

2019 POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES CONTINUE TO BE IN GOOD DEMAND

Singapore, 14 January 2020 – This year’s Graduate Employment Survey (GES), jointly conducted by Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic, showed that polytechnic graduates continue to achieve good employment outcomes, despite a global economic slowdown.

Among the 7,724 polytechnic graduate respondents who entered the labour force in 2019, 90.7% were employed¹ six months after graduation, a 1.2 percentage point increase from 2018. The proportion who were unemployed or in involuntary part-time/temporary employment decreased by 1.1 percentage points as compared to 2018 (see **Table 1** below).

Table 1: Employment Outcomes

Proportion of Respondents in the Labour Force who were:	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Employed	86.4%	89.0%	89.1%	89.8%	90.5%	94.1%	87.3%	89.5%	90.7%
In Full-Time Permanent Employment	52.8%	55.9%	56.6%	64.0%	65.7%	70.7%	55.8%	59.0%	61.1%
Freelancing	2.8%	2.7%	2.9%	8.1%	7.3%	6.7%	4.2%	4.1%	4.1%
In Part-Time/Temporary Employment	30.9%	30.5%	29.6%	17.7%	17.5%	16.7%	27.3%	26.4%	25.5%
<i>Voluntary</i>	25.1%	28.0%	27.3%	14.2%	15.9%	14.6%	22.2%	24.2%	23.2%
<i>Involuntary</i>	5.7%	2.5%	2.3%	3.5%	1.5%	2.1%	5.1%	2.2%	2.3%
Unemployed	13.6%	11.0%	10.9%	10.2%	9.5%	5.9%	12.7%	10.5%	9.3%
<i>Unemployed but starting work soon</i>	3.1%	2.4%	2.8%	2.6%	2.1%	1.4%	3.0%	2.3%	2.3%
<i>Unemployed and still looking for a job</i>	10.5%	8.6%	8.1%	7.6%	7.4%	4.6%	9.7%	8.2%	7.0%
Median Gross Monthly Salary of those who are in Full-Time Permanent Employment (S\$)	2,200	2,270	2,300	2,480	2,501	2,540	2,235	2,350	2,400

Note: Employment rate figures may not add up due to rounding off.

¹ Please see the list of definitions of employment indicators in **Appendix I**.

For graduates in full-time permanent employment, the overall median gross monthly salary increased from \$2,350 in 2018 to \$2,400 in 2019. Among full-time permanently employed respondents over the last three years, median gross monthly salaries for fresh and post-NS graduates from the Health Sciences cluster was consistently higher than the overall median (see **Table 2** below).

Table 2: Median Gross Monthly Salary of Full-Time Permanently Employed Graduates

Course Cluster ²	Median Gross Monthly Salary (SGD)								
	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Arts, Design & Media	\$2,000	\$2,050	\$2,200	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,025	\$2,200	\$2,200
Built Environment	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,200	\$2,260	\$2,300
Business	\$2,050	\$2,100	\$2,155	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,500	\$2,100	\$2,200	\$2,270
Engineering	\$2,200	\$2,300	\$2,350	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,550	\$2,300	\$2,400	\$2,470
Health Sciences	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,580	\$2,510	\$2,689	\$2,627	\$2,500	\$2,523	\$2,600
Humanities & Social Sciences	\$2,200	\$2,300	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,607	\$2,656	\$2,250	\$2,300	\$2,450
Information & Digital Technologies	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,300	\$2,465	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,300	\$2,390	\$2,450
Sciences	\$2,000	\$2,100	\$2,023	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,050	\$2,150	\$2,125
All Courses	\$2,200	\$2,270	\$2,300	\$2,480	\$2,501	\$2,540	\$2,235	\$2,350	\$2,400

Fresh Graduates

8,685 out of 11,598 fresh graduates in 2019 responded to the survey. As at 1 Oct 2019, around six months after the completion of their final examinations, 60.3% of respondents were in the labour force (i.e. those who were working, or not working but actively looking and available for work). 38.9% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and hence not looking for jobs. This was an increase from 36.0% in 2018. Most of the remaining 0.8% said that they were taking a break and not seeking employment.

