

Higher starting pay for fresh graduates last year

✓ AMELIA TENG, EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

Fresh university graduates earned a higher starting pay last year, with those in the information technology (IT) sector registering the highest rates for full-time permanent jobs.

Fresh grads took home a median monthly salary of \$3,500, up from \$3,400 in 2017, according to results of a joint graduate employment survey released yesterday.

Those in courses such as computing, business analytics and information security had the highest median gross monthly pay of \$4,100.

The annual survey, conducted last November, also



Fresh grads took home a median monthly salary of \$3,500 last year. PHOTO: REUTERS

found that 81.2 per cent of new graduates were in full-time permanent work, higher than the 78.4 per cent in 2017.

Overall, 90.2 per cent of them were employed, up from 88.9 per cent in 2017. This refers to graduates in full-time, part-

time, temporary or freelance work.

The proportion of graduates doing freelance work fell from 2.4 per cent in 2017 to 1.8 per cent last year, while those who have still not been able to find a full-time job dropped by 2.1 percentage points.

For the first time, the survey also released employment outcomes by course clusters, to help students make decisions on course choices.

Graduates from the information and digital technologies, business and built environment courses had the highest full-time permanent employment rates.

The survey polled 11,200 fresh graduates from full-time

programmes at four universities – National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Social Sciences.

The joint exercise is conducted by the six autonomous universities six months after their graduates' final exams.

Due to differences in calendars, the Singapore University of Technology and Design and the Singapore Institute of Technology poll their graduates separately.

The universities said many of their graduates managed to find full-time jobs through internships.

ateng@sph.com.sg