How the class of 2021 fared

More fresh graduates find full-time jobs in 2021

Median pay rises to $3,800; information and digital tech graduates get top pay of $5,000

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More university graduates secured full-time jobs last year, as Singapore’s economy grew and recovered from a recession brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Results from the latest graduate employment survey showed that 84 per cent of fresh graduates in the labour force were in full-time permanent jobs, compared with 69.6 per cent in 2020.

Overall employment rates and salaries among those who graduated from universities last year also both inch ed up, according to the poll results released yesterday.

The median gross monthly salary among graduates in full-time permanent jobs climbed from $3,700 in 2020 to $3,800 last year.

These findings come after the pandemic. An- other concern was my compatibil- ity with the jobs offered. Thank- fully, it all worked out and I am happy here," he said, adding that he enjoys finding the best engineer- ing solutions that will improve lives.

The four autonomous universi- ties – NUS, NTU, SMU and SUSS – also conducted a survey on gradu- ates who typically require post- graduate practical training before they can practice their professions.

They include those in architect- ure, law and medicine. About 800 graduates took part, representing a response rate of 71.6 per cent.

The survey showed 98.1 per cent of them were employed after the completion of their practical train- ing stint, a slight increase from 96.9 per cent in 2020.

The median gross monthly salary among these graduates with full-time permanent jobs grew from $4,625 in 2020 to $5,000 last year.

In Wednesday’s joint statement, the six universities, including ST and SUSS, said they have kept up with efforts to support graduates amid the pandemic, through ex- tensive career guidance and job matching, and tapping industry partners to curate suitable job placement and apprenticeship op- portunities.

The class of 2021 included 27,200 fresh graduates of full-time pro- grammes in the National Univer- sity of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

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The surveys for Singapore Insti- tute of Technology (SIT) and Sinag- pore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) are ongoing and the results will be released in a later date.

Singapore’s economy grew by 2.5 per cent last year, rebounding from a recession as the country entered Covid-19 curbs, allowing for more economic activity and a boost in demand for goods and ser- vices.

The economy contracted by 5.4 per cent in 2020. Reflecting the rebound, the un- employment rate for university graduates went down from 6.4 per cent in 2020 to 5.6 per cent last year.

Fewer graduates – 8.7 per cent – were also in part-time or tempo- rary work, compared with 22.3 per cent in 2020. These figures include those on the SGUnited Traineeships Programme, which was set up in 2020 to help fresh graduates boost their employability.

Several fields of study – infor- mation and digital technologies, built environment, business and engineering – continued to do well and recorded the highest proportions of graduates in full- time permanent jobs.

Graduates from information and digital technologies in particular took home the top pay of $5,000, up from $4,760 last year and $4,600 in 2020.

Mr Rafid Zuhayer Amin, who graduated from NUS last year with a mechanical engineering degree, landed a position in global health care company GSK’s talent devel- opment programme after a four- month job search.

The 26-year-old who specialised in robotics, applied for the role af- ter seeing an e-mail about the pro- gramme that a career counsellor had sent him and his schoolmates. He is now a maintenance engineer.

“I was confident of my abilities, however, I had concerns about finding a job with the uncertainties presented by the pandemic. An-