Of those in the labour force, 89.1% were employed in 2019 (see **Table 1**), a marginal increase from the 89.0% in 2018. 56.6% were in full-time permanent employment, up from 55.9% in 2018. 2.9% were working on a freelance basis and 29.6% were in part-time/temporary employment, a decrease from 30.5% in 2018. The majority of the fresh graduates in part-time/temporary employment were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies. The proportion of those in involuntary part-time/temporary employment (i.e. tried but were not successful in obtaining a full-time permanent job offer) decreased from 2.5% in 2018 to 2.3% in 2019.

² **Appendix II** lists all diploma courses under each course cluster.

The median gross monthly salary among fresh graduates in full-time permanent employment was \$2,300, up from \$2,270 in 2018 (see **Table 2**).

Post-National Service Graduates

5,845 out of 9,931 graduates from 2016 who completed their full-time NS between 1 Apr 2018 and 31 Mar 2019 took part in the GES 2019. 42.5% of respondents were in the labour force (i.e. those who were working or not working but actively looking and available for work). 57.2% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and hence not looking for jobs. This was an increase from 51.5% in 2018. Most of the remaining 0.3% said that they were taking a break and not seeking employment.

As at 1 Oct 2019, 94.1% of the respondents in the labour force were employed (see **Table 1**), an increase from 90.5% in 2018. Among those in the labour force, 70.7% were in full-time employment, up from 65.7% in 2018. 6.7% were working on a freelance basis and 16.7% were in part-time/temporary employment, a decrease from 17.5% in 2018. Similar to fresh graduate respondents, the majority of those in part-time/temporary employment were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies. The proportion of those in involuntary part-time/temporary employment (i.e. tried but were not successful in obtaining a full-time permanent job offer) was 2.1% of those in the labour force.

The median gross monthly salary of respondents who were post-NS graduates in full-time permanent employment was \$2,540, an increase from \$2,501 in 2018 (see **Table 2**).

On the outcomes of the 2019 Polytechnic GES, a spokesperson from the Polytechnic GES Committee said, “We are heartened that our polytechnic graduates continue to do well in the job market despite the global economic slowdown. Polytechnic graduates continue to be sought after by employers. The polytechnics will continue to work closely with industry partners to help ensure that our graduates have the relevant knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the economy, and are able to find good jobs and enjoy fulfilling careers.”

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APPENDIX I: DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS

Employment refers to the number of graduates working in full-time permanent, part-time, temporary employment and freelancing, as a proportion of graduates in the labour force (i.e. those who were working or not working but actively looking and available for work).

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.

Freelancing refers to those who operate their own business without employing any paid worker in the conduct of their business or trade.

Part-time Employment refers to employment of less than 35 hours a week.

Temporary Employment refers to casual, interim or seasonal employment, including those on contracts of less than one year.

Involuntary part-time/temporary employment refers to those who indicated that they were in part-time/temporary employment as they had tried but were unable to obtain a full-time permanent job offer so far.

Voluntary part-time/temporary employment refers to those who indicated that they were in part-time/temporary employment as they were pursuing/ preparing to commence further studies, taking active steps to start a business venture, due to personal choice and other reasons.

Gross Monthly Salary comprises basic salary, fixed allowances, over-time pay, commissions and other regular cash payments, before deduction 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.

