autonomous universities (NTU, NUS, SMU, SUSS*)
Employed	80.7%	85.3%	94.4%
- In full-time permanent jobs	49.0%	46.4%	84%
- Freelancing	3.0%	3.2%	1.7%
- In part-time/temporary work	28.7%	35.6%	8.7%
Unemployed	19.3%	14.7%	5.6%
Median gross monthly salary (for those in full-time permanent work)	\$2,900	\$2,989	\$3,800

NOTE: Graduates in part-time/temporary work includes those who were on the SGUnited Traineeships Programme.

*Results from the latest joint employment survey for autonomous universities were published on Feb 16. Respondents included full-time undergraduates who graduated in May 2021 from NTU, NUS, SMU and SUSS only.

Source: PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTION GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 2020/2021 BY SKILLSFUTURE SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Job outcomes by institution

Private education institution	Proportion of graduates in labour force who were employed	Proportion of graduates in labour force in full-time work	Median gross monthly salary	Response rate	Number of economically active fresh graduate respondents
Parkway College of Nursing and Allied Health	81.3%	81.3%	\$3,694	50%	16
PSB Academy	85.2%	55.5%	\$3,000	31%	182
Curtin Education Centre	75.5%	49.0%	\$2,750	31%	49
Singapore Institute of Management	88.6%	47.2%	\$3,000	54%	2,018
ERC Institute	84.4%	43.8%	\$2,700	38%	32
James Cook University	75.2%	43.6%	\$3,000	35%	133
Management Development Institute of Singapore	72.2%	42.6%	\$2,500	36%	54
Kaplan Higher Education Academy	78.4%	38.8%	\$2,800	44%	343

NOTE: • These figures refer to employment outcomes of fresh graduates from full-time external degree programmes, for institutions with 10 or more respondents.

The response rate refers to the proportion of graduates from such programmes who responded to the survey.

• Results based on a small sample size of fewer than 30 respondents may not be representative of the institution's job outcomes.

Source: PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTION GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 2020/2021 BY SKILLSFUTURE SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

\$3,800 for those from autonomous universities and \$2,614 for post-national service polytechnic graduates.

The survey focused on employment outcomes of about 2,900 economically active graduates from

full-time bachelor's-level external degree programmes.

This batch came from 28 PEIs such as the Singapore Institute of Management and PSB Academy and graduated between May 2020 and April 2021.

Meanwhile, 27.9 per cent of PEI fresh graduates were unemployed and still looking for a job within six months of their final examinations, or were in involuntary part-time or temporary employment, according to the survey.

This was higher than the corresponding figure of 6.2 per cent for fresh graduates from autonomous universities and 6.7 per cent for post-NS polytechnic graduates.

In yesterday's statement, Ms Hui Mei San, director-general for pri-

vate education at SSG, said: "With a greater focus on lifelong learning today, there are multiple learning pathways and opportunities available for Singaporeans to pursue learning and upgrading at different stages of their lives, to achieve their career goals and aspirations."

"The findings of the PEI graduate employment survey thus aim to help prospective students make informed decisions when deciding on their learning and career options amid these varied options."

About 9,400 full-time bachelor's-level external degree programme students graduated between May 2020 and April 2021, with about 45 per cent of them responding to the survey.

The statement noted that the findings do not cover certain groups of students, such as fresh graduates who are not actively looking for jobs, part-time students and mature learners, as well as international students working or seeking employment abroad.

It added that there was considerable variation in the employment outcomes of graduates across the different PEIs, and potential students are advised to look at the outcomes for specific institutions before making their decisions.

Associate Professor Jason Tan from the National Institute of Education said many polytechnic graduates hope a university degree will give them an edge in the job market. This aspiration will continue as long as there is a hierarchy of qualifications in the system. "But the gap between private and autonomous university graduates has always been there, perhaps partly because of employer perception and the varying academic standards across institutions," he said.

He also said that students considering degree programmes by PEIs must think about the large investment required of them.

"These courses don't receive financial support from the Government, so you would have to fork out your own money," said Prof Tan, who also noted the opportunity cost of lost earnings during the period of full-time studies.

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