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Headline: Five years on, SIT still a big draw for poly grads

**Five years on, SIT still a big draw for poly grads**

They make up 80% of 12,000 applicants for 2,700 places the institute is offering this year.

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As it celebrated its fifth anniversary as an autonomous university last month, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) continued its popu-

larity with school leavers, drawing 12,000 applicants for the 2,700 places offered this year for its 45-degree courses.  

As in recent years, its high technol-

ogy and high-skill degree course-

ses, where students divisions between work and study either every ses-

sions, were five times oversub-

scribed.  

Allied health sciences, including nursing and occupational therapy, drew 2,800 applicants for about 900 places.  

Connected to computing, in-

cluding information security and software engineering — followed the same trajectory, with 2,300 ap-

plicants.  

Work-study degree programmes, where students divide between work and study either every ses-

sions or a few days a week, are also growing in popularity.  

Last year, more than 390 stu-

dents applied for 31 work-study programmes and for were admit-

ted. This year, the number of 

places has yet to be set, but the num-

ber is expected to exceed last year's figures.  

Of its 12,000 applicants, SIT said about 1,100 will be shortlisted for the aptitude-based admission process, where they will attend interview and talent pool days.  

SIT's chief executive, Dr Carbon

On the interview panel, 15 candi-

dates were selected from the 3,000 appli-

cant pool for the 900 places.  

Nearly half of the 12,000 applicants are polytechnic diploma holders, while the remainder are A- 

level and O-level hold ers and high-school leavers.  

SIT admissions director Kelly

Koh said the university's interac-

tions with prospective students in-

dicates that its applied learning 

approach is attractive to a large 

group of school leavers.  

She said the demand for careers 

in information and communications technology (ICT), as well as healthcare sciences, suggests that school leavers are pragmatic and realise that high-tech, high-skill careers are in demand.  

It is trying to remain being strategic, knowing very well that SIT's job links with industry, as well as new, well-received In-

duced Work Study Programmes, will give them that added edge.  

SIT provost Tan Sunhong said the university now had well-defined frameworks on providing students with an applied learning and industry-in-

cluded education — a unique peda-

gogy that builds classroom learn-

ing with the workplace.  

He noted that SIT's suite of degree programmes aims to supply manpower to high-growth sectors such as ICT and healthcare sciences, and that the university's new programmes are designed to provi-

de the same pipeline needed in government agencies.  

The air transport management de-

gree, developed in close collabora-

tion with industry leaders, was laun-

ched in response to the need 

for air traffic controllers for the 

upcoming airport terminals.  

The interior and hospitality de-

gree, developed in consultation 

with the three public healthcare clusters, was in response to the need for dietetic technicians in aged-care 

settings.  

Professor Tan said: "SIT ensures that intake numbers match the ex-

pectations of the industry, so that our students graduate with job vacan-

cies available for them.  "This has been proven in our Gradu-

ate Employment Survey, which re-

vealed that more than 96 per cent of first-year graduates landed jobs or were continuing their studies more following their graduations, with some being offered a job even before being conferred the degree certificates.  

Full-time national servicemen Joel Ching, 23, who will finish his de-

gree studies in radiation therapy tomorrow, said he was drawn to the school for its high-tech offerings.  

He will be spending 36 weeks of

his first-year degree in clinical practice. The polytechnic graduate said he was determined to have exposure to real-world cases.  "Not only do you get to apply what you learn, but it is also when you come in contact with patients that you develop interpersonal skills that are so important for those who work in healthcare," he said.  

Its enrolment in September last year, showed that the overall employ-

ment rate for its university grad-

uates is 92.2 per cent last year.  

Those who secured full-time jobs saw their mean gross monthly 

earnings hit $3,262 in 2018.  

SIT said enrolment for this year's intake is expected to be around $3,000.  

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