APPENDIX II: LIST OF COURSE CATEGORIES & DIPLOMA COURSES SURVEYED

<p><u>ARTS, DESIGN AND MEDIA</u></p> <p>Diploma in 3D Interactive Media Technology Diploma in Advertising & Public Relations Diploma in Animation Diploma in Animation & 3D Arts Diploma in Apparel Design & Merchandising Diploma in Arts And Theatre Management Diploma in Arts Business Management Diploma in Chinese Media & Communication Diploma in Communication and Information Design Diploma in Communication Design Diploma in Communications & Media Management Diploma in Creative Writing For TV & New Media Diploma in Design For Interactivity Diploma in Design For User Experience Diploma in Digital Animation Diploma in Digital Film & Television Diploma in Digital Game Art & Design Diploma in Digital Media Design (Animation) Diploma in Digital Media Design (Games) Diploma in Digital Media Design (Interaction Design) Diploma in Digital Visual Effects Diploma in Environment Design Diploma in Experience & Product Design Diploma in Film, Sound & Video Diploma in Game Design Diploma in Games Design & Development Diploma in Industrial Design Diploma in Interaction Design Diploma in Interactive And Digital Media Diploma in Interactive Media Design Diploma in Interior Architecture & Design Diploma in Interior Design Diploma in Mass Communication Diploma in Mass Communications Diploma in Mass Media Management Diploma in Media & Communication Diploma in Media Production And Design Diploma in Motion Graphics & Broadcast Design Diploma in Moving Images Diploma in Music & Audio Technology Diploma in New Media Diploma in Product & Industrial Design Diploma in Product Design & Innovation Diploma in Retail & Hospitality Design Diploma in Sonic Arts Diploma in Space & Interior Design Diploma in Spatial Design Diploma in Technology And Arts Management Diploma in Visual Communication Diploma in Visual Communication & Media Design Diploma in Visual Effects Diploma in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics</p> <p><u>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <p>Diploma in Architecture Diploma in Civil Engineering With Business Diploma in Green Building & Sustainability Diploma in Green Building Energy Management Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management Diploma in Integrated Facility Management Diploma in Landscape Architecture Diploma in Real Estate Business Diploma in Renewable Energy Engineering Diploma in Sustainable Urban Design & Engineering</p> <p><u>BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Diploma in Accountancy Diploma in Accountancy & Finance Diploma in Accounting & Finance Diploma in Aviation Management & Services Diploma in Banking & Finance Diploma in Banking & Financial Services Diploma in Business Diploma in Business & Social Enterprise Diploma in Business Administration Diploma in Business Innovation & Design Diploma in Business Management Diploma in Business Studies Diploma in Consumer Behaviour And Research Diploma in Culinary & Catering Management Diploma in Customer Experience Management With Business Diploma in Customer Relationship And Service Management Diploma in Food & Beverage Business Diploma in Fund Management & Administration</p>	<p><u>BUSINESS (cont.)</u></p> <p>Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management Diploma in Hotel And Hospitality Management Diploma in Human Resource Management With Psychology Diploma in Integrated Events & Project Management Diploma in Integrated Events Management Diploma in International Business Diploma in International Logistics & Supply Chain Management Diploma in Law & Management Diploma in Leisure & Events Management Diploma in Leisure & Resort Management Diploma in Logistics & Operations Management Diploma in Maritime Business Diploma in Marketing Diploma in Restaurant And Culinary Operations Diploma in Retail Management Diploma in Social Enterprise Management Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management Diploma in Wellness, Lifestyle And Spa Management</p> <p><u>ENGINEERING</u></p> <p>Diploma in Aeronautical & Aerospace Technology Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering Diploma in Aerospace Avionics Diploma in Aerospace Electronics Diploma in Aerospace Engineering Diploma in Aerospace Systems & Management Diploma in Aerospace Technology Diploma in Audio-Visual Technology Diploma in Automation & Mechatronic Systems Diploma in Aviation Management Diploma in Bioengineering Diploma in Biomedical Electronics Diploma in Biomedical Engineering Diploma in Biomedical Informatics & Engineering Diploma in Business Process & Systems Engineering Diploma in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Diploma in Chemical Engineering Diploma in Civil Aviation Diploma in Clean Energy Diploma in Clean Energy Management Diploma in Computer Engineering Diploma in Digital & Precision Engineering Diploma in Digital Entertainment Electronics Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering Diploma in Electrical Engineering Diploma in Electrical Engineering With Eco-Design Diploma in Electronic & Computer Engineering Diploma in Electronics Diploma in Electronics, Computer & Communications Engineering Diploma in Energy Systems & Management Diploma in Engineering Design With Business Diploma in Engineering Science Diploma in Engineering Systems Diploma in Engineering Systems And Management Diploma in Engineering With Business Diploma in Environmental & Water Technology Diploma in Environmental Management & Water Technology Diploma in Industrial And Operations Management Diploma in Infocomm & Network Engineering Diploma in Info-Communication Engineering & Design Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering Diploma in Marine & Offshore Technology Diploma in Marine Engineering Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Diploma in Mechatronics Diploma in Mechatronics & Robotics Diploma in Mechatronics Engineering Diploma in Media & Communication Technology Diploma in Micro and Nanotechnology Diploma in Microelectronics Diploma in Nanotechnology & Materials Science Diploma in Nautical Studies Diploma in Supply Chain Management Diploma in Telematics & Media Technology</p>
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APPENDIX II: LIST OF COURSE CATEGORIES & DIPLOMA COURSES SURVEYED (CONT.)

