

## POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES CONTINUE TO FIND JOBS AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### *Close to 9 in 10 graduates are employed within 6 months upon graduation*

Singapore, 12 January 2021 – The 2020 Polytechnic 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 be in demand by industry, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the 7,360 polytechnic graduate survey respondents in the labour force, 87.4% were employed within six months of graduation (see **Table 1**). Another 2.9% had either accepted a job offer or were actively starting a business venture. Of those in the labour force, 52.0% were in full-time permanent employment, while 31.6% were in part-time/temporary employment, including those on the SGUnited Traineeships Programme which made up 5.2%. Consistent with previous years, about half the polytechnic graduates in part-time/temporary employment indicated that they were concurrently pursuing or preparing to begin further studies.

**Table 1:** Employment Indicators from 2018 to 2020

Proportion of Respondents in the Labour Force who were:	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS (PNS) Graduates			Combined (Fresh and PNS Graduates)		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Employed	89.0%	89.1%	85.4%	90.5%	94.1%	91.9%	89.5%	90.7%	87.4%
In Full-Time Permanent Employment	55.9%	56.6%	45.8%	65.7%	70.7%	65.5%	59.0%	61.1%	52.0%
Freelancing	2.7%	2.9%	2.8%	7.3%	6.7%	6.0%	4.1%	4.1%	3.8%
In Part-Time/Temporary Employment	30.5%	29.6%	36.8% <sup>1</sup>	17.5%	16.7%	20.4% <sup>2</sup>	26.4%	25.5%	31.6% <sup>3</sup>
<i>Voluntary</i>	28.0%	27.3%	32.8%	15.9%	14.6%	17.1%	24.2%	23.2%	27.9%
<i>Involuntary</i>	2.5%	2.3%	3.9%	1.5%	2.1%	3.3%	2.2%	2.3%	3.8%
Unemployed	11.0%	10.9%	14.6%	9.5%	5.9%	8.1%	10.5%	9.3%	12.6%
<i>Unemployed but starting work soon</i>	2.4%	2.8%	3.4%	2.1%	1.4%	1.9%	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%

<sup>1</sup> Of these, 6.6%-points include graduates on the SGUnited Traineeships Programme.

<sup>2</sup> Of these, 2.2%-points include graduates on the SGUnited Traineeships Programme.

<sup>3</sup> Of these, 5.2%-points include graduates on the SGUnited Traineeships Programme.

<i>Unemployed and still looking for a job</i>	8.6%	8.1%	11.2%	7.4%	4.6%	6.2%	8.2%	7.0%	9.6%
Median Gross Monthly Salary of those who are in Full-Time Permanent Employment (S\$)	2,270	2,300	2,350	2,501	2,540	2,500	2,350	2,400	2,400

**Note:** The percentages may not add up due to rounding off.

The list of definitions for the employment indicators are available in Annex A.

The median gross monthly salary among graduates in full-time permanent employment remained at \$2,400 in 2020. Over the last three years, the median gross monthly salaries of graduates from **Engineering, Health Sciences, and Information & Digital Technologies** have been consistently higher than the overall median for all graduates (see **Table 2**).

**Table 2:** Median Gross Monthly Salary by Course Clusters for Fresh Graduates and Post-NS Graduates (Full-Time Permanent Employed only) from 2018 to 2020

Course Cluster	Fresh Graduates			Post-NS Graduates			All		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Arts, Design and Media	\$2,050	\$2,200	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,100
Built Environment	\$2,200	\$2,300	\$2,230	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,260	\$2,300	\$2,345
Business	\$2,100	\$2,155	\$2,100	\$2,600	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,200	\$2,270	\$2,200
Engineering	\$2,300	\$2,350	\$2,300	\$2,600	\$2,550	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,470	\$2,450
Health Sciences	\$2,500	\$2,580	\$2,550	\$2,689	\$2,627	\$2,698	\$2,523	\$2,600	\$2,553
Humanities & Social Sciences	\$2,300	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,607	\$2,656	\$2,580	\$2,300	\$2,450	\$2,500
Information & Digital Technologies	\$2,200	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,390	\$2,450	\$2,500
Sciences	\$2,100	\$2,023	\$2,120	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,150	\$2,125	\$2,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,270</b>	<b>\$2,300</b>	<b>\$2,350</b>	<b>\$2,501</b>	<b>\$2,540</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$2,350</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>

**Note:** The list of diploma courses under each course cluster is available in Annex B.

### **Fresh Graduates**

8,946 out of 11,909 fresh graduates in 2020 responded to the survey. As at 1 Oct 2020, around six months after the completion of their final examinations, 56.4% of the respondents were in the labour force. 42.9% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and hence not looking for jobs. This was an increase from 38.9% in 2019. Most of the remaining 0.7% said they were taking a break and not seeking employment.

### **Post-National Service Graduates**

5,461 out of 9,619 graduates from 2017, who completed their full-time National-Service (NS) between 1 Apr 2019 and 31 Mar 2020, responded to the survey. 42.3% of respondents were in the labour force. 57.2% were pursuing or preparing to begin further studies and hence not looking for jobs; same as 2019. Similar to the fresh graduates, most of the remaining 0.5% said that they were taking a break and not seeking employment.

