

# Graduate Employment Survey (GES)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Information

#### What is the Graduate Employment Survey (GES)?

The Graduate Employment Survey is an annual questionnaire designed to collect data on the employment status of recent polytechnic graduates. The survey gathers information on the key employment indicators, polytechnic experience and insights on further education aspirations of our graduates.

#### Who is required to complete the survey?

All recent graduates, who are not liable for National Service (NS) and have completed their studies within the year, are required to participate in the survey that will be conducted in October. For those graduates who are liable for NS, they usually participate in the survey three years after they have graduated from the polytechnic.

There is another group of graduates, who have graduated 5 years from the polytechnic, participating in another tracer survey that usually starts in August.

#### Why is my participation important?

Your participation provides valuable feedback that helps improve educational programmes and services. In addition, the data collected aids in career guidance for future graduates.

### Survey Participation

#### How do I access the survey?

You can access the survey through the URL sent to your email or mobile phone. An external consultant is engaged to administer the survey on behalf of all polytechnics.

#### Is the survey confidential?

Yes, all responses are strictly confidential and will be used only for analysed at the aggregate level for research purposes. Individual responses will not be disclosed.

# Survey Content

## What types of questions will be asked?

The survey will include questions about your current employment status, job search experiences, salary information, and your overall satisfaction with the polytechnic education received.

## How long will the survey take to complete?

The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

## How do I differentiate full-time and part-time employment?

A full-time employment is when an employee works for **at least 35 hours per week**. An employee who works less than 35 hours per week is defined as working on a part-time basis.

## What is the difference between permanent and temporary employment?

The key difference is the period stated in the contract of employment. Employment **duration that last one year or more** are considered permanent employment, which includes the following:

1. General Education Officers (Teachers) enrolled in National Institute of Education;
2. Regulars signed on with Singapore Armed Forces or Singapore Police Force or Singapore Civil Defence Force;
3. Graduates on the Work-Study Post-Diploma or SkillsFuture Work-Study Programme; and
4. In-employment staff **sponsored by their companies** for Work-Study Degree.

Temporary employment is usually casual, interim or seasonal employment which lasted less than one year, excluding freelance arrangements. This includes graduates on paid internships (including those on 12-month contracts).

## How do I differentiate part-time employment from freelancers?

Freelancers are persons who operate their own businesses without employing any paid worker in the conduct of their business or trade. This includes the following:

1. Food delivery riders
2. Taxi drivers / Private hire car drivers
3. Insurance agents
4. Real estate agents
5. Babysitters / Confinement nannies
6. Private tutors

## What are the various survey options available in the survey if I am studying or going to pursue further studies?

The most applicable option would be “**Currently pursuing / preparing to commence Further Studies.**” This includes **self-sponsored** students who are on Work-Study Degrees.

If I have recently accepted a job offer and going to start work soon, do I indicate that I am currently employed and working in a permanent job?

No. As you are considered unemployed as at 1 October, you will need to choose the option **“Accepted job offer and will start work later”** provided in the survey.

What happens if I am interested to start a business venture?

If you are still **currently employed** but taking some steps to explore the business venture, then the **working full-time or part-time job** option would still be applicable.

However, if you are **currently unemployed** because you are taking active steps to start your business venture (business is **yet to be formally registered**), then the more applicable option would be **“Not working but actively taking steps to start a business venture”**.

If the business venture has been registered and is ready to receive the first order as at 1 October, you should be considered as **“Working Full-Time in a Permanent job”**.

What are the various survey options available in the survey if I am still looking for jobs?

It depends on what type of jobs you are looking for. In the survey, there are two options made available for graduates.

For those **currently looking for full-time permanent job**, the option would be **“Not working but actively looking and available for a Full-time Permanent job”**.

For those who are still exploring other options, such as **part-time or temporary jobs**, the option would be **“Not working but actively looking and available for a Part-Time / Temporary / Freelance job”**.

What should I choose if I want to take a gap year before deciding what I want to do after graduating from my diploma course?

For those deciding to take a gap year, the most appropriate option is **“Not working and not looking for a job”**.

In the survey, there is one question on how related the course of study to the nature of the present job is for those graduates who are currently working. What is the definition for job relatedness?

Job relatedness refers to the extent to which your diploma is related to the nature of your current job, or the industry that your organisation is in.

If you studied Engineering and you are currently working in an Engineering position, then it would be employed in a job **related** to your course of study.

If you studied Engineering and you are currently working in the Sales, Marketing or Administrative department in an Engineering company, then it would be employed in a job **partially related** to your course of study.

For graduates who are currently working, there will also be another question on how relevant or applicable was the course training to your present job function. What is the definition for course relevance?

Course relevance refers to the extent in which the training you received in your diploma, in terms of skills and knowledge, is relevant or applicable to your current job functions.

There are **four options** provided in the survey:

1. Relevant to a large extent
2. Relevant to a satisfactory extent
3. Relevant to a small extent
4. Not relevant at all

For example, if your current job needed you to **apply some of the things** that you have learned from your course, it would be considered as **relevant to a satisfactory extent**. This includes being able to easily learn company's new software, prepare presentations, and manage a project or event.

## Technical Support

### What should I do if I encounter technical issues?

If you experience any technical difficulties while completing the survey, please contact the consultant engaged to administer the GES, whose email address should be included in the email you received.

### Can I save my progress half way through responding to GES, and return later?

Yes, you can save your progress and return to complete the survey later. Simply log back in using the provided link.

## Results and Follow-Up

### How will the results be used?

The results of the survey will be used to analyse employment trends, assess the effectiveness of educational programmes, and provide insights for the polytechnic's efforts towards continuous improvement.

## Will I receive any feedback or results from the survey?

While individual feedback is not provided, a summary of the survey findings will be made available via a Press Release from Ministry of Education in early January the following year.