<p><u>HEALTH SCIENCES</u> Diploma in Dental Hygiene & Therapy Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing) Diploma in Nursing Diploma in Optometry Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences Diploma in Pharmacy Science</p> <p><u>HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</u> Diploma in Applied Drama & Psychology Diploma in Child Psychology & Early Education Diploma in Chinese Studies Diploma in Early Childhood Education Diploma in Early Childhood Studies Diploma in Gerontological Management Studies Diploma in Health Management And Promotion Diploma in Health Services Management Diploma in Healthcare Administration Diploma in Outdoor And Adventure Learning Diploma in Psychology Studies Diploma in Social Sciences (Social Work) Diploma in Sport & Wellness Management Diploma in Sports And Exercise Sciences Diploma in Sports And Leisure Management Diploma in Sports Coaching</p> <p><u>INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</u> Diploma in Big Data Management & Governance Diploma in Business Applications Diploma in Business Enterprise IT Diploma in Business Informatics Diploma in Business Information Systems Diploma in Business Information Technology Diploma in Business Intelligence & Analytics Diploma in Cyber & Digital Security Diploma in Cyber Security And Forensics Diploma in Digital Entertainment Technology (Games) Diploma in Digital Forensics Diploma in Engineering Informatics Diploma in Financial Business Informatics Diploma in Financial Informatics Diploma in Game & Entertainment Technology Diploma in Game Design & Development Diploma in Game Development & Technology Diploma in Infocomm & Security Diploma in Infocomm Security Management Diploma in Information Security Diploma in Information Security & Forensics Diploma in Information Technology Diploma in IT Service Management Diploma in Mobile & Network Services Diploma in Mobile Software Development Diploma in Multimedia & Animation Diploma in Multimedia & Infocomm Technology Diploma in Network Systems & Security</p>	<p><u>SCIENCES</u> Diploma in Applied Chemistry Diploma in Applied Chemistry With Pharmaceutical Science Diploma in Applied Food Science & Nutrition Diploma in Baking & Culinary Science Diploma in Biologics & Process Technology Diploma in Biomedical Science Diploma in Biomedical Sciences Diploma in Biotechnology Diploma in Chemical & Green Technology Diploma in Chemical & Pharmaceutical Technology Diploma in Environmental Science Diploma in Food Science & Nutrition Diploma in Food Science & Technology Diploma in Landscape Design & Horticulture Diploma in Marine Science And Aquaculture Diploma in Materials Science Diploma in Medicinal Chemistry Diploma in Molecular Biotechnology Diploma in Nutrition, Health & Wellness Diploma in Perfumery & Cosmetic Science Diploma in Veterinary Bioscience Diploma in Veterinary Technology</p>
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