### **Polytechnics' Support for their Graduates**

The polytechnics have stepped up efforts to support their graduates amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of providing extensive career guidance and support which includes job matching, personalised career coaching and planning, and complimentary continuing education and training courses, the polytechnics have also tapped on their network of industry partners to curate suitable job placement and apprenticeship opportunities for graduates, such as the SGUnited Traineeship and SkillsFuture Work-Study Programmes. Examples of how graduates have benefitted from these opportunities are listed in Annex C.

Speaking on behalf of the Polytechnic GES Committee on the outcomes of the 2020 Polytechnic GES, Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic, said: "This year's polytechnic graduates are entering the job market in an unprecedented time. COVID-19 has had a major impact on our economy. We are glad that many of our polytechnic graduates have been resilient and managed to secure a job despite the challenging times. Although the pandemic has been disruptive, there are exciting opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, infocomm technology, cybersecurity and e-commerce. The polytechnics will continue to provide career guidance and support to graduates to help them find a job in the area of their training or pivot to the new job roles that are being created."

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## DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS

**Employment** refers to graduates working in full-time permanent, part-time, temporary employment and freelancing. The employment rate is the number of employed graduates, 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.

**LIST OF DIPLOMA COURSES SURVEYED**

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

<p><b><u>HEALTH SCIENCES</u></b>                  Diploma in Dental Hygiene &amp; Therapy                  Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing)                  Diploma in Nursing                  Diploma in Optometry                  Diploma in Oral Health Therapy                  Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science                  Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences                  Diploma in Pharmacy Science</p> <p><b><u>HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</u></b>                  Diploma in Applied Drama &amp; Psychology                  Diploma in Child Psychology &amp; 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 NIEC (NP) - Tamil Studies with Early Education                  Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Learning                  Diploma in Psychology Studies                  Diploma in Social Sciences (Social Work)                  Diploma in Sport &amp; Wellness Management                  Diploma in Sports and Exercise Sciences                  Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management                  Diploma in Sports Coaching</p> <p><b><u>INFORMATION &amp; DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</u></b>                  Diploma in Big Data Management &amp; 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 &amp; Analytics                  Diploma in Cyber &amp; Digital Security                  Diploma in Cyber Security &amp; Forensics                  Diploma in Digital Forensics                  Diploma in Engineering Informatics                  Diploma in Financial Business Informatics                  Diploma in Financial Informatics                  Diploma in Game Design &amp; Development                  Diploma in Game Development &amp; Technology                  Diploma in Infocomm &amp; Security                  Diploma in Infocomm Security Management                  Diploma in Information Security                  Diploma in Information Security &amp; Forensics                  Diploma in Information Technology                  Diploma in IT Service Management                  Diploma in Mobile &amp; Network Services                  Diploma in Mobile Software Development                  Diploma in Multimedia &amp; Animation                  Diploma in Network Systems &amp; Security</p>	<p><b><u>SCIENCES</u></b>                  Diploma in Applied Chemistry                  Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Materials Science                  Diploma in Applied Chemistry with Pharmaceutical Science                  Diploma in Applied Food Science &amp; Nutrition                  Diploma in Baking &amp; Culinary Science                  Diploma in Biologics &amp; Process Technology                  Diploma in Biomedical Science                  Diploma in Biomedical Sciences                  Diploma in Biotechnology                  Diploma in Chemical &amp; Green Technology                  Diploma in Chemical &amp; Pharmaceutical Technology                  Diploma in Environmental Science                  Diploma in Food Science &amp; Nutrition                  Diploma in Food Science &amp; Technology                  Diploma in Landscape Design &amp; Horticulture                  Diploma in Marine Science and Aquaculture                  Diploma in Materials Science                  Diploma in Medicinal Chemistry                  Diploma in Molecular Biotechnology                  Diploma in Nutrition, Health &amp; Wellness                  Diploma in Perfumery &amp; Cosmetic Science                  Diploma in Veterinary Bioscience                  Diploma in Veterinary Technology</p>
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**GRADUATES WHO HAVE BENEFITTED FROM  
THE SGUNITED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMME AND SKILLSFUTURE WORK-STUDY PROGRAMME**

Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), for example, created 100 job opportunities and apprenticeships under the SGUnited Traineeships Programme. One beneficiary was Diploma in Business Studies graduate Sarah Binte Kamsani. Although Sarah had initially hoped to pursue a career in human resource, she was mindful that the ideal job might take some time to come by, given the economic situation. Hence, she took up a Learning Design position under an SGUnited Traineeships opportunity provided by NP, where she helps to create learning materials for students in the Diploma in Business Studies. Sarah believes the traineeship experience will help her acquire skills which will be helpful in HR roles in future, especially in terms of curating learning packages for staff development.

Another polytechnic graduate who benefitted from the graduate support measures is Diploma in Mass Communication graduate Hayley Lee Xue Qi from Republic Polytechnic. Hayley took up a Work-Study Specialist Diploma in Digital Business which allows her to deepen her skills and passion in digital business and marketing, while placing her into a full-time job in a digital marketing company to undergo structured on-the-job training. Hayley aims to continue upskilling herself as she progresses into the workforce, with the ambition to run her own online business in future.