

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Private Education Institutions' Graduate Employment Survey

Pilot survey enhances information transparency to help students assess their education options

1. The Council for Private Education (CPE), with support from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Manpower (MOM), conducted a pilot Graduate Employment Survey (GES) on graduates from bachelor's level External Degree Programmes from nine Private Education Institutions (PEIs) in Singapore (full list of institutions in **Annex A**).
2. The PEI GES aims to gather information about the graduate employment outcomes of the PEIs. This information will help provide prospective students with data to assist them in making informed course decisions.
3. The survey was carried out from December 2015 to June 2016. Around 4,200 out of about 12,600 students who graduated in 2014 participated in the survey and responded to questions about their employment status six months after the completion of their final examinations. The key findings were as follows:
 - a. 58% of the full-time fresh PEI degree graduates who were in the labour force¹ were able to secure full-time permanent employment² within six months after completing their final examinations. The overall employment rate³ of fresh PEI degree graduates six months after completion of their final examinations was about 79%.

¹ Respondents in the labour force refer to those who are working and those who are not working but are actively looking and available for a job.

² Full-time permanent employment refers to employment of at least 35 hours a week and where the employment is not temporary. It includes those on contracts of one year or more.

³ The overall employment rate refers to the number of employed graduates (whether full-time, part-time, contract, freelance etc.) as a proportion of graduates in the labour force.

- b. The median gross monthly salary⁴ among full-time fresh PEI degree graduates in full-time permanent employment was \$2,700.
4. In comparison, for graduates in the same year (i.e. 2014) from NTU, NUS, and SMU, the overall employment rate and full-time permanent employment rate were 89% and 83% respectively. The median gross monthly salary was \$3,200.
5. “The pilot PEI GES has provided useful feedback from PEI students on their graduate employment outcomes. We are looking to conduct the GES annually to include all PEIs, and provide more granular data to help students make more informed decisions when they enrol for programmes at PEIs.” said Chief Executive, Council for Private Education, Brandon Lee.
6. Students who are interested in furthering their education are strongly encouraged to research their options carefully, and assess if the course will help them acquire relevant skills for future employment. Beyond immediate employment outcomes, it may be useful for students to adopt a more long-term view of their career and education pathways, to ensure that the skills and knowledge obtained will provide a strong foundation for them to build on, in order to achieve meaningful progression in their careers. CPE will continue to provide information for students to help them make a more informed assessment when selecting a PEI. Students may visit the CPE website for more information.

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About the Council for Private Education

The Council for Private Education (CPE) is a statutory board established in December 2009 to regulate the private education industry. The council has implemented two schemes – the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF) and the EduTrust Certification Scheme – to uplift and maintain standards in the private education sector. Besides its role as a sectoral regulator, the council also provides student services and public education through its Student Services Centre, and promotes the development of the private education industry. In October 2016, CPE is expected to be absorbed into a new statutory board, SkillsFuture Singapore Agency (SSG). For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.cpe.gov.sg>

⁴ Gross monthly salary comprises the basic salary, fixed allowances, over-time pay and commissions, before deductions of the employee’s CPF contributions and personal income tax. Employer’s CPF contributions, bonuses, stock options, other lump sum payments, and payments-in-kind are excluded.

Annex A: Full list of private education institutions that participated in the survey

1. Curtin Education Centre
2. ITC School of Laws
3. James Cook University
4. Kaplan Higher Education Institute/ Kaplan Higher Education Academy
5. Management Development Institute of Singapore
6. Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre
7. Singapore Institute of Management
8. SMF Institute of Higher Learning
9. Trent Global College of Technology and Management.